

INSIGHT

Volume 11 Number 1

December 2024



WARS AND RUMORS OF WARS

“...you shall hear of wars and rumors of wars:
see that you be not troubled...” Matthew 24:6

International Congregation of Yahweh

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A MAGAZINE OF BIBLICAL UNDERSTANDING

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INSIGHT has been published by the International Congregation of Yahweh ("ICY") since 1991 as part of ICY's efforts to fulfill the commission given the New Testament assembly (Mark 16:15). During these last 33 years *Insight* has been on the frontlines of bringing Yahweh's truth to a world of "religious Babylonia", and its staggering political and economic challenges. As we move through the final decade of this Jubilee cycle we will continue that editorial policy.

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 34 foreign countries and the USA.

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WILL 2024 END WITH SOLUTIONS OR MORE OF THE SAME?

From the Editor: *Gary C. Miller*

If you are wondering why the world is on fire and spiraling out of control, look no further than the pages of your Bible. There you will find the much sought-after **causes** (Lev. 26; Deut. 28). But use the word “Bible” and suddenly causes of our choices are taken as so much religious rhetoric; and not real-world cause-and-effect natural laws.

It is accurate to say, however, that **both** the Ukrainian and the Middle East wars at their core are the result of differences between Biblical decrees and the religious practices of those countries involved.

Why is that the problem? Because there is where the disagreement lies as to the actual causes and solutions to those tragedies. The Scriptural natural-law *causes* are usually ignored Old Testament Laws, mostly eschewed as “done away” and futile, archaic legalism.

Although the effects of those wars are clearly tragic real-world pain and suffering, Yahweh’s Laws of cause-and-effect are generally relegated to that ethereal realm of modern religion. In that comfort zone, grace has replaced any need to obey that Law.

This is nothing new. Jude saw this heresy in his day (Jude 4), and Peter warned about the unlearned and unstable who twist scriptures, “...to their own destruction.” (II Pet. 3:16).

Ignore the causes and problems not only persist, they get worse as the dire consequences gradually push those involved beyond the point of no return.

A FEW DETAILS

As the Russia-Ukraine war was reeking destruction and death in Eastern Europe, on October 7, 2023, another “shock heard round the world” echoed through the global news

networks! Hamas, a Palestinian nationalist Islamist militant terrorist movement had pushed into southern Israel from the Gaza Strip. Launching some 4,300 rockets, the invaders killed 1,139 and took 250 hostages!

Countless interviews of military experts, former IDF officials, live war zone reports on i24 News, and proposals by politicians and heads of state in the U.S. and other countries have found no lasting solutions.

Multiple nations, and pro-Palestinian protests on U.S. college campuses demand Israel stop its push back against Hamas and Hezbollah. But Israel is fighting for its survival, and the IDF, one of the world’s most feared military, is determined to preserve Israel’s sovereignty despite Iranian proxies’ aim of Israeli genocide.

Further East in Ukraine, since February 2022, tens of thousands have fled a devastating war, their homeland now decimated. Thousands more Ukrainians and Russians have died for a cause that is not transparent; at least on the surface nor in the legacy media outlets. Billions have been allocated by the U.S. [\$175 billion] and other countries to Ukraine where an oligarchical class controls most of its wealth. Who benefits?

Again, what are the causes of these tragedies? As mentioned, anyone can see the *effects*, but few give the actual causes any serious thought.

Is all this prophetic? Are we nearing the end of this age? And will 2024 bring resolutions to these woes or will *this* prophecy still be unfulfilled: “...and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.” (Isa. 2:3-4)? Yahweh hasten the day!

★★★★★★

TAKE PRECAUTIONS WITH PROPHECY

When the disciples said, “...Tell us when will these things be...” (Matt. 24:3), they echoed an ages-old longing to see what is ahead. Who will be elected next? Will I get that promotion? When is the Second Coming? Is the “great tribulation” just months away? Are the Beast and False Prophet about to appear?

On a personal level, as one said, “The best way to predict your future is to create it.” (A. Lincoln).

But creating the future, “reading the tea leaves”, looking to Scripture or applying science, all have the uncertainty of the person or persons wanting to know.

That is why we must take some precautions when predicting the future, being careful not to fool ourselves, or not be fooled by others.

THE “FOOLED BY A PROPHET” TEST

Prophecy has three purposes. The first is to show what will happen as the result of choices we make. Second, it shows Yahweh’s power to bring about events based on His promises or covenants.

And third, is for a major test of His people:

“If a prophet, or dreamer of dreams arises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder, and the sign or wonder comes true, concerning which he spoke to you saying, ‘Let us go after other Elohim (whom you have not known) and let us serve them,’ you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams; for Yahweh you Elohim is testing you to find out if you love Yahweh with all your heart and with all your soul....” (Deut. 13:1-3; NAS; Yahweh for “Lord” and “Elohim” for “God”).”

The test of the prophet’s authenticity was not whether his prophecy came true, but his stand for or against Yahweh’s Law. He or she could be a friend, a relative, or a slick YouTube video. Here is an example of end-time prophets who come to Yahshua,

“...Master, Master, did we not prophesy in Your name?.. and in Your name perform many miracles?....and then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you who practice lawlessness (Matt. 7: 22-23; NAS).”

These lawless prophets predict events that happen exactly as they foretold. How many will be deceived by them? They come as tests from Yahweh, accurate in prophecy, but preaching a false gospel of disobedience to Yahweh’s law.

WORD MEANINGS

Yahshua did not say they were false prophets who foretold events that did not come to pass. The word “prophecy” (SEC 4395; Matt. 7:22) here means literally “*to foretell events; divine; speak under inspiration; exercise the prophetic office.*” (SEC; ALGNT, p. 401).

The Greek for “false prophet” (SEC 5578) means “*pseudoprophet-pretended foretelling or religious impostor*” [SEC]; “*one who falsely claims to speak by divine inspiration...as a foreteller of future events...*”; [ALGNT, p.486] (See Matt. 7:15; Mark 13:22). This is not, however, the word used in Matthew 7:22 for those who accurately predict coming events.

Notice also apostle Paul’s warning: “And if I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge....but do not have love, it profits me nothing (I Cor. 13:2).” What is love? Keeping the commandments: I John 5:2-3; especially II John 6. The surprising fact is, one can have the gift of correctly prophesying future events without knowing Yahweh.

MISUSE OF PROPHECY: ONE EXAMPLE

Did those prophets deceive many with their prophecies and miracles? No doubt. And that is one misuse of Bible prophecy: to snare the unwary to believe a lie because the prophecy came true. Will that draw a following? By the droves.

One notable example was a well-known evangelist who kept his followers on the edge of their seat for 50 years as they breathlessly awaited one prophetic pronouncement after another. Led to believe they might flee to a “place of safe-

“...test of the prophet’s authenticity...Yahweh’s Law.”

ty” most any time, because the tribulation was just around the corner, they loyally prayed and royally paid. Heaping a lavish empire of wealth and influence on an arrogant and authoritarian ministry, they were slaves to deception.

Prophecy paid well. But ironically, his faithful could not point to a single legitimate, precise fulfillment of his prophetic predictions. Accepting his false gospel, loyal followers went along without thoroughly checking the Scriptures

to see if the teachings were Biblically accurate.

Imagine the legions of loyal donors those workers of iniquity will likely have who accurately prophesy. And the Bible says they are coming. Would that of itself be enough to convince you a true representative of Yahweh Himself was on the scene? Their stand on the Law of Yahweh is the crucial test that is coming.

ANOTHER CASE

Another California-based movement was headed by a man who had supposedly taken up the mantle of prophecy formerly claimed by the one we just discussed. Here is a sample of this man’s prophetic calculations:

1982-83--End of 2520 year punishment on Babylon
1991---Rebuilding of temple in Jerusalem; commencement of animal sacrifices....

1994---Beginning of the great tribulation on “Israel”; worst travail in earth’s history; Beginning of 42 months reign of beast power in Europe; two witnesses prophesy for 1260 days (42 months); sacrifices cease in temple which is polluted and destroyed.

1997---Beginning of 1,000 year millennial reign of the messiah over the whole world.

Here is one failed prophecy after the other that supposedly were “...timetables and prophecies never before understood!” [his quote; 1986].

What is more important than these failed predictions is this man’s stand on Yahweh’s law. Remember Yahshua’s warning, “but in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the precepts of men (Matt. 15:9).”

OUR VIGIL CONTINUES

Approximately one-third of the Bible is prophecy, and we are commanded to watch: “watch, therefore....” (Matt. 6:4; also Matt. 26:41; Mark 13:33, 37). We might add, “Watch out...for wolves in sheep’s clothing!” Watch events, but not as the Athenians who “...used to spend their time in nothing other than telling or hearing something new” (Acts 17:21).

Prophetic fulfillment will happen whether predicted by lawless prophets or true servants of Yahweh. How will you know the difference?

YAHSHUA’S EXAMPLE: ONE MAIN THEME

Look at Yahshua’s ministry. He was not constantly predicting events at one town or hot spot here or there constantly divining the course of the Caesar’s legions or predicting the Roman Senate’s political movements. Not at all.

Did He predict the collapse of the tower at Siloam (Luke 13:4), and when it happened, his disciples were awestruck, hanging on every prophetic utterance? No. Rather

he seized the opportunity to emphasize: “...unless you repent, you shall likewise perish...” (v. 5).

He preached one main theme: Repent for the Kingdom of Yahweh is at hand. It contained a prophecy of the coming kingdom and repentance. Prophecy to Him was not theatrics, a sideshow, used to gain a following.

EXAMPLES FROM HISTORY CHALDEAN PRIESTS

History abounds with accounts of foretold events that came to pass. Centuries before Yahshua, between the Euphrates and Tigris Rivers lay Mesopotamia. Here was Chaldea, the land of prophecy. Chaldean priests were highly skilled astronomers and astrologers whose specialty was foretelling the future. Some records show they were well known in the ancient world for the accuracy of their predictions.

TOTH

The Egyptian, Toth, believed to be the founder of Magic (magic) accurately prophesied the future of religion in

“...He preached one main theme
...Repent...”

Egypt. The Pharaoh Tuthmosis IV (King “Tut”), while an unlikely successor to the throne, had a dream in which a deity, symbolized by the Sphinx, promised-on certain conditions to be performed by Tuthmosis-that he would become king. Tuthmosis complied ascending the throne and ruled from 1401 to 1391 B.C.

NECTANEBO II

A former Egyptian king, Nectanebo II, also a magician, prophet, and astrologer attended the birth of Alexander the Great. He advised the mother of Alexander, the queen of Macedonia, to hold back the birth until the exact moment he had calculated as the right time. When born at that moment, he told the queen she had “...given birth to a governor of the world.” He was obviously correct.

CHINESE ASTROLOGERS

When Marco Polo visited China in the 13th century he found Chinese astrologers were “...very skillful....and often their words come to pass, so people have great faith in them.”

MERLIN THE MAGICIAN

Merlin the Magician of the 5th century, the greatest of

the Druid seers, a prophet and wizard, foretold the Saxon invasion, the adventures of Richard the Lionhearted seven centuries later, and the future of Wales.

MONTEZUMA

Montezuma, a King of Mexico and astrologer, foresaw the fall of the Aztec civilization in an evil omen he divined in the feathers of a crane: an advancing people arrayed in battle dress. About that time, 1508, his sister had a vision of great ships coming from a far country carrying men who would master the Aztec lands. This was fulfilled in 1520.

JOAN OF ARC

Then too, there was Joan of Arc of 15th century France. Joan, a prophet and soldier, predicted her own wounding, capture of the Tourelles, and that England would lose all of France. (These accounts are summarized from the article, *Divine Sight: Prophets and Prophecy, Advance Magazine*; No. 123; pp. 12-15).

CASSANDRA

Prophetess Cassandra in Greek mythology was the daughter of Priam, the last king of Troy, and his wife Hecuba, and mentioned in Homer's *Iliad*. She accurately predicted the fall of Troy and the death of Agamemnon, but her warnings went unheeded.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Time fails us to cover other endless accounts of great seers who read the stars, had visions, or divined the future by various other means as did Joseph using a silver cup while a ruler in Egypt (Gen. 44:2-5, 15). Were all these seers also servants of the Great Yahweh? Hardly, yet they could often divine future events with unerring accuracy.

Perhaps these accounts help put prophecy into perspective. Accurate predictions of the future is not a flawless guide pointing to Yahweh's true servants. Yahweh's Law is the judge.

If this is the final decade of this age (events generally point that way) what should our goals and aspirations be....while we have the chance?

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WHY NEW MOON OBSERVANCE MATTERS

If you ask most churchgoers (Protestant, Catholic, Greek Orthodox, Sabbatarians,...) to list the beliefs needed for salvation, knowing the correct Biblical New Moons would likely not be on the list, or at least near or at the bottom. Why do you think that is?

When they hear "New Moons" it does not sound "religious", nor gives an emotional feeling so many look for in their religion.

But to Yahweh, they are an emotional matter. Surprising perhaps. But did you know that Yahweh says that He *hates* worship on the wrong New Moons? Very emotional! And did you know they are so important to Him, that observing the correct New Moons is one of salvation's requirements?

THE PROPHETS' VIEWS: WORSHIP

That reference above to wrong New Moons is from the prophet Isaiah. Speaking to Judah and Jerusalem, he records Yahweh said, "Your New Moons [not His] and your appointed feasts My soul hates..." (Isa. 1:14). Even at that early date, the Jews had corrupted their religious practices

by leaving Biblical laws to embrace other beliefs.

Notice too, Isaiah records "...and your appointed feasts...", showing the Holy Days were changed as well, because changing the New Moon days shifts the annual Holy Days set by the New Moons to *unholy days* that Yahweh hates (Heb. 10:30-31).

One thing that is not surprising, however, is that Isaiah's prophecies are as relevant today as when they were written.

He and the prophet Ezekiel give us the following records that prove New Moons are days of worship just as required on the Holy Days: "And it shall come to pass, that from one New Moon to another, and from one Sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before Me, says Yahweh." (Isa. 66:23). "Likewise the people of the land shall worship...before Yahweh on the Sabbaths and in the New Moons." (Ezk. 46:3). This is one reason New Moon observance is necessary: worship.

But some might object that this is for the future; not today. Keep in mind, the prophets *cannot* add to or take from the Law (Deut. 12:32). They are merely showing Yahweh's Law of Sabbath and New Moon days of worship will be *restored* to their rightful place in all societies ("...



The beginning of the scriptural month is not signified by the New Moon crescent, but by the conjunction. Observance of the true scriptural New Moon each month includes the blowing of the shofar, giving a freewill offering and having a special meal before the day ends.

all flesh...”): “...the earth shall be full of the knowledge of Yahweh, as the waters cover the sea.” (Isa. 11:9).

SANCTIFICATION

Another important reason the correct New Moons are essential, is our observance of those six annual Sabbaths set by the New Moons, plus the weekly Sabbaths, shows *we are sanctified* (Ex. 31:13; Ezk. 20:12) by Yahweh. And who He sanctifies, He saves, because they observe *His* New Moons, *His* Sabbaths [not those He hates], and the other commandments.

These are keys to gaining eternal life, as the Messiah Yahshua revealed when asked: “...what...shall I do, that I may have eternal life? And He [Yahshua] said,...if you will enter into life, keep the commandments.” (Matt. 19:16-17; also Lev. 18:5).

Clearly, New Moons are vital to that process. We have to get them right.

MUST NOT MAKE THIS MISTAKE: FALSE PROPHET, FALSE NEW MOONS

Make no mistake, Yahweh will not grant salvation, eternal life, to those who practice what He hates, while professing to be a follower of the Messiah or following someone who professes to be the Messiah’s messenger:

“Not everyone that saith unto me, Master, Master [“Lord, Lord”; KJV], shall enter into the Kingdom of Heaven; ...Many will say to Me in that day, Master, Master, have we not prophesied in thy name? and...cast out devils: and...done many wonderful works? [Notice] And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart

from me, ye that work iniquity (Matt. 7:21-23).

A lot of surprises are ahead, if we follow one or more of the many false prophets “...that shall rise and deceive many.” (Matt. 24:11).

Yahshua also alerts us with this revealing fact, and caution: “He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet’s reward...” (Matt. 10:41).

This is true whether we follow a true prophet *or a false prophet*. If we follow a false prophet, coming with non-biblical New Moons and Feast days and deleting scores of other Biblical Laws, whether we know he is false or not, we will receive that false prophet’s reward!

“...New Moons...
are days of worship...”

One record we have of a false prophet’s fate is: “And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet...These both were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.” (Rev. 19:20).

It is doubtful *that* false prophet, who did many wonderful works, came teaching the correct Biblical New Moons and Holy days. Is this the fate of *all* false prophets and their followers?

So, if someone cannot prove their New Moon doctrine from the Bible, chapter and verse, we must proceed with caution. For more information on New Moons read “*The New Moon, Crescent, Conjunction or Full Moon? The Scriptural and Historical Facts*” (www.icyaweh.org).

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WHAT YOU DID NOT KNOW ABOUT THE Sunset-to-Sunset Day

Is the sunset-to-sunset day Biblical? Millions in modern Judaism and hundreds of thousands globally use the age-old idea of an evening-to-evening day.

Widely defended by sincere Sabbath observers, that tradition is repeated so often most all are convinced it is true. But the fact is, verses often used as proof do not prove what everyone claims.

On the other end of the religious spectrum are millions who doubt we should concern ourselves with such “legalism” as which day is the Sabbath, nor certainly something as mundane as the specific hours of a Biblical day.

Truthfully though, if we take the Bible seriously, there are reasons for concern regardless of which end of the spectrum you are on: Sabbath or no Sabbath.

For one, the fourth commandment is a seventh-day Sabbath Law so important records show a man got the death penalty for breaking it (Num. 15:32-35). True this account is in the Law Moses wrote, but the Messiah had this to say, “...if you believe not his writings [Moses, v. 46], how shall you believe my words?” (John 5:47). Here are His words, “If you will enter into life [eternal life; v. 16] keep the commandments” (Matt. 19:17). How many believe His words?

Observing the weekly and annual Sabbath days correctly—when and how, is one of those commands that is the gateway to eternal life (Ex. 20:8-11). Clearly the “day” matters.

WHERE ISRAEL'S NON-BIBLICAL “DAY” CAME FROM

Where did the Israelites get their “sunset-to-sunset day”? Notice the situation before and after the Babylonian exile: “There can be no doubt that in pre-exilic times the Israelites reckoned... the day began with the dawn...in post-exilic times, however,...a change... was made, and the day was reckoned as extending from the preceding to the following evening...”¹

Why make this change? Were they copying the Babylonian day? No doubt, given they were subject to their captors for 70 years, *and this additional fact*: “...the Babylonian day also begins in the evening...”² The facts of history do not lie. The source was *Babylon!* (See Rev.

18:4: “...come out of her my people...”). Change the day concept, and weekly and annual Sabbaths change.

Other scholars agree on a morning beginning, “... the custom of reckoning the day as beginning in the evening and lasting until the following evening was probably of late origin is shown by the phrase “tarry all night” (Jdg. 19:6-9); the context shows that the day is regarded as beginning in the morning...The transition of day to night ...lasts till after sunset. The change of night to day begins before sunrise...”³

“Evening and morning were...
called the Light Day...”

After the Babylonian captivity, there is little doubt such a huge change did not happen overnight. As apostates gradually gained control, their non-biblical sunset-to-sunset day prevailed. Eventually the apostasy became tradition, then that tradition becomes the unquestioned “truth”.

EVENING AND MORNING WERE...

The common argument for the evening-to-evening day is: “Is not the six times the Genesis record (Gen. 1:5, 8, 13, 19, 23, 31) records “...the evening and the morning were the first day...the second day...”, proof a Scriptural “day” starts at sunset, running 24 hours?”

THE PLACE TO START

The answer is “No”, and for this reason: The place to begin defining the Biblical day is not with those phrases, but the first two lines of verse five that *precedes* them where the term “day”⁴ is given a precise Scriptural definition. That statement, given first, answers the question by giving the meaning of “day” (See also section “...Overlooked Fact.”). Here is verse five:

“And Elohim called the **Light Day**...” (Gen. 1:5; “God” *KJV*).

“...the greater light to rule the **Day**...” (v. 16; the Sun: Psa. 136:8).



Reason would tell us to simply accept the fact that light is day, and any verses contradicting it or appearing to change this fact, must be studied until those differences are resolved.

“DAY” HAS MORE THAN ONE DEFINITION?

Despite these obvious statements, one attempt to change that verse (Gen. 1:5), is that a Biblical day has more than one meaning of “light”. But Yahweh further narrows the Biblical record to show a single meaning with a *contrasting* Law defining night:

“And the **Darkness**⁵ *He called Night*” (Gen. 1:5).

First was their separation, “...Elohim divided the light from the darkness.” (v. 4; separated) and then their difference is shown, “...Elohim *saw the light...*” (Gen. 1:4) and “...Elohim *saw...*[the lights of the firmament: v. 14]...(v. 18).” He *saw* the lights, not darkness which is not visible. Notice that Gen. 8:22 also separates them: “...*day and night shall not cease.*”

These examples make it plain that a Biblical day⁴ has one meaning, and no amount of ingenuity can explain away those Scriptures. That is why day and night are separated numerous times (see table adjacent: Gen. 7:4; Ex. 10:13; 13:22; Num. 9:21; Deut. 28:66; Jer. 33:20; Matt. 4:2; Rom. 13:12...).

JEREMIAH’S VIEW (JEREMIAH 33:20)

“This says Yahweh [“LORD”, *KJV*], If you can break also my covenant of the day, and my covenant of the night, and that there should not be day and night in their *proper time*⁶....”

YAHSHUA VERIFIES (MATTHEW 12:40; KJV)

Yahshua also separates day and night: “For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale’s belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.” If the day includes the night, He would have just said “...three days...”; knowing everyone understood a “day” is 24 hours, but He did not, because day and night are Scripturally as different as...light and dark.

REFERENCES SEPARATING DAY FROM NIGHT

The table below gives 62 references separating day and night as Yahweh decreed in Genesis 1:4.

Times Used **Phrase Used**

O.T **N.T.**

9	2	“...forty days and forty nights...”
1	2	“...three days and three nights...”
1	0	“...seven days and seven nights...”
27	9	“...day and [by, that, nor] night...”
1	6	“...night and day...”
3	0	“...all night until the morning...”
1	0	“...night is far spent...day is at...”
43	19	Totals

The variety of Biblical authors using those phrases obviously knew day and night are different.

CLEVER COUNTERFEIT

The Babylonian sunset-to-sunset day is so subtle most believe it is the Biblical day. As a result, practically all seventh-day Sabbath observers only question the Sunday substitute. Actually, they are accepting *another substitute*, a better counterfeit: a Friday-sunset-to-Saturday sunset manmade sabbath. That is how really good counterfeits are....*very* close to the real thing. But this false sunset-to-sunset Sabbath doctrine is just the beginning, leading to other errors. Beware.

YAHSHUA'S AND PAUL'S WARNINGS

Sabbath observers worldwide accept the sunset-to-sunset day without question. Its subtlety is why Yahshua warned: "...strait is the gate and narrow is the way, which leads to life, and few there be that find it." (Matt. 7:14); only the few will find it; not the many.

Remember too, Paul's warning about Israel's beliefs: "...their minds were blinded: for until this day remains the same veil untaken away in the reading of the Old Testament; ...But even to this day when Moses is read [the Law], the veil is upon their heart." (II Cor. 3:14-15). That blindness to the Law continues to our present time. He also warned against "...giving heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men..." (Titus 1:14).

EVENING AND MORNING.... OVERLOOKED FACT

The last part of Genesis 1:5 is often where things get confused: "...And the evening and the morning were the first day." (KJV).

What does nearly everyone miss when they read this phrase found in five other verses?⁷

This. "**Day**" has already been defined as **Light**. And since evening is part of the day, as this and many other verses show, it must be a period of light. As part of the light of day, it cannot include darkness. *This is the much overlooked fact of these verses.*⁵

Few doubt that morning is light, but none can in truth deny the *same verse* shows evening is also a period of light.

MOST COMMON BELIEF

Since evening is listed first, it is commonly believed a day begins in the evening as mentioned earlier. But these verses cannot mean days start at sunset, going all night until the following sunset. That would

mean "light is darkness!" There is no way that can be true. "Woe unto them...that set darkness for light and light for darkness..." (Isa. 5:20).

Assuming otherwise contradicts two facts:

"Clever counterfeit"

- (1). He set light as Day and darkness as Night, and
- (2). Evening and Morning are part of the light period called Day. We just have to believe what He said rather than tradition, and stick with it...regardless.

FINAL POINT: NO HOLY NIGHT

Now that we know Yahweh's meaning of "day" revealed in Genesis 1:5, how does it apply to the weekly Sabbath? Two verses show what most may be surprised to learn: *there is no sabbath night*:

"And Elohim blessed the seventh **day**⁴ and sanctified **it**..." (Gen. 2:3).

"Remember the Sabbath **day**⁴ to keep it holy... the seventh **day**⁴ is the Sabbath of Yahweh... wherefore Yahweh blessed the Sabbath **day**⁴ and hallowed it." (Ex. 20:8-11).

Clearly the seventh day was sanctified, holy, blessed and hallowed; not the seventh night. There is no Friday night sabbath; no holy night.

We must return to Yahweh's Sabbath Days of light and reject the traditions of men.

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5. "*The Scriptural Weekly Sabbath Is NOT From Sunset-to-Sunset*", ICY, pp. 17-22.
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7. For an in-depth study of Leviticus 23:32, see the longer articles "Does the Bible Teach a Sunset-to-Sunset Day?", pp. 6-8, and "*Explanation of Leviticus 23:32: The Evening-to-Evening Scripture*"; ICY: www.icyahweh.org; "store".

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Sacred Calendar

The Sacred calendar of the Bible is essential to salvation. The Gospel of the Kingdom Yahshua came preaching (Luke 6:46; Matt. 7:23), requires repentance from breaking Yahweh's appointed times. These include Yahweh's New Moons, weekly Sabbaths, annual Holy Days, and land Sabbaths (Ex. 20; Lev. 23; Lev. 25). The sacred calendar is a central part of the true Gospel, because it sets those Sabbaths which are Yahweh's signs of sanctification. By these Sabbath

signs Yahweh shows who He has personally sanctified (Ex. 31:13; Ezk. 20:12, 20).

Truly we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Yahshua the Messiah (His sacrifice; Heb. 10:10), but the evidence that we are in fact sanctified by Yahweh, is that we keep Yahweh's true Sabbaths (See again Ex. 31:13; Ezk. 20:12, 20). The restoration of Yahweh's calendar system is, therefore, a top priority of the International Congregation of Yahweh.

2025 Sacred Calendar	
Pocahontas, AR Lat: 36d 14m N / Long: 90d 57m W	
Passover Festival	April 12 - April 18
Passover Sabbaths	April 12 & April 18
Passover Supper	Night of April 12
Feast of Unleavened Bread	April 13 (Unleavened Bread eaten April 12 - April 19)
Wavesheaf Offered	May 4
Feast of Weeks	May 4 - June 21
Feast of Weeks Annual Sabbaths	May 10, 17, 24, 31 June 7, 14, 21
Pentecost	June 22
Shoutings (Trumpets)	September 22
Pre-Atonement Sabbath	September 30 Noon-to-sunset
Atonements	October 1
Feast of Tabernacles	October 6 - October 12
Sabbaths	October 6 & 13
Last Great Day	October 13

2026 Sacred Calendar	
Pocahontas, AR Lat: 36d 14m N / Long: 90d 57m W	
Passover Festival	April 1 - April 7
Passover Sabbaths	April 1 & April 7
Passover Supper	Night of April 1
Feast of Unleavened Bread	April 1 (Unleavened Bread eaten April 1 - April 8)
Wavesheaf Offered	May 3
Feast of Weeks	May 3 - June 20
Feast of Weeks Annual Sabbaths	May 9, 16, 23, 30 June 6, 13, 20
Pentecost	June 21
Shoutings (Trumpets)	September 11
Pre-Atonement Sabbath	September 19 Noon-to-sunset
Atonements	September 20
Feast of Tabernacles	September 25 - October 1
Sabbaths	September 25 & October 2
Last Great Day	October 2

New Moons	Month	
January	30	11
February	28	12
March	30	1
April	28	2
May	27	3
June	26	4
July	25	5
August	23	6
September	22	7
October	22	8
November	20	9
December	20	10

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

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

Head of the Year
Feb. 15
End of the Year
Oct. 28
Seven-Year Cycle
5th year
Jubilee Cycle
47th year

New Moons	Month	
January	19	11
February	18	12
March	19	1
April	18	2
May	17	3
June	15	4
July	15	5
August	13	6
September	11	7
October	11	8
November	9	9
December	9	10

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

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

Head of the Year
Feb. 15
End of the Year
Oct. 28
Seven-Year Cycle
6th year
Jubilee Cycle
48th year



Find us on
Facebook

International Congregation of Yahweh is active in today's social media environment. Please visit us and 'Like' us on Facebook to receive weekly updates on various topics and information on Holy Days and events. Below are a few recent posts.

SABBATH THOUGHTS

SABBATH THOUGHTS: THE AGE-OLD QUESTION, "WHAT IS TRUTH?" A QUESTION STILL ASKED:

"Pilate said to Him, "What is Truth?" (John 18:38)

THE TRUE REALITY; YAHSHUA ANSWERS PILATE

"Sanctify them through *your* [Yahweh] **Truth**;
Thy **Word is Truth.**" (John 17:17)

And David tells us:

"Thy Righteousness is an Everlasting Righteousness, And **thy Law is Truth.**" (Psa. 119:142)

The Law is the First Five Books of Scripture which includes weekly Sabbaths, annual Sabbaths, and the Seventh-Year Land Sabbath: Next: October 29, 2026 through October 28, 2027.

DID NOT EINSTEIN PROVE THAT TRUTH IS "RELATIVE?"

Do we live in a strictly "Relativistic Universe" where our personal point of view is the *only real truth*?

Are there no Absolutes; just a *virtual reality created by our consciousness*; all opinions being equally true?

ALL OPINIONS, ALL POINTS OF VIEW, ARE NOT EQUAL:

"You shall not do at all what we are doing here today, every man doing whatever is right in his own eyes." (Deut. 12:8)

LAW IS CONSTANT; NOT RELATIVE:

"And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass than one tittle of the Law to fail." (Luke 16:17)

BEWARE:

"For many shall come in My Name, saying I am the Messiah; and shall deceive many...And false prophets shall arise, and deceive many." (Matt. 24:5, 11)

SABBATH THOUGHTS: APPOINTMENT WITH DESTINY

"And I saw a great white throne, and Him that sat on it,..." (Rev. 20:11)

RICH OR POOR, FAMOUS OR UNKNOWN, ALL ARE RESURRECTED:

"And I saw the dead, small and great, *Stand* [resurrected] before Yahweh; (Rev. 20:12)

BOOKS OPENED: GENESIS, EXODUS, LEVITICUS, NUMBERS, DEUTERONOMY

"...and *The Books* were opened...And the dead were judged out of those things written in *The Books*, according to their works." (Rev. 20:12)

WHAT BOOKS?

"...as many as have sinned in the Law Shall be Judged by the Law [first five books]." (Rom. 2:12)

LET NO MAN DECEIVE YOU:

"...And it is easier for Heaven and Earth to pass, than one tittle of the Law to fail." (Luke 16:17).

Those five are The Books opened at the Final Judgment.

DOERS OF THE LAW JUSTIFIED:

"For not the hearers of the Law are just before Yahweh, But the doers of the Law shall be justified." (Rom. 2:13)

**SABBATH THOUGHTS:
ANOTHER GOSPEL
THE PROSPERITY GOSPEL**

“...many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many...” (Matt. 24:5)

There are some 45,000 Bible-professing groups proclaiming their gospel. How will some of these “deceive many”? Here’s How. The “prosperity gospel” [‘God wants you to be rich’.].

WHY IS THIS GOSPEL EFFECTIVE?

“For a root of all the evils is the love of money, which certain longing for did go astray from the faith...” (I Tim. 6:10)

Money is the power to get, to receive, to gain: Can be mistaken for righteousness.

“Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the Truth, supposing that **gain is godliness**: from such withdraw yourself...

For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.” (I Tim. 6:5, 7)

**WHAT SATAN USED
IN TEMPTING YAHSHUA**

“And the Devil, taking Him up into a high mountain, showed to Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time...and said...ALL this **POWER** will I give you, and the **GLORY** of them: for that is delivered to me; and to whomsoever I will I give it. If you therefore, will worship me, all this shall be Yours.” (Luke 4:5-7)

Get this: Satan is STILL USING THIS to Tempt People: It’s now called “the Prosperity Gospel”.

Churches and their leaders become filthy rich in cash, real estate holdings, business investments, ranches, etc., by spreading “another gospel” of false tithing on money. Of telling their followers what percentage of their income they owe “the church” (Gal. 1:6-8).

All this in the name of one Jesus Christ. *The Bible has become their “get-rich-quick” scheme.*

Noticing church buildings, many are massive monolithic structures worth millions. One such church is so rich their art treasures alone, if sold, could feed the world for decades!

Why the Qualifications of Bishops mention Gain, “...not given to filthy lucre...[RSV: “Or greedy for gain.” (Tit. 1:7)], Deacons also must be “...not greedy for gain.” (RSV; I Tim. 3:8).

Yahshua’s Final Caution on the Matter of Gain: Count the Cost “...Yahshua said,...If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, And take up his cross and follow Me...and whosoever will lose his life For My sake shall find it.

For what is a man profited if he shall **gain the whole world**, and lose his own Soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?” (Matt. 16:24-26)



**SABBATH THOUGHTS:
GOOD NEWS OF THE KINGDOM**

NATURE OF BEASTS CHANGED:

“The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb...and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.” (Isa. 11:6-7)

DESERTS TRANSFORMED:

“...and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. It shall blossom abundantly...” (Isa. 35:1-2)

THE RIGHT GOVERNMENT BRINGS PEACE:

“For unto us...a Son is given: and the *Government* shall be upon His shoulder: and his name shall be called **The Prince of Peace**.

Of the increase of His *Government*, and **PEACE** there shall be no end to establish it with *Judgment* and with *Justice* from henceforth even forever... (Isa. 9:6-7)

PEACE AT LAST:

The Prince of Peace will Publish the Law:

“...for the Law shall go forth from Zion...the word of Yahweh from Jerusalem...”

Then:

...nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.” (Mic. 4:2-3)

WHAT A WORLD IN CRISES NEEDS:

A prayer to change the world:

After this manner therefore pray... “Our Father which is in Heaven Hallowed be Your name. Your Kingdom come, **Your will be done in Earth, as it is in Heaven**. Deliver us from evil: For Yours is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory, forever. Amen.” (Matt. 7:9-10, 13).



**WILL
THIS ONE
HAVE THE
ANSWERS?**

ELECTION 2024

What are the solutions to society's problems that guarantee peace, ensure life, liberty, the pursuit of happiness...and justice for all?

Government's answer is more laws, more regulations, more taxes...and more spending, as one injustice after another consumes society.

How is that working for us? The old mantra, "Less is more," meaning fewer rules is more efficient, is not getting through...to government.

In this red-hot election year of endless campaign rhetoric, neither side of the political aisle has the lasting solutions to America's problems. More political rallies, conventions or a political party's plurality in Congress will not solve the lawless chaos until and unless Yahweh's Law becomes the Law of the land. This is the sobering fact of the matter.

GOVERNMENT'S ANSWERS SEE IF YOU RECOGNIZE ANY OF THESE

Franklin Roosevelt's "New Deal", the "New Frontier" plan of John F. Kennedy, and Lyndon Johnson's "Great Society" added massive, expensive programs. Some of which are:

President Kennedy (1960 to 1963)¹: Peace Corps created, a law requiring an increase of the minimum wage, an equal housing law.¹

Lyndon Johnson's Great Society's, "war on poverty"¹ that "...demands an end to poverty and racial injustice"³, was backed by the most liberal House of Representatives from 1938 until 1965. The result?

From January 3, 1965, to January 3, 1967 they added:¹

- Voting Rights Act (**banning literacy tests for the right to vote**)
- Elementary and Secondary Education Act (**federal funding for public schools**)
- Social Security Amendments of 1965, (created **Medicare** and **Medicaid**)
- 1965 Immigration and Nationality Act (**ending discriminatory immigration quotas**)
- The Freedom of Information Act (**opening government records to the public**)
- Housing and Urban Development Act (**HUD; low-income housing**).

WE ARE SUFFERING FROM "TMG" (TOO MUCH GOVERNMENT)

Did any of these have a "sunset clause"? None. Have those and the continuing endless number of other Acts, ended poverty, or corrected all social injustice, and insured domestic tranquility? No, they have not...and will not!

Government's tally sheet of those and other legislative and executive actions is the Federal Register, a *daily journal* of the U.S. government that currently houses a colossal 955,578 documents.² Each document has....pages?! Register data shows, for example, a former eight-year administration added an avalanche of *154,000 new regulations!*²

Have those mountains of "regs" made us more secure, cheapened goods and services, erased poverty, eliminated *any* of the 750 U.S. military bases spread

over 80 nations,⁴ decreased health care expenses, made us energy independent, simplified our lives, and eliminated crime? If the New Deal, New Frontier, the Great Society and hundreds of thousands more Acts solved society's ills, why has government spending skyrocketed?

The truth is poverty is worse, health costs are through-the-roof, and inflation increased 2100 percent over the last century!

GOVERNMENT SPENDING

Speaking of spending. Look where **some** of *your money* goes: In the fiscal year 2023, Federal, State, and Local health care expenditures *alone* were a staggering \$2.2 trillion! Welfare (to have ended with the Great Society) was \$560 billion!³

FOR OUR GOOD?

Those price tags do not come without the inevitable armies of bureaucrats and regulations.

America, once the land of the free, is being smothered and crushed in a bureaucratic nightmare of reg-

ulations. No longer free. We are not alone, however. Other countries experience similar woes.

DO THEY WORK?

Many years ago famous inventor, Thomas Edison, carefully studied laws passed by Congress over a period of several years. Guess what he found? Over

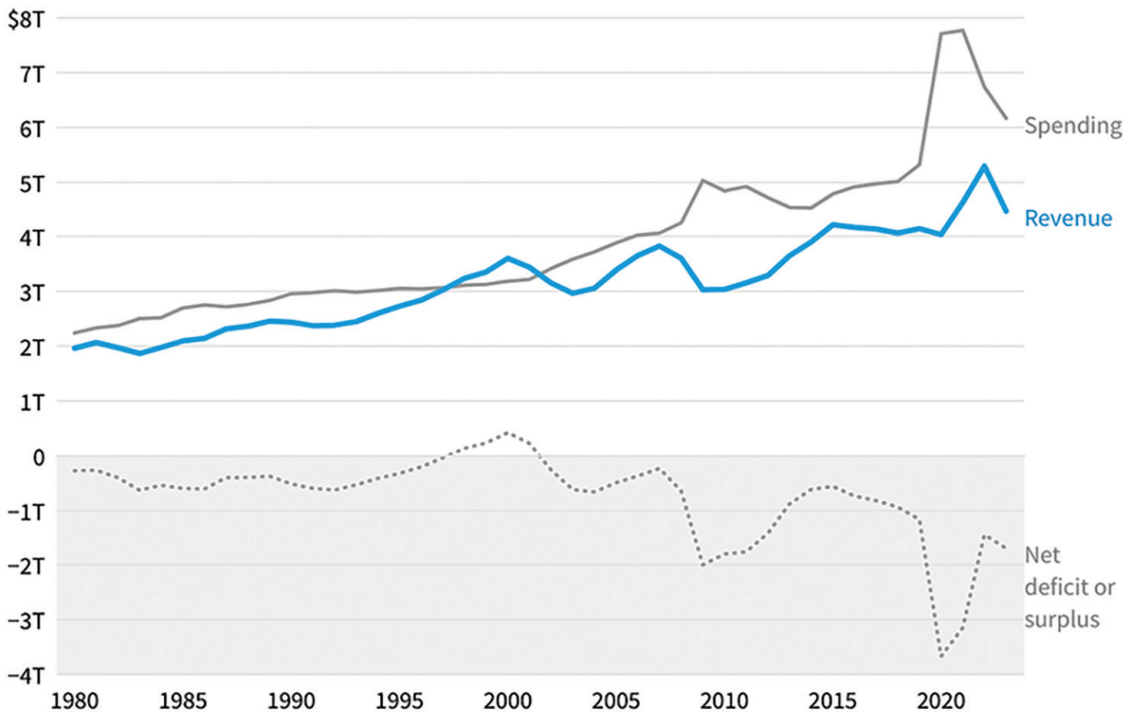
"Government's answer is...more."

seventy percent of those laws did not produce the intended results!

But maybe things are more efficient now. One guess. How many of those 154,000 regulations have been eliminated; no longer needed? Government inefficiency calls for more regulations to try and undo the disasters caused by previous laws, and on it goes.

Federal government finances

Adjusted for inflation (FY 2023 dollars)



Source: USAFacts aggregation of data from Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Census Bureau, Department of the Treasury, and Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA)

National Debt of the United States reached a staggering \$33.2 Trillion in 2023. usafacts.org

WHY THEY DO NOT WORK

The reason at least seventy percent of government regulations do not work is they are out of step with social natural laws. These laws, unseen but felt, determine the fate of nations.

They are recorded in the first five books of the Bible. Applying them brings honor not shame, peace not war, plenty not famine, happiness and health, not sorrow and disease.

Administering those “Old Testament” Laws makes those good things happen!

But the term, “Old Testament” Laws, usually evokes the idea of rules replaced by rather vague “spiritual laws” open to interpretation.

This aversion to Old Testament Laws is the result of not seriously giving them a try. And with that “spiritual law” mindset, what national and global government agencies will comb through Old Testament Laws to find the needed replacements for their manmade statutes?

“Old Testament Laws...
make good things.”

Here is what the Messiah Yahshua had to say about the matter, “...it is easier for heaven and earth to pass than one tittle of the Law to fail.” (Luke 16:17). And Paul said, “the Law is Holy, and the Commandment Holy, and Just and Good.” (Rom. 7:12; read also Rom. 7:1).

WHAT LAWS?

Let us get down to specifics. Do governments demand observance of weekly and annual Sabbaths and set them as National Holidays? Are the correct laws on interest when borrowing, tithing on produce, the weekly and seventh-year land rest and the laws of clean and unclean foods enforced?

Broken Laws deplete crop production (Lev. 26:19-20), bring slavery (Lev. 26:17, 25) and hunger (Lev. 26:26), turn cities into “third world” stench...believe it or not (Lev. 26:27-35).

Without the wisdom of those Biblical laws, man-made laws only worsen the state of the union, no matter how much money or humanitarian efforts are thrown at the problems.

Those unspoken, rarely mentioned laws of Scrip-

The Constitution of the United States

First Amendment

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

<https://constitution.congress.gov/constitution/>

ture are the regulations we need (Read Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28.). If applied, these “regs” will solve humanity’s problems, because they reveal the true causes and effects. But local, state, and federal governments generally treat symptoms, not causes.

SAVING GRACE

The saving grace is that our first Amendment right of freedom of religion still stands. But, fueled by the Israel-Palestinian and Ukraine-Russian wars, that freedom is more at risk as religious discrimination rises; especially inflammatory anti-Christian and antisemitism.

Sadly, by failing to establish Yahweh’s Laws, our nation will follow the fateful path of many once mighty nations and kingdoms before us who have fallen for the same reason. They too, thought it could never happen to *them*.

FINAL WORD

This country, nor the world, can continue breaking Sabbaths and other statutes of Yahweh, and expect to find the solutions; the real solutions. We must align our actions with the Creator Yahweh’s decrees, and put the greatest commandment first: to love Him (Deut. 6:4-5; Mark 13:30) is our duty, and *the solution*.

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THE TRUTH ABOUT THE DISPENSATION OF GRACE

The expression “the dispensation of grace” is commonly viewed as meaning an age or era of the “end of the Law”; that in the age after the cross, grace replaces any need to observe the Law with its dos and don’ts. Is this true?

YAHSHUA’S VIEW

Not according to Yahshua, “...it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away, than for one stroke of a letter of the Law to fail.” (Luke 16:17; NAS); more lasting than heaven and earth.

And to remove all doubt the Law is still binding, notice this question and then His reply: “...what good thing must I do, that I may have eternal life? And He said to him...if you will enter into life, keep the commandments.” (Matt. 19:16-17). He listed only six; did not even include the first and greatest one (Matt. 23:36-37; Deut. 6:5). Was IT done away? Hardly!

What He *did not say* is “keep the commandments just until I am crucified” or “just until the New Testament church is established” or “just believe and have faith without works.” He said, “...keep the commandments”; not do away with them.

PAUL GIVES AN “OUT”?

Did Paul show us grace is a way to avoid the Law? Let us see what he taught: “Are we to continue in sin that grace might increase? May it never be!” (Rom 6:1-2). “For not the hearers of the Law are just before

Yahweh (“God”), but the doers of the Law shall be justified.” (Rom. 2:13).

“As sin has reigned unto death, even so might Grace reign [how?] through Righteousness (not by continuing to sin).” (Rom. 5:21). Noting further, that “...if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remains no more sacrifice for sins...” (Heb. 10:26-27, 29).

None of these records throw out the Law, but rather establishes it.

WHAT IS GRACE?

What is grace? The “dispensation” question uses that word. Is grace freely given at no cost to anyone? No. That it is not free, is the fact often overlooked when grace is discussed.

“...end of the Law?...”

Granting grace, forgiveness, for an offense just means the guilty party or another person pays the debt. But someone must pay. The Law is clear that there is no forgiveness without payment. If a victim forgives the debt, he sustains the loss. He pays the debt. The lawbreaker, on the other hand, gets the debt canceled, but not without a price to *someone*.

NO UNMERITED PARDON

The truth is, there is no such thing as “unmerited pardon.” Pardon is merited when repentance is made and the debt paid, then forgiveness [grace] is granted, as the Law clearly shows twenty-six times (Lev. 4:20, 26; 5:10; Num. 15:25; Deut. 21:8...).

But, does another paying the debt for that crime give the offender the right to continue incurring more and more debt? Is grace a “get out of jail free card”, a license to break the rules with immunity? Ask the person who is paying the bill.

Again, Romans 6:1-2: “Are we to continue in sin that grace might increase? May it never be.”

NOT SOME NEW THING

The early New Testament assembly encountered this “grace replaces law” heresy: “For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our Yahweh into lasciviousness...” (Jude 4. “God”, *KJV* should be “Yahweh”: See Matt. 21:9; Mark 11:9: quotes of Psa. 118:2 [LORD]; and Matt 4:4: quote of Deut. 8:3: LORD [all caps] = Yahweh). Be wary in our time...as in those days.

DISPENSATION OF GRACE: LET THE BIBLE TELL US

Now that we know grace is forgiveness after the debt is paid, it is clear the “dispensation of grace” *must* include a payment for sin. But grace is not needed and cannot be applied if there are no laws broken. The truth is, the Law must still be binding or grace has no meaning: “...for where no law is, there is no transgression.” (Rom. 4:15).

The Bible further interprets this phrase. It is not an age, an era, for notice what the *BIBLE* says this phrase means: “For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Yahshua Messiah for you Gentiles, If you have heard of the *DISPENSATION OF GRACE* which Yahweh [Notice carefully] is given me to you [“for you” NAS]” (Eph. 3:1-2).

Now, for whom is the “dispensation of grace?” Notice: “...to you [Gentiles].” He continues: “How that by revelation he made known to me the mystery...” (v. 3).

What mystery? The mystery of the dispensation of grace. For whom? Israel? No. Grace was dispensed to the Gentiles.

MORE DETAILS

It is now clear dispensation of grace means, a dispensing or giving grace; forgiveness. Paul explains further how it applies to Gentiles: “That the Gentiles should be fellows heirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his-promise in Messiah...” (v. 6).

Where is doing away with the Law mentioned? Where does Paul say that dispensing grace to the Gentiles means grace replaces the need for good works? Those are not there.

“Is grace a ‘get-of-jail-free’ card?”

The Law of Yahweh is never called into question. The entire subject of the *dispensation of grace* is simply that now Gentiles (non-Israelites) can be heirs to the promises given to Israel.

Notice further:

“Wherefore remember, that you being in time past in the flesh Gentiles...that at that time you were without Messiah, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenant of promise, having no hope,...now in Messiah...are made nigh by the blood of Messiah...now...fellow citizens with the saints...” (Eph. 2:11-13, 19).

THIS is what the dispensation of grace is all about: bringing the Gentiles into the commonwealth of Israel, making them coheirs to the promises of Abraham.

How? By granting them grace that *their sins* may be forgiven too, thus becoming sons of Yahweh and heirs to the promises. Paul and Peter, both sent to the Gentile’s (II Tim. 1:11; I Pet. 1:1 and Acts 10), carried that message of salvation to them.

FINAL NOTE

The concept of “dispensation of grace” has been misconstrued to mean a *period of time* when the Law is suspended and no longer binding, rather than its actual Biblical meaning of dispensing or giving grace to the Gentiles.

Remember, Gentiles receiving grace does not do away with Yahweh’s Law. It does away with past sins of those who repent.

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WARS AND RUMORS OF WARS

“...you shall hear of wars and rumors of wars: see that you be not troubled...” Matthew 24:6

If you are wondering why the world is on fire and spiraling out of control, there are reasons, but for reasons not talked about that much. Often symptoms are mistaken for causes. Unless we find the underlying deeper human causes, problems will persist and worsen. We will look at those causes later, but first to the two wars, one in Ukraine and the other in the Middle East.

WORLD OF WARS: NATIONS OUT OF STEP WITH YAHWEH’S LAWS?

All eyes are on the Russia-Ukraine war (began February 24, 2022) and the Israeli-Hamas-Hezbollah war raging in the Middle East since October 7, 2023.

Following endless debates by major political parties, defence experts, and governments worldwide decrying the tragedies, a ceasefire agreement was reached, on November 26, 2024 between Hezhollah and Israel. The 60-day ceasefire of the war in southern Lebanon and northern Israel does not include the Israeli-Hamas war in Gaza,²¹ both have since accused the other of breaking the 13-point accord.

As tens of thousands flee Ukraine, and Israelis and Palestinians alike suffer, the silent sentinels of Yahweh’s immutable Laws exact their appointed effects.

The tragedies of these wars are heartbreaking and should sober us all to seek the real, but often hidden,

“U.S. aid...who is benefitting?”

causes of events on Earth.

In the mayhem of it all, keep in mind “...that the Most High rules in the kingdoms of men, and gives it to whomever He will...” (Dan. 4:17).

U.S. AID TO UKRAINE: DOES IT SOLVE THE PROBLEM?

U.S. aid to Ukraine from 2014 to October 2021 was over \$4.6 billion (armored vehicles, drones, and anti-tank missiles); a mere trickle compared to the five bills passed since the war began in February 2022, totaling \$175 billion in Ukrainian aid.¹

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

Who is benefitting? Ukraine has long been consid-



Ukrainian gunners fire at enemy targets from a self-propelled artillery cannon 2S7 Pion caliber 203mm during the Russian invasion into Ukraine during January 2023. (left) Bakhmut, Ukraine

in ruins after Russian forces said they had finally captured the besieged eastern city in Ukraine, May, 2023. (right)



Military defense spending is what allows the United States to give foreign aid to countries like Ukraine and Israel.

ered one of the most corrupt countries on Earth with a couple of dozen oligarchs who controlled a vast proportion of its wealth. But now is their lock on power being threatened by the present Russia-Ukraine war?² Was loosening their steely grip on the Ukrainian people one reason Vladimir Putin moved against Ukraine? The U.S. now pouring billions into Ukraine works to prop up that corrupt system of oligarchs.

But why? How is that in the national interest of the U.S.?

Those oligarchs controlling by coercion, public obedience or oppression, looks more and more like what some stand for in the politics being played out this election year in the U.S.

MILITARY INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX (MIC) WHO ELSE BENEFITS? U.S. WEAPONS MANUFACTURERS

In 2023, the U.S. monolithic MIC aerospace and defense industry generated over \$955 billion in sales⁹ and had 800,000 U.S. employees.⁵ The U.S. defense industry alone had a market size of \$740.4 billion as of 2022.⁴ That many employees makes a sizeable voting block. Plus the MIC fields a small army of lobbyists to curry favor with U.S. government leaders. For example, so far in 2024, the defense industry lobbying expense is \$74,802,630 using its 870 lobbyists.¹⁰ Do those government officials get nothing in return for their favors?

MORE MONEY...MORE WARS

In April, 2022, just a couple of months into the war, the Pentagon met with the top six U.S. weapons producers to assess their capacity to supply Ukraine's war needs.³ The result, more money, more weaponry, more lobbying, and... more war and destruction!

Hasten the day when the nations will learn peace, not war. Here is how and why this **will** happen: "...

for out of Zion shall go forth the Law [first five books of Scripture]. And He shall judge among the nations, and rebuke many people [will make demands not "requests"]: (the result?) and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." (Isa. 2:3-4).

MIC'S LEGACY A WARNING FROM 63 YEARS AGO PRESIDENT DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

In 1961 the U.S. military spending was \$49.88 billion which is \$525.2 billion in today's dollars compared to the 2022 \$740.4; a 141 percent increase over 63-year period.⁶ Although that is a fairly modest increase per year [\$3.4 billion spread over *all* military branches], we should keep in mind, 21st century

"A warning from 63 years ago."

weaponry is far more sophisticated than those days; more subtle, more invasive. The WWII military did not have to worry about guided anti-tank missiles (now cheap and plentiful), laser-guided bombs, unmanned armed surveillance drones, the IDF "Iron Dome" missile defense system, *and* highly mobile tactical nuclear weapons.²⁰ This is the MIC's legacy.

On January 17, 1961, Dwight D. Eisenhower, 34th President, made his farewell address that included this caution about the Military Industrial Complex:

"In the councils of government, we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex. The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists and will persist."⁷

ROBERT F. KENNEDY, JR.'S 2024 ASSESSMENT

In a speech announcing he was ending his presidential run, Mr. Kennedy had this to say about the Military Industrial Complex:

"...The Military Industrial Complex has provided us with a familiar comic book justification, like they do on every war, that this one is a

noble effort to stop a super villain, Vladimir Putin, from invading Ukraine, and then to thwart his Hitler-like march across Europe. In fact, tiny Ukraine is a proxy in a geopolitical struggle initiated by...U.S. neocons or American global hegemony....I am not excusing Putin for invading Ukraine...but the war is Russia's predictable response to the reckless neocon project of extending NATO to encircle Russia; a hostile act..."^{8,11}

RUSSIA-UKRAINE: "A RELIGIOUS WAR?"

Given nearly eight-in-ten Ukrainians are Orthodox Christian,^{18,19} should religion be considered as a factor in the Russia-Ukraine war? At the very least, comparing their beliefs to Bible decrees would show their degree of compliance. Would not that comparison be worth examining from a cause-effect point of view? Perhaps those differences would show the

causes of the war are in fact "religious" after all. Maybe the Bible is right, and those laws are natural laws.

None can in truth deny the *effects* of *not* complying with those laws are real. Everyone can see that. The disagreement is over the *causes*. What are the underlying causes of these tragedies? That is what we need to know. The Bible says it has the answers.

MIDDLE EAST HAMAS-ISRAELI WAR "A HOLY WAR?"

When "Israel", "the Middle East War" or "October 7, 2023" hits the legacy or conservative media headlines, prophecy buffs also hit YouTube, X, TikTok, Facebook, and other platforms with a rush to report a prophetic view of it. Is this war a fulfillment of end-time prophecy such as Luke 21:20; Matt. 24:6-7? More on this later.



Iron Dome rocket interceptions of Hamas Rockets in Southern Israel during a night attack on Ashdod City, Israel. (left) **Art installations** for the release of Hamas hostages in front of the Tel Aviv Museum of Art, Tel Aviv, Israel. (right) **Palestinians** search for survivors after an Israeli airstrike in Rafah southern Gaza Strip, on October 12, 2023. (bottom)

OCTOBER 7, 2023 ATTACK; NOT AN ISOLATED CASE

“*Hamas*”, an Arabic acronym meaning “Islamic Resistance Movement”¹⁶, founded in 1987, is a Palestinian nationalist and Islamist militant terrorist movement whose goal is an Islamic state in historical Palestine. To that end, Hamas attacked Israel previously in 2014, and 2021, and is dedicated to driving them out of what it considers to be Palestinian territory.^{16,17} Hamas opposed the Palestine Liberation Organization’s (PLO) approach to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Middle East wars go back still further. For example, in July 2006 Hezbollah (“The Lebanon War”) launched rockets into northern Israel, crossed the border, killing eight Israeli soldiers, and kidnapping two.¹⁴

NOT SINCE 1948: ANOTHER RELIGIOUS WAR

In the October 7, 2023 attack, Hamas, with several other Palestinian nationalist militant groups, entered from the Gaza Strip pushing into the Gaza Envelope of southern Israel (first invasion since the 1948 Arab–Israeli War). They launched at least 4,300 rockets, took 250 hostages, and killed 1,139.¹² Hamas still holds 101 hostages.¹³

Israel calls it the *Black Saturday* or the *Simchat Torah Massacre*. Hamas and other Palestinian armed groups, however, named the attacks *Operation Al-Aqsa Flood* (Al-Aqsa is the mosque on the temple mount).¹²

The attack came while some 3,000 were jamming on the Sabbath at the NOVA rave music festival; a celebration of “friends, love, and infinite freedom” during the Jewish holidays of Sukkot and *Simchat Torah*. They celebrated with circling’s of singing and dancing in honor of the Torah. Islamic feuds with Judaism are well known, and an Islamic terrorist attack in Israel on a Jewish Holy Day is an unmistakable strike at their religion as well.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

Others clearly recognize Hamas’s massacre in Gaza border communities and the ensuing war as a religious war. Anshel Pfeffer, a columnist at Israel’s *Haaretz* wrote, “Hamas’s fighters incessantly invoke God and use religious language,...one must...listen to what they actually say....Hamas is “rooted in religion,” and that makes the present conflict “fundamentally religious.”¹⁵

AID TO ISRAEL: MIC VERY ACTIVE

Although the U.S. provides Israel economic assistance, now most all U.S. aid supports their military, the most advanced in the region. The U.S. has agreed to a “memorandum of understanding” (MOU), that provides them with \$3.8 billion per year through 2028.¹ Since the start of the Hamas invasion on Octo-

“Does the...Israel war fulfill...
prophecy?”

ber 7, 2023, the U.S. has provided at least \$12.5 billion in military aid to Israel which included \$3.8 billion in March 2024, and \$8.7 billion in April 2024.¹

YAHWEH’S MESSAGE FOR TODAY?

Speaking to the Children of Israel (Lev. 25:1, 55), Yahweh’s timeless message is:

“If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath, from doing your pleasure on My Holy Day...not doing your own ways, nor finding your own pleasure, nor speaking your own words: Then you shall delight yourself in Yahweh; and I will cause you to ride upon the high places of the Earth...” (Isa. 58:13).

But “...if you walk contrary to Me [Yahweh], and will not hearken to Me...you shall be delivered into the hand of the enemy.” (Lev. 26:21, 25). Does this still apply?

Given Israel’s well-known deeply Bible-based society, and the ongoing tragedies of this war, it is rather surprising that not a single day of national fasting and prayer has been proposed, passed and publicly declared by Israeli officials.

Their *Tanakh* records the following advice: “when My people, who bear My name, humble themselves, pray, and seek My favor and turn from their evil ways; then will I hear from My heavenly abode and will forgive their sin, and **will heal their land.**” (II Chron. 7:14).

THE BIBLE’S VIEW THE CAUSES AND THE CURES

“If you [we, a nation] despise my statutes...or abhor my judgments....so that you will not do all my commandments...I also will do this to you:...” We can

despise them or obey them. Either way we reap the consequences for evil or for good.

THE EFFECTS

“I will even appoint over you *terror* [ism]...you will be *slain before your enemies*: they that *hate you will rule over you*...I will *break the pride of your power*...I will make *your cities waste*, and bring *your sanctuaries to desolation*....you shall have *no power to stand before your enemies*, the land of *your enemies will eat you up*.” (Lev. 26:15-17, 19, 31, 37-38).

Do these *effects* not reflect exactly what is happening in Ukraine, Israel, Palestine, and southern Lebanon? The effects get all the global media attention.

What is not getting the needed attention is that complying with those statutes, judgments, and commandment may be the *cures* for those disastrous effects.

“... Hamas... religion... makes present conflict... religious.”

The One who knows, who makes those rules, is the Creator Yahweh. They are His Laws that never change....so we must change.

ELEVEN SIGNS PRECEDE THE 2ND COMING

Now back to the question of fulfilled prophecy. Does the present Israeli war fulfill the end-time prophecies? Prophecy pundits often isolate on Luke 21:20-24. But other prophecies (Daniel, Matthew, Revelation) give more details. Below are eleven signs given in those prophecies, when fulfilled, indicate the Messiah’s second coming is imminent:

1. Wars and rumors of wars (Matt. 24:6).
2. Many false prophets deceive many (Matt. 24:11).
3. Gospel Published and Preached in all Nations as a Witness (Mark 13:10; Matt. 24:14).
4. 3rd Temple in Jerusalem Rebuilt (Matt. 24:15; Dan. 11:31; 12:11; *Insight*, V8N2).
5. Abomination of desolation set up in the Holy Place (Matt. 24:15).
6. Babylon, Iraq rebuilt (Rev. 17:18: “*The Second Coming of Babylon*”; www.icyahweh.org).
7. Beast Rises (Rev. 13:1, 17); All must have his mark, name or number to buy or sell.
8. Ten Horns rise (Rev. 17:12; Jer. 51:27-28); Iden-

tified in *Insight* V7N3 (V5N4).

9. Dragon persecutes a woman wearing a 12-Starred Crown who Flees (Rev.12:6, 13-14, 16); “*Insight*” V9N3; www.icyahweh.org.
10. Armies surround Jerusalem (Luke 21:20-24).
11. Finally, the Great Tribulation; worst until that time or ever shall be (Matt. 24:21-22).

CONCLUSION

Wars and rumors of wars are facts of history. But is what we now see more ominous than ages past, leading up to the smashing climax at the end of the age? Are we nearing that point of no return? Global movers and shakers continue ignoring Yahweh’s decrees. As Russia and Ukraine are gripped in a back-and-forth slugfest, Israel battles Hamas, Hezbollah, and now Iran. Growing fears of wider wars spread from one government to another.

Now is not the time for Yahweh’s people to forget their calling, to let the cares of this life make us unfruitful (Matt. 13:22).

“Watch you...and pray always, that you may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.” (Luke 21:36).

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★★★★★★

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



FOUR NEGLECTED FACTS ABOUT PASSOVER

International Congregation of Yahweh

Is Passover now just a symbolic ritual to be done any time or place with any group? For instance, should Passover be observed at the day's beginning or at evening near the end of the day? What about the "night to be observed"? Does it follow Passover the next evening? And did Yahshua and His disciples disagree with the Jews' choice of when to observe it?

Many questions, but do those particulars matter if our heart is in the "right place" and we are sincere? The fact is, sincerity is no proof our heart "really is right" with Yahweh.

Sincerely wrong" is still wrong. "...why call you Me Master, Master, and do not the things which I say?" (Luke 6:46)

Get the facts, the neglected facts about Passover.

Christmas: The Untold Story



International Congregation of Yahweh

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Many the world over aggrandize and reverence Christmas as the birth of someone who cannot be the Messiah of the Bible. Who? Whose birthday is it? Write today for the booklet Christmas: The Untold Story. Read the surprising story of Christmas—a story that goes back to the dawn of angelic history—to the birth of a great winged Cherub (Ezk. 28:14).

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