

You're of no earthly value unless you're...

# Heavenly Minded

Vol 5 Iss 8

*Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice:*

*“ Worthy is the Lamb who was slain  
To receive power and riches and wisdom,  
And strength and honor and glory and blessing!”*

## ***In this issue...***

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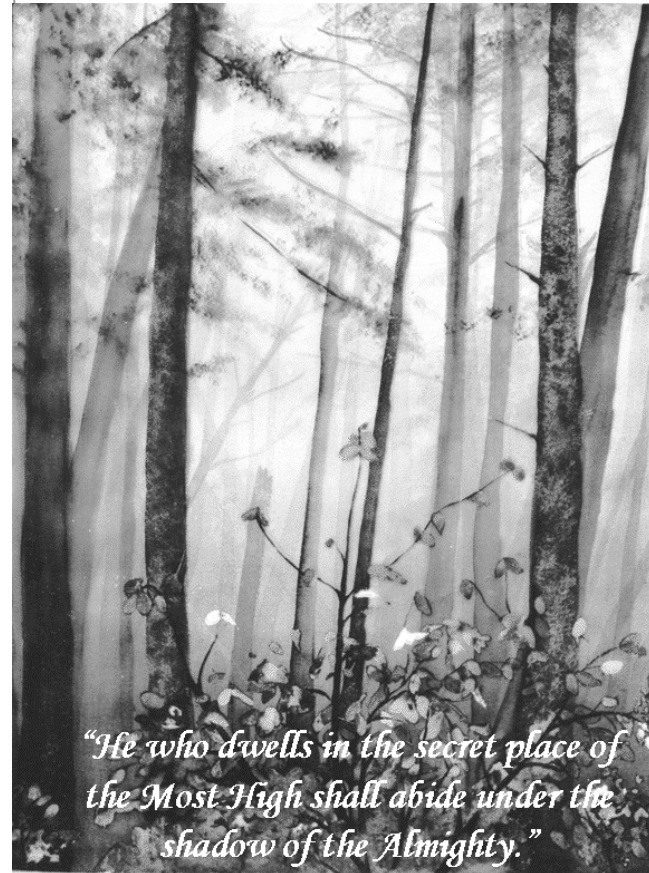
## **Dear Friends,**

*What an intense time we live in! Environmental catastrophes abound, Israel is ceding large portions of their country to their enemies, Iran has declared to the world that the entire country of Israel must be obliterated just as they rush to arm themselves with nukes, Europe is fast becoming Islamic... on it goes. We are ripe for the conclusion of this age and the return of our Lord Jesus.*

*The Trumpet will soon sound and this world will once again find God directly intervening. Close at hand also is the greatest delusion ever foisted on mankind – a false Middle East peace, false messiah, false religion, false god.*

*May your attention be upon the true God, His Son and His Spirit. May you hold fast to your faith in these final hours.*

*In Christ's Love,  
John and Darlene*



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*“He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.”*

## Worth-War

The war is over worship. The war for your soul is tied directly to worship and it began like this –

*How you are fallen from heaven,  
O Lucifer, son of the morning!  
How you are cut down to the*

*ground,  
You who weakened the nations!  
For you have said in your heart:  
'I will ascend into heaven,  
I will exalt my throne above the  
stars of God;*

*I will also sit on the mount of the  
congregation*

*On the farthest sides of the  
north;*

*I will ascend above the heights  
of the clouds,*

*I will be like the Most High.'*

*Yet you shall be brought down  
to Sheol,*

*To the lowest depths of the Pit.  
(Isaiah 14:12 – 14)*

You see, at some point Lucifer decided that he deserved or desired to “be like the Most High”. Ezekiel, speaking for the Lord, wrote of him -

*You were the seal of perfection,  
Full of wisdom and perfect in  
beauty.*

*You were in Eden, the garden of  
God;*

*Every precious stone was your  
covering:*

*The sardius, topaz, and  
diamond,*

*Beryl, onyx, and jasper,  
Sapphire, turquoise, and  
emerald with gold.*

*The workmanship of your  
timbrels and pipes*

*Was prepared for you on the  
day you were created.*

*You were the anointed cherub  
who covers;*

*I established you;  
You were on the holy mountain of  
God;*

*You walked back and forth in the  
midst of fiery stones.*

*You were perfect in your ways from  
the day you were created,*

*Till iniquity was found in you. (Eze  
28:11 – 15)*

Now, being like the Most High is something we ourselves desire and look forward to, but the likeness issue is quite different. As God's children, saved by faith in Jesus, we desire to be more godly in character and one day we indeed will actually look like Christ, (1 John 3:2) but we are instructed to always seek the “low seat”. Jesus said, “*I am meek and lowly...*” (Mat 11:29) Lucifer, on the other hand, wanted the ‘high seat’, in fact he sought a seat like the Most High. What this speaks of is his insane desire to be worshipped like God. He even proposed this to Jesus.

*...the devil took Him up on an  
exceedingly high mountain, and  
showed Him all the kingdoms of the  
world and their glory. And*

*he said to Him, “All these things I will  
give You if You will fall down  
and worship me.” (Mat 4:8,9)*

Thus the war of the spirit, the war over and in man, could be said to be fundamentally all about worship. Who will receive it? In order to understand why this is so we must understand what worship is all about.

John R. W. Stott once said,  
“*Christians believe that true worship is  
the highest and noblest activity of which  
man, by the grace of God, is capable.*”

Yet Dr. James Boice adds, “*... at the  
same time, it  
highlights what is perhaps the greatest  
shortcoming of the Evangelical church in  
America today, and that is that for large  
segments of the church, indeed the*

*majority of churches, true worship is  
non-existent. The sad reality is that  
in our day Christians have forgotten  
what true worship is and many  
churches have abandoned it entirely.*”

A.W. Tozer wrote, “*Thanks to our  
splendid Bible societies and to other  
effective agencies for the  
dissemination of the Word, there are  
today many millions of people who  
hold ‘right opinions’, probably more  
than ever before in the history of the  
church. Yet I wonder if there was  
ever a time when true spiritual  
worship was at a lower ebb. To great  
sections of the church the art of  
worship has been lost entirely, and in  
its place has come that strange and  
foreign thing called the ‘program’.*”

In examining the history of the English word, we understand ‘worship’ to be equally spoken as ‘worth-ship’. In New Testament Greek, it is ‘proskenuo’ which means ‘turn and kiss’. It implies turning away from ourselves and turning toward our Lord in an intimate and affectionate way. It implies an emotional expression of love. Whereas, the Old Testament Hebrew word for worship -- ‘shachah’ -- means to bow down. So the first thing we know about worship is that it means to attribute worth, to worship God is to ascribe to Him ultimate worth and thus we honor Him.

The second thing we can assert is that true worship has bearing upon the worshipper. Of worshipping God, William Temple the former Archbishop of Canterbury wrote, “*To  
worship is to quicken the conscience  
by the holiness of God, to feed the  
mind with the truth of God, to purge  
the imagination by the beauty of God,  
to open the heart to the love of God,*

*to devote the will to the purpose of  
God.*”

Clearly, worship is something far beyond the singing of songs or the periodic gathering of sincere believers. It engages and captivates the worshipper in every aspect of life. To worship God fundamentally requires intellect that discerns the qualities of the One being worshipped. As a young Christian, I used to think when I read of the four living creatures in Revelation worshipping God with, “Holy, Holy, Holy” each time they see Him as rote and simply a matter of obligatory respect. I couldn't have been more wrong. You can note that these four creatures are those closest to the throne of God and thus are extremely high beings if I can put it that way. They also are described as being full of eyes – all seeing and thus extremely intelligent.

The reason they are continually worshipping is not because it's obligatory, but rather because it is the natural response of the perceptive, redeemed, living soul to the attributes of God. The more one truly ‘sees’ God for who He is, the more sincere worship will erupt responsively to Him.

Boice pointed out three reasons why this age of the church has missed it. He wrote:

1. *Ours is a trivial age, and the  
church has been affected by this  
pervasive triviality.* It is a technological age, and the ultimate objective of our popular technological culture is entertainment. The average American household has the television on more than seven hours a day. “*How can people whose*

mind are filled with the brainless babble of the evening sitcoms have anything but trivial thoughts when they come to God's house on Sunday morning, if, in fact, they have thoughts of God at all? How can they appreciate His holiness if their heads are full of the moral muck of the afternoon talk shows? They cannot. So all they look for in church, if they look for anything, is something to make them feel good for a short while..."

2. Ours is a self absorbed, man-centered age, and the church has become, sadly, even treasonously self-centered. Pastor R. Kent Hughes observed, "The unspoken but increasingly common assumption of today's Christendom is that worship is primarily for us—to meet our needs. Such worship services are entertainment focused, and the worshipers are uncommitted spectators who are silently grading the performance. From this perspective preaching becomes a homiletics of consensus—preaching to felt needs—man's conscious agenda instead of God's. Such preaching is always topical and never textual. Biblical information is minimized, and the sermons are short and full of stories. Anything and everything that is suspected of making the marginal attendee uncomfortable is removed from the service, whether it be a registration card or a 'mere' creed. Taken to the nth degree, this philosophy instills a tragic self-centeredness. That is, everything is judged by how it affects man. This terribly corrupts one's theology."

3. Our age is oblivious to God, and the church is barely better to judge from its so-called worship

services. The tragedy here is not that Christians in our time deny basic Bible doctrines, certainly not the nature and existence of God. They are not heretics. The problem is that although they acknowledge Bible truth, it doesn't seem to make a difference.

Jesus said that God actually seeks those who will worship Him in spirit and truth (John 4:23).

In spirit -- "What Jesus was teaching was that in the new age which he was inaugurating by his death and resurrection the place of worship would not matter, for a man or a woman would not worship merely by being in the right place and doing certain right things. The person would worship in his or her spirit, which could be anywhere. True worship occurs only when that part of man, his spirit, which is akin to the divine nature (for God is spirit), actually meets with God and finds itself praising God for his love, wisdom, beauty, truth, holiness, compassion, mercy, grace, power, and all his other attributes." (Boice)

William Barclay wrote, "The true, the genuine worship is when man, through his spirit, attains to friendship and intimacy with God. True and genuine worship is not to come to a certain place; it is not to go through a certain ritual or liturgy; it is not even to bring certain gifts. True worship is when the spirit, the immortal and invisible part of man, speaks to and meets with God, who is immortal and invisible."

In truth -- This means that we must approach God truthfully. We must come to him honestly. It is what Jesus was referring to when he said of the people of his day, "Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you:

*'These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men.'*" (Matthew 15:7-9)

According to Jesus, true worship means honesty of heart on the part of the worshipper. We must not pretend to worship. We must worship knowing that our hearts are open before God.

Meanwhile, the spiritual war over worship is on-going. Satan wants it but is completely unworthy of it. Nevertheless, from the time man began listening to him rather than God, he has prompted man to build and worship idols -- to worship anything but the true and living God. You see, true worship of God brings intimacy with and appreciation for the attributes of God, yet, the same is true in the worship of idols (Psa 115:4-8). You become very much like the one who is the focus of your sincere attention.

Why do I leave church unchanged? Mostly because the focus of my attention has been on ME. When such is the case, my worship is dishonest and directed inward rather than 'upward'. Becoming more like me doesn't help me at all.

Essentially, we 'worship' all day long because we are constantly directing our attention toward that which we esteem most worthy of it. The last thing Satan wants is a bunch of 'little Christs' infecting the world with light and life -- the world he has worked so hard to destroy and rule in fear and darkness.

His ploy is to direct your attention elsewhere -- anywhere but the Lord. The more successful he is at that, the less you direct your attention toward God, i.e., the less you worship and connect with Him.

And as a consequence, the less you resemble Him.

This is exactly why the scripture says to "set your affection on things above" and "whatsoever things are true...noble...just...pure...lovely...of good report; if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things."

Now, you cannot control the distractions but you can decide upon what you will direct your attention. Today's entertainment culture is frankly a grand scheme hatched by a spiritual enemy to direct your worship anywhere away from our holy God.

You may think that's extreme and it is -- it's extremely true. Nothing would please your heavenly Father more than if you thought of Him ALL the time. That's because it would bless you as well and transform you.

Yes, it is a war and you are called to participate -- victim or victor -- your choice. Who/what will you worship? Who/what will you resemble? Worship God through Christ, in spirit and in truth! Selah!

# Weighing In as Worthy

Picture an old fashioned balance. On one of its trays, you might place a 100 gram weight and on the other, perhaps, a chunk of cheese. When the weight of the cheese is exactly 100 grams, the balance will steady and voila, there you have it – worthy cheese.

Now, you can do the same for any item to get say worthy chips or worthy salsa or worthy salami, etc.

That's the meaning of the Greek word 'axios' in the New Testament – "having the weight of another thing of like value". However, in our examples above you may have noticed that we're not quite there because although the weights are the same, the value of the items and the balance weight is not. And actually, that is the fundamental point – for anything to have worth implies that there is a corresponding value system for it.

Money is a value system; the various penal codes are types of value systems; your grades in high school represent a value system. There are many value systems and the worth or worthiness of something is only meaningful in the context of its own system of value. For instance, if you weighed out on our balance 100 grams of gold, you probably wouldn't want to trade it for the 100 gram balance weight!

A man walked over to the perfume counter and told the clerk he'd like a bottle of Chanel #5 for his wife for their anniversary. "A little surprise, eh?" smiled the clerk. "You bet," answered the customer. "She's expecting a cruise." Clearly, this guy was operating in the wrong value system! He was in for his own

little surprise I suspect. Understanding the system of value that is applicable is critical to understanding any worth.

With this in mind, let's consider worthiness in the Bible:

Jesus said, "*He who loves father or mother more than Me is not **worthy** of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not **worthy** of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not **worthy** of Me.*"

Mat 10:37, 38. Conceptually, this verse presents an attribute of Christ on one side of the balance – His love; and your love is on the other side. In His first two statements, what He was saying was that to be worthy, your love for Him should be as His is for you.

Consider Calvary. Jesus said, "*Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.*" This is why He followed up His first two statements above with the one about taking up your cross and following Him. This is how a 'worthy' love for Him is manifested for it is how His own was manifested for you.

Paul wrote, "*For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not **worthy** to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.*" Rom 8:18 On one side sits the glory, the radiance you'll have in heaven; and on the other side are the sufferings of the present time. Paul said that they are not even in the same category – you can't even weigh them out together. You may think your sufferings here are quite heavy but the value systems are totally different. These present sufferings are temporal while the coming glory is forever.

In the epistles, we are admonished to have a walk, that is, to behave:

✓ Worthy of the calling with which you were called – Eph 4:1

✓ Worthy of the gospel of Christ – Phi 1:27

✓ Worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God – Col 1:10

✓ Worthy of God who calls you into His kingdom and glory – 2 Thes 2:12

Now, if you weren't intimidated by the fantastic weight on the other side of the balance before, you must be now! First, the 'worthy-balance' holds your calling, then the gospel, then the Lord Jesus and then Father God!! Wow! I'm such a lightweight, just dust on the scales and these are such heavyweights. What worthiness can be offered, what compares? Let's look again.

✓ Calling refers to your invitation by God to be His child. What compares? What is worthy? Your whole hearted embracing of it. By saying, "Yes!" with a truly thankful heart.

✓ Gospel of Christ – the good news of God's gift through Jesus to pay for all your sins. What compares? Your faith in it. Your absolute confidence that it's a finished work. No adding to it nor taking away from it.

✓ The Lord – here, we have to check out the rest of the description – "fully pleasing Him, being fruitful...increasing in the knowledge of God". Now, pleasing implies obedience and obedience leads to fruitfulness. Then you have knowledge. Actually, this knowledge is literally, the precise and correct knowledge of God coming by way of experiencing Him. It is the result of spending time with Him. So what goes in the

balance? What is worthy? Obedience and intimate fellowship.

✓ God – that is, "God who calls you." What compares? What is worthy? Father God called you in mercy and forgiveness. Can you call to others in the same way?

The worthiness of the believer is also linked to watchfulness. Jesus, speaking to the church of Sardis says in Revelation, "*Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God. Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you.*"

This group of people have strayed from the foundational issues. They are not watching because they have ceased to believe in an imminent return of Christ. They may have turned to works to achieve right standing with God. Imperfect or incomplete works could also refer to a straying from faith in Christ as Savior for Jesus said, "*This is the **work** of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.*" (John 6:29)

The Bible says that we as believers are robed in righteousness – Christ's righteousness. In speaking to Sardis, Jesus continued, "You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are **worthy.**" (Rev 3:4) Defiled garments are stained or polluted garments – not by sinful deeds as some commentators attest for Christ paid the price for all our sins -- but rather by a departure from faith in



Christ. Not Christ as a great man or even as a martyr but Christ the Risen Lamb of God who laid down His life for the sins of the world, Christ the only begotten Son of God. In addition, Jesus told His disciples concerning the last days tribulation events – *“Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted **worthy** to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.”* (Luke 21:36) Thus, worthiness on the part of the believers is here a matter of holding on to faith in Jesus and as a consequence, watching for His return (and staying in prayer!).

Finally, concerning believers we have a verse that pertains to your election by God. Paul wrote, *“We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other, so that we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure, which is manifest evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be counted **worthy** of the kingdom of God, for which you also suffer;”* (2 Thes 1:3-5) Here, we have a translation issue that needs to be addressed in order for this to be understood. The aorist tense is used in the Greek where we read “that you may be counted worthy...” and though there is no direct translation for it into English, the most common and correct practice is simply to use the past tense. I suggest therefore that the proper translation should read, “that you *were* counted worthy...” In this manner, it is clear that Paul was

saying that he was thankful to God because the believers were demonstrating patience and faith in the midst of their trials showing that God made the right choice in the first place in picking them for His kingdom.

But worthiness is really not about us is it? Worthiness is ultimately about our Lord. As we’ve seen in the verses above, any worthiness on our part is not truly the result of our own works or natural goodness but rather the work of God. Oh, we would like to think that just a little of that worthiness is because of us – something we did to merit the lofty standing of “Worthy”. But even your faith, your response to God, your patience in tribulation, your mercy and forgiveness, your obedience and fellowship – all of it, is first a work of God in your heart. And it all points back to Jesus.

You see, the universal acclamation in heaven is about Jesus Christ -- *And they sang a new song, saying: “You are **worthy** to take the scroll, and to open its seals; For You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,... **Worthy** is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing!”* (Rev 5:9,12)

Everyone in heaven recognizes that Christ alone was and is and ever will be worthy of the scroll. As we’ve said before, this scroll is the documented indebtedness of all mankind because of sin. Imagine in that balance one side weighed down with every sin ever committed from the smallest to the most heinous – every thought, word or action contrary to the perfect heart of God, all the way from Adam up to what you did just a moment ago and on into forever. That indebtedness made us the slaves of sin and death. What could possibly

weigh out on the other side of the balance? – no son of Adam.

Enter the sinless Son of God who came to earth the son of man, who though He knew no sin, became sin for us. He took upon Himself the weight of all our sins. The balance, if you would, steadied. As a consequence, the complete reward of God is His – power, riches, wisdom, strength, honor, glory and blessing! He alone is worthy of it.

As we said in the beginning, worth or worthiness only has meaning within the context of its value system. The worthiness of the believer which is nested in and derived from the worthiness of Christ has the kingdom of God as its value system. It is completely contrary to the world’s myriad systems of values. The world doesn’t get it. Never has, never will. Yet, all the world’s value systems will vanish like vapor. God’s kingdom is eternal.

An elderly man stepped up to the pulpit to speak, "A father, his son, and a friend of his son were sailing off the Pacific Coast," he began, "when a fast approaching storm blocked any attempt to get back to shore. The waves were so high, that even though the father was an experienced sailor, he could not keep the boat upright, and the three were swept into the ocean."

The old man hesitated for a moment, making eye contact with two young men who were looking somewhat interested in his story.

He continued, "Grabbing a rescue line, the father had to make the most excruciating decision of his life....to which boy he would throw the other end of the line. He only had seconds to make the decision.

The father knew that his son was a Christian, and he also knew that his son’s friend was not. The agony of his decision could not be matched by the torrent of waves. As the father yelled out, 'I love you, son!' he threw the line to his son’s friend. By the time he pulled the friend back to the capsized boat, his son had disappeared beyond the raging swells into the black of night. His body was never recovered."

"The father," he continued, "knew his son would step into eternity with Jesus, and he could not bear the thought of his son’s friend stepping into an eternity without Jesus. Therefore, he sacrificed his son. How great is the love of God that He should do the same for us."

With that, the old man turned and sat back down in his chair as silence filled the room.

Within minutes after the service ended, the two young men were at the old man’s side. "That was a nice story," politely started one of them, "but I don’t think it was very realistic for a father to give up his son’s life in hopes that the other boy would become a Christian."

"Well, you’ve got a point there," the old man replied, glancing down at his worn Bible. A big smile broadened his narrow face, and he once again looked up at the boys and said, "It sure isn’t very realistic, is it? But I’m standing here today to tell you that THAT story gives me a glimpse of what it must have been like for God to give up His Son for me."

"You see....I was the son’s friend."

And if you’re a Christian, you are too. **Worthy** is the Lamb of God!!!

# Chip Implant Medicine: Blessing or Curse?

By Hal Lindsey

According to WebMD, which was reported on CNN this week, "The chip is about the size of a grain of rice and contains a 16-digit verification number that is picked up by a scanner that emits a small amount of radio frequency that activates the chip and transmits the number back to the scanner. A similar implantable microchipping system has been used in pets and livestock for identification purposes. VeriChip is recommended for insertion in the triceps, between the elbow and the shoulder of the right arm. The chip is inserted in a brief outpatient procedure using a local anesthetic."

Don't get me wrong; there are good reasons why this technology may become a great life-saving device. Logically and practically, there is no doubt that it will become a widely used procedure. It will save many lives.

According to Scott Silverman, CEO of Applied Digital, which makes the FDA-approved Radio Frequency Identification Chip (RFID), "'When we first announced VeriChip, a network poll asked people if they would put one in their bodies,' Silverman tells WebMD. 'Only 9 percent said yes. After FDA approval, 19 percent said yes. When former HHS Secretary Tommy Thompson joined our board, the rate went up to 33 percent. But our own study shows that if you ask people whether they would have a

VeriChip implant to identify their medical records in case of an emergency, the positive response goes to 80 percent."

FOX News reported on October 14, 2004, "The chip is about the size of a grain of rice and contains a 16-digit verification number that is picked up by a scanner that emits a small amount of radio frequency that activates the chip and transmits the number back to the scanner."

This miniature chip will make it possible to track and locate every person implanted with it by GPS. It will be able to identify whether the person is in physical distress and notify emergency medical response. The emergency medical crew using a scanner will be able to get a complete medical record on the patient and what medicines and treatments the person should have. Given the advantages of such technology, I believe that it will become universally accepted.

So why am I concerned about the wide use of it? This is just another good logical reason why the world will become conditioned to receive implanted microchips. But the book of Revelation predicts the ultimate end of this technology.

The world has to be gradually conditioned to accept these chips. But in the near future, a great world leader will be unveiled. He will use this technology to force the world to worship him. He will require all who follow him to receive a special unique identification number. He will require it to be validated by a prefix number that is the number of his name - 666.

And that validation only is given to those who worship him. As the Apostle John under the inspiration of God predicted;

"And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast [the Antichrist of Rome], telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived. He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed. He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666." (Rev. 13:14-18 NKJ)

This is also the way the Antichrist will be able to identify those who believe in Jesus Christ as Savior during those final fateful days just before Christ returns. The only ones who will have an adequate reason to reject this number will be those who will not worship the Antichrist. For they will know that receiving it will mean they cannot be saved.

God predicts the fate of those who reject the Antichrist's number. Most of them will be martyred. John speaks of these martyrs standing before God's throne;

"And I saw something like a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the victory over the beast, over his image and over his mark and over the number of his name,

standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God." (Rev. 15:2 NKJ)

The sea of glass is a symbol of the peace and serenity of these martyrs as they stand in the LORD's presence in heaven. They have achieved the victory of eternal life with Him.

Praise God that those who now believe in Jesus as Savior will not be here to make that choice. We will be snatched up to meet Him before the final seven-year Tribulation begins. Those who are left behind will have a chance to believe in this terrible period, but they will have to pay a tremendous price to believe then.

This is why it is so important to receive the gift of pardon that Jesus the Messiah purchased for you by dying in your place. He took the penalty for all your sins and died under the judgment that was due to you. Don't put off making sure that you have made this most important decision of your whole life.

For we are witnessing the stage being set up for all these things that were predicted to come. This is a time when putting off the decision to believe in Jesus as Savior is like playing Russian roulette with eternity.

Confess to Jesus that you know you are a sinner and can never be good enough to be accepted with God. Tell Him that you want Him to come into your life and take it over.

Your eternal destiny hangs in the balance of making that decision.

## "All of Them With Shield and Helmet"

Jack Kinsella - *Omega Letter Editor*

Iran's president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad dismissed international criticism of his call for Israel's annihilation, saying, "They [Israelis] are cheeky humans and they think that the entire world should obey them. They destroy Palestinian families and expect nobody to object to them," Ahmadinejad said, asserting his comments "are the exact words of the Iranian people".

It was the first time since early in the days of the Islamic Revolution that such a high-ranking Iranian official has openly called for the destruction of Israel.

Ahmadinejad made his comments during Iran's annual hatefest called 'Jerusalem Day.' Iran's 'Jerusalem Day' is a carnival-like event during which one can express his hatred for the Jews, burn a few flags and meet with jihadist recruiters looking for suicide bombing candidates.

Protestors in Tehran and other Iranian cities burned Israeli flags and held banners displaying anti-Israeli slogans including "Death to Israel, Death to America".

Ahmadinejad also said "anyone who signs a treaty which recognizes the entity of Israel means he has signed the surrender of the Muslim world", and warned Muslim leaders who recognize Israel that they "face the wrath of their own people".

Noted David Horowitz in the Jerusalem Post, "The man was standing at a podium bearing a large poster blaring the title of the gathering, in English: 'The world without Zionism'. He was stating, calmly and confidently, that such a

world was indeed entirely within reach... This week, in the boldest language imaginable, Ahmadinejad made plain that, where Israel is concerned, a nuclear Iran under his watch would be anything but benign."

Yediot Aharonot said in an editorial; "What is worrying, other than the minor issue that one day we might all turn into dust because of a nervous Iranian missile, is that 60 years after the Holocaust a leader of a state again openly threatens to destroy the Jews."

Haaretz also heard echoes of the Holocaust in Ahmadinejad's speech, writing; "The open call to destroy the state of Israel highlights the comparison with another leader who was elected by his people in 1933 [Adolf Hitler], whose agenda included an open call to destroy the Jewish people."

Israel immediately called for an emergency session of the UN security council.

"We have decided to open a broad diplomatic offensive," said Israeli foreign minister, Silvan Shalom.

Israeli PM Ariel Sharon is also demanding that Iran to be expelled from the UN. "A country that calls for the destruction of another people cannot be a member of the UN," he said.

Kofi Annan, in what, for him, was an unusually harsh public condemnation, expressed his "dismay" yesterday at Mr Ahmadinejad's remarks and warned Tehran that all UN members had agreed to "refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity ... of any state".

One wonders. Even Israel?

The Russian Interfax News Agency reported today that, while the Russians condemned Ahmadinejad's comments as having 'provided added grounds for sending the dispute over Iran's nuclear program to the UN Security Council,' it plans no change in Moscow's nuclear

policy vis a vis the Islamic republic.

"Our position regarding Iran has not changed," Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov told Interfax during a visit to Jordan.

So, in a nutshell, we have the government of Iran promising to wipe Israel from the face of the earth and the government of Russia pledging to continue its efforts to provide Tehran with the nuclear means to do so.

Although it is a mortal sin under the UN Charter for one nation to advocate the destruction of another, particularly for ethnic reasons, the most forceful adjective that Kofi Annan could come up with to describe the UN's official position was 'dismay'.

The stage is not only set, but the current situation reads like a dress rehearsal for the fulfillment of Ezekiel's prophesied 'Gog-Magog' invasion of Ezekiel 38-39.

To summarize the prophecy, the prophet Ezekiel, writing during the Babylonian Captivity (606-536 BC) foretold the formation of an alliance in the 'latter years' that would launch a sneak attack/invasion of Israel.

Ezekiel identified the leader of this alliance as "Gog and Magog" whom many scholars more credentialed than I have identified as comprising modern Russia and some of the various 'Stans'.

Gog's chief lieutenant is identified as 'Persia', the traditional historical name for modern Iran. Persia is joined by Ethiopia and Libya, (modern North Africa) together with much of the Middle Eastern Muslim world.

"After many days thou shalt be visited: in the latter years thou shalt come into the land that is brought back from the sword, and is gathered out of many people, against the mountains of Israel, which have been always waste: but it is brought forth out of the nations, and they shall dwell safely all of them." (Ezekiel 38:8)

The identity of the invasion target could not be more clear. 'Brought back from the sword, gathered out of many people against the mountains of Israel, which have always been waste' -- this can only refer to modern Israel. No previous historical incarnation of Israel meets Ezekiel's specifications.

Although Russia is the titular head of the invasion force, Persia is the catalyst. Ezekiel says Russia's participation is reluctant at best; Ezekiel says God will "put hooks into thy jaws, and I will bring thee forth," (38:4) when "at the same time shall things come into thy mind, and thou shalt think an evil thought." (Ezekiel 38:10)

And what is the United Nations doing during all this time?

Incredibly, Ezekiel not only identifies them as being dominated by the Western nations; "the merchants of Tarshish, with all the young lions thereof" but he says their response amounts to little more than a weak diplomatic protest.

"Art thou come to take a spoil? hast thou gathered thy company to take a prey? to carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to take a great spoil?" (38:13)

Russia and Persia are currently joined at the hip by their joint nuclear project, the schizophrenic nature of which puts Moscow at odds with the rest of the world.

There is little doubt that a nuclear Iran would make good on Ahmadinejad's threat with only minimal provocation. Moscow simultaneously condemns Iran for making it while supply it with the means to make the threat good.

And, while the Western world might express 'dismay' at a Moscow-led sneak invasion, it is unlikely that it will risk nuclear war with the Russians over Israel.

Washington might, but the Europeans certainly wouldn't, leaving only Israel's never-confirmed nuclear arsenal between Jerusalem and the barrier mountains separating it from the West Bank.

Ezekiel, writing from his historical vantage point two thousand years before Columbus sailed the ocean blue, gave this description of the battlefield:

"And I will plead against him with pestilence and with blood; and I will rain upon him, and upon his bands, and upon the many people that are with him, an overflowing rain, and great hailstones, fire, and brimstone." (38:22)

Now, let's leave Ezekiel aside for a moment and pretend we are prophets writing from our vantage point in history, trying to predict three years hence.

Israeli intelligence determines Iran is on the verge of developing nuclear weapons. Ahmadinejad's call for wiping Israel from the map is now a practical possibility.

Since the US is currently involved in operations with Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan, it is up to Israel to take out Iran's nuclear facilities or live under the threat of instant annihilation at the whims of guys like Ahmadinejad.

With no other choice, Israel launches its strike, taking out much of Iran's nuclear infrastructure, together with the thousands of Russian contractors, scientists, security personnel and administrators stationed there.

Iran, furious at being deprived of its nuclear ambitions, turns to the wounded Russians and together, they launch a surprise retaliatory invasion of the Jewish state.

Neither Europe nor the UN are prepared to stand against nuclear

Moscow, particularly in light of Russian casualties inflicted by Israel in an attack that meets the definition of an act of war under international law.

Such an attack would provide all the excuse necessary for the rest of the Arab world to declare war on Israel and join in on the invasion.

That scenario puts the invading army on the mountains of Israel. It leaves Israel with the choice between its own annihilation and use of nuclear weapons to destroy the invaders.

Sound about right?

The above scenario is not only possible, it is probable, given that Iran will not give up its nuclear ambitions and Israel can not allow Iran to achieve them.

And it is an exact match to Ezekiel's prophecy, right down to the various members of the various alliances and their various positions relative to Israel as they exist in this fifth year of the 21st century.

The only differences are that my scenario is an educated guess based on conditions as they exist today, and I could be wrong about the exact order and detail.

Ezekiel wrote from Babylon, one hundred and fifty years after the Kingdom of Israel was destroyed by Sargon the Assyrian and two thousand five hundred years before a sovereign nation called 'Israel' would again be numbered among the nations of the world.

"Remember this, and shew yourselves men: bring it again to mind, O ye transgressors. Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like Me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure." (Isaiah 46-8:10)

*Excerpted from the Omega Letter Daily Intelligence Digest, Volume 49, Issue 28.*



Art: *His Name Shall Be Called* by Simon Dewey

*"Behold, this Child is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against (yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." Luke 2:34,35*