

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

# Heavenly Minded

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*Mystery Babylon by Howard David Johnson*

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### **Praise You in This Storm**

words by Mark Hall/music by Mark Hall and Bernie Herms

I was sure by now, that You would have reached down  
and wiped our tears away,  
stepped in and saved the day.  
But once again, I say amen  
and it's still raining  
as the thunder rolls  
I barely hear Your whisper through the rain,  
I'm with you  
and as Your mercy falls  
I raise my hands and praise  
the God who gives and takes away.

And I'll praise you in this storm  
and I will lift my hands  
that You are who You are  
no matter where I am  
and every tear I've cried  
You hold in your hand  
You never left my side  
and though my heart is torn  
I will praise You in this storm

I remember when I stumbled in the wind  
You heard my cry  
You raised me up again  
my strength is almost gone how can I carry on  
if I can't find You  
and as the thunder rolls  
I barely hear You whisper through the rain  
I'm with you  
and as Your mercy falls  
I raise my hands and praise  
the God who gives and takes away

I lift my eyes unto the hills  
where does my help come from?  
My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth  
I lift my eyes unto the hills  
where does my help come from?  
My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth

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# Be Thou Perfect

*And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I [am] the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect. Gen 17:1*

The concept of perfection is just fascinating. The New King James translates the word in this verse to be “blameless” but that is more of a synonym. The word perfect in both the Old and New Testaments actually means to be whole or complete. Blameless, on the other hand, usually implies that a code of conduct or law is in effect, but at this time there was no law of God that we know of – as you are aware, that came later with Moses. Yet blamelessness will tie in; we’ll get to that.

Anyway, after about 24 years of following the Lord’s instructions and worshipping Him sincerely Abram had a turning point. In fact, “walk before me” in the Hebrew implies turning to face God. He and his wife were about to receive new names and a wonderful promise from God. He was also given in this passage the covenant of circumcision and the promise of a child to be born by Sarai. (See Gen 17)

Hmmm, all these years of experience with the Lord and yet Abram was incomplete – something was missing. Was it the circumcision? Was it Isaac? Was it a new name? Was it the promised land? Was it the multiplication? When God said, “Walk before me and be thou perfect,” it wasn’t a ‘pep talk’ or a scolding but a prophetic command. That is, it was something Abram was to be given but which really would be God’s doing.

And throughout the ages, he has not been alone for God made the command to all His people. In the

book of Deuteronomy, speaking of when they were to enter the promised land, it is recorded, “*Thou shalt be perfect with the LORD thy God.*” Deut 18:13 Additionally, the issue is not confined to the Old Testament for Christ said, “*Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.*” Mat 5:48 (note: “Be” in this verse is in the future tense). In short, there are two parts to perfection – salvation and sanctification. Right standing (righteousness) and right walking, if you would.

Let’s consider the first part. For many years Abram followed God. *By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as [in] a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise:* Heb 11:8-10 For many years, blessed Abraham was a pilgrim but he wasn’t perfect.

Up to Genesis chapter 15, Abraham followed and obeyed God’s direction. However, following and obeying God like he did up until that time no more makes one truly righteous than following and obeying the OT law. The Pharisees thought they had righteousness for that very reason. Paul said of his days before knowing Christ that “*touching the righteousness which is in the law,*” he was, “*blameless.*” (Phi 3:6) But that righteousness is hollow and leaves one incomplete.

So when did the true righteousness come for Abraham? The New Testament speaks of it three times (see Rom 4:3; Gal 3:6 and Jam 2:23). It is written that, “*...Abram said, Behold, to me thou hast given no seed: and, lo, one born in my house is*

*mine heir. And, behold, the word of the LORD [came] unto him, saying, This shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir. And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be. And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.”* Gen 15:3-6

Righteousness came for Abram when he believed God.

Immediately, you may ask, “Wait a minute! Didn’t Abraham believe God in order to journey to the promised land. Isn’t that what you just cited from the writer of Hebrews?” Clearly, he believed that God called him to go, so he obeyed. Faith and obedience are linked to be sure (see Jam 2) however, it wasn’t until Gen 15 that our father in the faith was declared righteous. What’s the difference?

The distinction in Genesis 15 is that Abram had to believe God for something unseen, something beyond him. You see, he could, in his own strength, trek around; he could leave family and friends; but, he couldn’t open the womb. He knew that God is the giver of life. He knew that after decades of trying to have a child, it just ‘wasn’t happening’ for Sarai and he. In response to the promise of God, he believed that the Lord would do what he could not and this is the fundamental faith of salvation. We simply cannot save ourselves. We must believe that by His death and resurrection, God saved us through His Son, Jesus Christ. As with Abram, the fulfillment of the promise, though unseen is sure.

So Abram was counted as righteous. He had right standing before God. But in chapter 17, God told him to, “*...walk before me, and be thou perfect.*” What was missing was the second part -- right

walking. We call that sanctification. It is what God does in you as you walk before Him. In fact, the Bible’s first mention of perfection is with Noah who also “walked with God” (see Gen 6:8,9). The word walk in both these instances implies in the Hebrew a reciprocal action taking place.

Each of the elements of the promises of God that follow his command to Abram to be perfect speak to us of this sanctification. Let’s consider them. The Lord starts with a summary statement (v2) then He gives more specifics:

First, there’s the covenant (v4) To us, this speaks of the new covenant of grace (Heb 12:24; Luk 22:20). Even with Noah, grace preceded perfection (see Gen 6:8). God’s grace by Jesus Christ, though a completed work in and of itself also sets in motion the process of sanctification. No salvation, no real sanctification. *When you’re saved by grace, the Holy Spirit of God lives in you and effects the whole sanctification process. The generic meaning of sanctification is “the state of proper functioning.” To sanctify someone or something is to set that person or thing apart for the use intended by its designer. A pen is “sanctified” when used to write. Eyeglasses are “sanctified” when used to improve sight. In the theological sense, things are sanctified when they are used for the purpose God intends. A human being is sanctified, therefore, when he or she lives according to God’s design and purpose.*

*The unsanctified state of fallen humanity is not caused merely by lack of effort or poor motivation. It constitutes an inherent structural flaw. When Adam sinned, he and his race forfeited that which made it possible for them to function as designed—the presence of God himself. Adam and Eve’s prefallen sanctification was not a result of their inherent capabilities.*

God's indwelling presence was responsible for the manifestation of his attributes in them. Sanctification always requires God's presence. His presence is more than his "being there"—a corollary of his omnipresence. It is his dynamic presence, producing fruit for which he alone is the source. "Indwelling" is not God's way of getting close to us sensually. It is a theological, rather than experiential, reality; it is "experienced" by faith, not by feeling.

Human beings are progressively sanctified now through faith in Christ and by the indwelling Spirit (2 Cor 3:18), while awaiting full sanctification at the resurrection. Believers under both the old and new covenants are sanctified the same way—by grace through faith.

The Holy Spirit is the dynamic of sanctification. Jesus said that he had to go away so that the Holy Spirit would indwell believers (John 14:16-20). The "Holy" Spirit is so named not because he is more holy than the Father and the Son, but because his specific ministry vis-a-vis salvation is sanctification (Rom 15:16; 1 Thess 4:3-4; 2 Thess 2:13; 1 Peter 1:2). The Spirit that inspired the Word of God now uses it to sanctify. Jesus, therefore, prayed concerning his own, "Sanctify them by the truth" (John 17:17). The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth (John 16:13). The blessing of the new covenant is the presence of the Spirit (Ezek 36:27; Gal 3:14). -- Bradford A. Mullen

Next, there's the change of name (v5). Though Simon's name was changed to Peter and Saul's to Paul, not all believers have new names in this world. However, in the scripture and in the ancient culture of the Middle East, we need to understand that names represent character. Character change, effected by the Holy Spirit, is indeed the first and

ongoing result of sanctification. The Spirit occupies the place in the new covenant that the Lord did in the old covenant (2 Cor 3:17). He progressively grows believers into God's likeness from glory to glory (2 Cor 3:18). So, whereas sanctification has been accomplished fully and finally in Christ and all those who are in Christ are positively sanctified, the Christian is progressively sanctified in this life through the Spirit's ministry.

Next, there's the calling (v5). Abraham was called to be the father of many nations. You and I as believers have a calling as well. How is it that you are intended to function within the body of Christ? It's not an option; it's part of the package. Nowadays, most believers don't have a clue as to their calling. In part, this is due to the dichotomy between so called clerics and laity. Both historical and modern church practices have 'dumbed-down' our thinking on this so as to nurture the belief that simply attending a church is our role. Peter wrote, "make your calling and election sure." (2 Pet 1:10) And if you'll study Rom 11:29; 1 Cor 1:26, 7:20; Eph 1:18, 4:4; Phi 3:14; 2 Th 1:11; 2 Tim 1:9; and Heb 3:1 you'll see that each and every one of us has a calling. Whether plumber or preacher, we all have an intended purpose in which to function.

Next, there's the fruitfulness (v6). When you abide in Christ (John 15:4) and operate in your calling in the power of the Spirit, you'll bear much good fruit. (John 12:24, 15:5,8) As the fruit of the Spirit are the result of the reproduction of godly character in believers (Gal 5:22-23), so the gifts of the Spirit (Rom 12:4-6; 1 Cor 12,14) are the means by which believers serve others.

Next, there's the promised land as an everlasting possession (v8). As the believer matures, the hope of

heaven becomes an increasingly important part of sanctification. In fact, speaking of the early saints including Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, heirs of the promised land, the writer of Hebrews says, "These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them." (Heb 11:13-16) Jesus said to lay up for ourselves treasure in Heaven (Mat 6:20) while Paul wrote to set our affection on things above (Col 3:2). In other words, heavenly mindedness is part of the work of sanctification.

Next, there's the circumcision (v10-14). Every believer must deal with the flesh. Paul wrote that the only circumcision that matters is that of the heart (Rom 2:29) You see, the heart of man is desperately wicked and it must be dealt with continually. Interestingly enough, the humbling work of the Spirit in dealing with the sin nature in each of us can lead us to think that we're actually worse, bigger mess-ups towards the end our days than at the beginning. For example, it was toward the end of his ministry that Paul claimed to be the world's chief sinner (1 Tim 1:15). The reason for this is often that the more the work of sanctification progresses, the more sensitive to sin you become. In addition, the work of the Spirit in cleaning house within your heart is to bring to light things that have been hidden away. The on going dynamic is one of warfare between the flesh and the spirit. But whether you

feel like you're winning or losing, you can rest assured that the final outcome – transformation into the likeness of Christ – is certain.

Finally, there's the promised child (v15,16). For Abraham, Isaac was a miracle. He was so blown away by the promise of his appearing that he laughed out loud; he just cracked up – not from doubt but from joy. Thus the name – Isaac – which means laughter. Like Abraham, the miraculous culmination of the work of sanctification in our lives will be the glorious appearing of our Lord, Jesus Christ. The settled confidence of His imminent return works in us now to edify and convict, to motivate and separate us from the world. And when He does appear, the final work of sanctification will take place. In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, we will all be either resurrected or transformed. (See I Cor 15:52 and I Thes 4:13-18) And I suspect that we will also laugh for joy!

So Abraham is blameless or righteous by faith, but he is completed (perfected) by the transforming work of the Spirit of God. The same is true for all of us who believe. Now, previously, Abraham tried to fulfill the promise of an heir on his own. The result was Ishmael. The lesson for us is to let the Spirit of God do the work of sanctification. If it's your efforts alone, you'll find yourself with a bunch of Ishmaels running around.

*The perfection of everything is in Jesus Christ, and the mystery of sanctification is that all the perfect qualities of Jesus are at my disposal. Consequently, I slowly but surely begin to live a life of inexpressible order, soundness, and holiness—". . . kept by the power of God . . ." 1 Peter 1:5 -- Oswald Chambers*

God has given the command. God will do it in you. Rejoice and cooperate! "Be thou perfect."

## UNCOVERED: RUSSIAN-SYRIAN-IRANIAN AXIS

7/24/06 by Hal Lindsey

For students of Bible prophecy, even the title of this communiqué should set off alarm sirens. I just received some electrifying intelligence data. First, from the Debka-Net-Weekly's briefing. And second, from some personal intelligence sources (I carefully guard) that confirm Debka's report.

Russia, Iran and Syria have entered a defense pact that is in the process of altering the balance of power in the entire Middle East. Russia's part in the pact has been kept relatively secret for a long time. But the facts reveal a long steady Russian commitment to the Iranian nuclear program and arms supply to Syria.

A Mossad General shared with me in confidence that he had personally traced the hiring and importation to Iran 283 of the defunct Soviet Union's top nuclear and missile scientists. This meeting took place in February of 1991.

I shared this information with no one until nine months later when it was first made public (although strangely not followed up by the mainstream media). All Russian leaders continued and expanded this agreement to this day, especially our supposed friend, Vladimir Putin.

Russia has helped the Iranian nuclear program from its inception. Hundreds of Russian scientists with their families live around the some twenty scattered nuclear related facilities. Russian 'Spetznaz soldiers' (special forces) guard all the key nuclear facilities.

Iran has had some help on missile development from the North Koreans. But even their missiles are based upon Russian designs. The

unmistakable culprit in China, North Korea and Iran's nuclear development has been the Soviet Union and continued by Russia.

The Soviet Union's motivation for helping China and North Korea was primarily ideological. Russia's primary reason is hard cash, although now, it is taking on a strategic importance as well.

So here are the disturbing hard facts about what is taking place in what can only be viewed as a dangerous anti-western strategy in the form of a Russian-Syrian-Iranian Axis.

The first part of this strategy was, as I said above, Russia enabling Iran to produce deliverable nuclear warheads.

The second part was the forming of the recent mutual defense pact between Iran and Syria. The foreign ministers of Iran and Syria, Mostafa Najjar and Hassan Turkmani, signed the pact in Tehran on June 15th, 2006.

Debka's intelligence sources unveiled a disturbing clause in the agreement that was reported to President Bush by US Intelligence. This report disclosed:

"The clause speaks of more than one battery of upgraded SHEHAB-3 surface-to-surface missiles to be deployed on the 13,000-foot Jabal Ash Shanin ridges towering over central Syria.

"The latest Syrian-Iranian exchanges are reported by DEBKA-Net-Weekly's intelligence sources as auguring the early dispatch from Tehran of a deputation of officers to take up position at al Qadnus, east of the Syrian port of Tartus, and along the road linking the port to Jabal Ash Shanin.

"This team will act as the vanguard of the Iranian missile force to operate the missiles station, will check out the

ground and fix its precise location.

"Senior intelligence officials warned the US President that this deployment would not just throw the entire Middle East balance of strength out of kilter, but directly menace American bases as far as West and East Europe and the Central Asian republics, including those located on the shores of the oil-rich Caspian Sea."

This puts virtually all of Europe within range of the soon-coming nuclear tipped Iranian missiles — and at the whim of Iranian President, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. Remember him? He is the one who believes Allah has chosen him to fulfill an "end time" Muslim prophecy by starting a world apocalypse in which the long-awaited 'Mahdi' (Muslim Messiah) will appear and subject all survivors to Allah.

As if this isn't bad enough news, there is something even more alarming developing within this new axis of evil.

Russia is now making moves to protect Syria and its Shehab-3 missile base. This is what DEBKA-News-Weekly reported:

"Our sources have observed the Russians dredging the port of TARTUS, Syria's second most important Mediterranean port, with a view to expanding their logistical supply point there to a fully-equipped naval base, possibly to serve the Black Sea Fleet warships when they are redeployed from the Ukrainian port of Sevastopol. It is designed to be built up into the permanent base for the fleet led by the RFS Moskva (TG Flag) missile cruiser and the RFS Azov landing ship within the next three years.

"February 27, 2006, DEBKA file's exclusive sources found the MOSKVA and AZOV heading into the Mediterranean on Feb. 5, escorted by a Russian military tug, to take part in the a NATO marine exercise Operation Active Endeavor, which was to practice

counter-measures against nuclear and other WMD smugglers. NATO chiefs and American generals in particular, attached great importance to Russia's participation in the exercise. NATO secretary Jaap de Hoop Scheffer had intended to make the gesture of being the North Atlantic Organization chief to visit a Russian flagship.

"The visit was cancelled when it was discovered that the three Russian fleet vessels would be paying an official call at the Syrian port of Latakia.

"The arrival of the Russian task force in TARTUS in March marked the opening of the Russian base. Our military experts note that the Missile Cruiser MOSKVA is armed with the weapons, radar and electronic gear of an [aircraft] carrier hunter.

"The American intelligence briefing for the US President further disclosed that sophisticated Russian air defense systems are to be installed for the dual purpose of protecting the TARTUS NAVAL BASE and the SHEHAB-3 missile emplacements. DEBKA-Net-Weekly's military sources identify the system as the S-300PMU-2. It will be operated by Russian military crews and not put in Syrian hands.

"This air defense system is comparable to the American Patriot, but is more effective.

"The version to be deployed in Syria is geared to intercept ballistic missiles. It has the great advantage of being ready to fire five minutes after receiving orders ..."

This explains why Iran has blatantly defied the world and continued developing nuclear warheads, which are closer to becoming operational than we dare believe.

Second, it explains the reason why the Iranian and Syrian defense ministers signed a mutual defense pact last June 15th.

Third, it gives the reason for

Hezbollah launching a war with Israel when they did. It was to divert the G-8 leaders from seriously debating action about the Iranian nuclear threat. And Vladimir Putin played a masterful game of concealing what his forces are doing.

Fourth, it explains why Syria and Iran are unafraid to openly support Hezbollah in their war with Israel and support terrorist that target US troops in Iraq. Russia is in the background guaranteeing their protection.

Debka reports that they found data indicating that Russia helped persuade Syrian President Bashar Assad to accept the placement of Iranian missiles on their soil by hinting that "it is part of their own deepening strategic plans for Syria.

What is most important is that all this is setting up Ezekiel's 2600-year-old prophecy in Ezekiel chapter 38. Persia, or modern Iran, is listed a chief among the Muslim nations Russia will lead into an all-out assault against Israel. This is predicted to be the first battle of the war of Armageddon.

The one nation that does not seem to be listed is Syria. I believe this is because as a result of actions it is now taking against Israel, Isaiah's prophecy about Damascus in the last days is going to be soon fulfilled.

Twenty Seven hundred years ago, Isaiah warned, "An oracle concerning Damascus: "See, Damascus will no longer be a city but will become a heap of ruins ... In that day the glory of Jacob will fade; the fat of his body will waste away." (Isaiah 17:1, 4 NIV)

To establish the time of this event, look at these factors. First, Damascus is one of the oldest continuously populated cities on earth. It has never been totally destroyed – yet.

Second, it is in a context of events

that lead up to the catastrophes that precede the Lord Jesus' Second Coming. Third, it is far enough away from that event that Jacob (Israel) is enduring terrible circumstances. Fourth, Syria and the tribal name of its forefathers are not mentioned in the Russian led Muslim Confederacy that launches Armageddon in the middle of the Tribulation.

All of this leads me to believe that Damascus will be destroyed before the Tribulation begins. I believe that Damascus is about to so threaten Israel's existence by either launching or furnishing bio-chemical weapons or radioactive dirty bombs, that Israel will nuke them. Israel has sworn that it will implement the Samson-Option against any nation that attacks them with any form of weapons of mass destruction. That means a thermonuclear strike. This may soon happen to Syria.

This in turn will so terrify the world, that it will be ripe to embrace the antichrist when he is unveiled. And that could be very, very soon.

Thank God that you have received the gift of pardon that Jesus purchased by dying in your place under the judgment for your sins. You will be miraculously snatched up to heaven to meet Him before the antichrist is revealed.

But if you haven't received this free gift of pardon and accepted Jesus into your life, now is the time. Don't put it off. It is like playing Russian roulette with eternity. Pray right now and receive your forgiveness. Ask Jesus Christ to come into your life and make it what He wants it to be. He will give you new desires, new joy and purpose for living. Do it now.

### Handwriting on the wall

Excerpts from article of the same name by Don Koenig see [www.thepropheticyears.com](http://www.thepropheticyears.com)

*Some have asked me how close we are to the prophesied end time events of the Bible and the promise of the second coming of Jesus. I see many signs that the handwriting is already on the wall. It reads, "Prepare for the Apocalypse now". Follow my reasoning and decide for yourself.*

#### **Many of the remnant of Israel have returned to the promised land but most remain in unbelief**

The leadership of Israel today is in total unbelief. If God did not have a plan in the immediate future to chasten and spiritually restore Israel, He would again vomit the people out of His land. The leadership is certainly not looking to God to deliver their country from their enemies; they are placing their faith in the world to solve her problems. Polls indicate that only about one-third of the Jews in Israel have any meaningful faith in the God of Israel. This just happens to be the same number that is refined through the fire in the time of Jacob's trouble (Zec 13:9, Jer 30:7).

The events we see happening in and around Israel today are precisely what God said would happen just prior to this final time of trouble for Israel that will turn the remnant of Israel back to their God and Messiah. It will also bring the judgment of the nations when the world comes against Israel. God said He will deal with those who divide his land (Joe 3:2). He also said Jerusalem would be a burdensome stone in the last days that would crush any nation that comes against her (Zec 12:3). There is just too much evidence that the bringing back of the Jews to their land after the holocaust and the creation of the state of Israel was a work of God, to now think that He would not complete His purpose for bringing them back and would cast them out. There is also too

much evidence in Bible prophecy and today's news headlines to ignore the fact that enemies surround Israel as the prophets clearly foretold would occur in the final days.

Today Israel is doing all it can to appease its enemies, even though the people it wishes to appease make no pretense about their intention to cut Israel off from being a nation (Psa 83:4). Israel today is a nation living in denial and even oppressing religious Jewish believers who see a biblical mandate for them to occupy their promised lands. Israel was reborn as a nation in the land in 1948 and received Jerusalem at adulthood nineteen years later in the six-day war of 1967. They have not inherited the new covenant and the restoration promise because most still remain in unbelief but God will soon shake the nation to its core and the only hope that will remain for Israel will be His intervention and deliverance.

Bible prophecy students should be aware that most unfulfilled prophecy passages giving details about end time events in Israel are describing events after the Jewish temple is rebuilt and the offerings are reestablished. The sacrifice offerings in the temple will be stopped in the time of Jacob's trouble so logically there must again be a new temple (Dan 9:27). Therefore, if we are near the end times we should expect the temple rebuilding to be a major sign on the prophetic agenda. Indeed, all the plans for the temple and every detail required for the temple sacrifice and the priesthood have now been completed. You may recall from news stories that the Temple Faithful organization has attempted to lay the cornerstone for the temple several times. Only the secular government hinders the rebuilding of the temple because they think building it would damage the "peace process" and bring

war. (Any rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem could take place after the removal of the faithful church --"the rapture").

### **Islam**

Islam is on the rise in the world and Moslems are projected to outnumber those that identify with Christianity in less than two decades. The radical Moslems who want world conquest even through means of violence are about ten percent of the population but they are pushing their Islamic agenda on all Moslems through lying propaganda and intimidation. Although 90 percent of Moslems would not advocate violence as a way to advance Islam, they totally support the Islamic agenda of world conquest. When push comes to shove, they will and do support the violent ten percent against the West.

Iran and Syria are the most identifiable nations that foster the radical element in Islam along with financial support from elements in Saudi Arabia. There are also large radical populations in other Moslem countries but they mostly have secular governments that claim to oppose radical violent conquest. Nevertheless, it is a fact that these governments do not control large factions within their nation and if they come out against the agenda of the radical elements, they risk being overthrown.

Iran and Syria are unique problems for the western world because they are totally controlled by radicals and have become the backbone of Islamic world terrorism. Iran is also trying to become a nuclear power. The West really has a no win situation with Iran. If the West attacks Iran's nuclear assets it will further radicalize Islam and this could start a world war between two opposing civilizations. Even a war limited to just Iran and Syria would likely start a world

depression due to world oil shortages and the increasing debt burden. If the West allows Iran to become a nuclear power, she will be a radical state with nuclear weapons that supports world terrorism. Iran's leaders have said they would use these weapons to get rid of Israel. Iran also is no small threat to the United States and Western Europe because of electromagnetic pulse technology (EMP).

The West is going through the charade that Iran can be persuaded to abandon her nuclear ambitions by diplomacy and sanctions. The most that might be accomplished by this pressure is for Iran to form some kind of nuclear deal with Russia. If that is not accomplished, the West will most likely bomb Iran within three years. If Iran makes a deal with Russia we can see the reason for the "**hook in the jaw**" spoken of by the prophet Ezekiel that will bring Gog (Russia) down against Israel with Persia (Iran) and other Islamic nations (Eze 38:1-23, Eze 39:1-29). I do not think anyone knows how this will all play out but I think hands are already on the rope to raise the curtain on act one of this deadly play.

After radical Islam is somehow defeated, it will leave the moderate Moslems who claim to worship the same God of heaven as Christians and Jews. I see the solution to the cultural clash being a supernatural event that brings world religions together in a ecumenical movement based on the concept that there is one highest power (called by any name) and a Queen of Heaven intermediator. My conjecture is that recent and future Marian apparitions will help institute this deception. The deceptive statements of the Queen of Heaven demon masquerading as Mary will play a huge role in bringing major world religions together in the last

days (Jer 7:18, Jer 44:17, Jer 44:18, Jer 44:19, Jer 44:25). I do not believe it is just a coincidence that Moslems revere their concept of Mary more than Jesus, as do many Catholics. In eastern religions and pagan mysticism, the Queen of Heaven deity is called by various names and is highly esteemed. The wisest man who ever lived said there is nothing new under the sun (Ecc 1:9). This Queen of heaven demonic deception will prove to be no exception.

Aligning with the Catholics in the western world would be liberal Protestants, post-modern emerging church Protestants, post-millennial dominionists and new age/new spirituality beliefs. They would have little problem adapting to a belief system where the Queen of Heaven -- called by both Christian and pagan names -- intercedes to one's own perceived highest divine power to bring unity and peace on the earth. I do not know if this will be part of the great delusion mentioned in 2Th 2:11 or if that will still come afterward but it certainly will bring in the world ecumenical church and world government spoken of in Bible prophecy. This uniting of the world is also envisioned by pagan world socialists who claim a evolutionary leap forward is imminent and that when it occurs it will bring a time of human enlightenment and world utopia.

### **Violence all over the earth and nations in turmoil**

The future of Europe seems very uncertain. Will the EU hold together and become a superpower or will Europe actually fall into moral decay and anarchy brought on by falling native populations and a rising Islamic immigrant population or even a war with Islam? Each scenario could eventually produce a man of intrigue who will have all the answers to solve the problems (Antichrist).

North Korea has a certified nut case leading the country. He is a loose

cannon armed with nuclear warheads. Will he one day blow his fuse?

Russia has emerged from a depression and has stated that she will become a superpower again. We also see that she is once again moving down the path to authoritarian government. Their designs to rebuild their military was officially announced in the news recently although they had been rebuilding it for years on a more limited scale. A new cold war with the West is probably only a few years, a new leader or a world disagreement away.

China is rapidly becoming a world superpower and massing military assets across the straights from Taiwan. Will the United States soon betray Taiwan or risk the consequences? What will the US do about China's move to secure world oil sources from all the oil producing nations that hate the United States? Will this move by China help these nations put a future oil squeeze on the United States?

Will Pakistan and India keep their hatred for each other contained? Or could a new crisis escalate into nuclear warfare on the Asian peninsula?

Once again, there is a rise of socialism, dictators and hatred toward the United States in Latin America. How anti-American will this all get? What will be the impact on oil, drug trafficking and Christian evangelism?

Will Islam continue the slaughter of Christians in North Africa and elsewhere?

Will AIDS and tribal warfare continue the slaughter in South and Central Africa?

### **Signs in the Sun?**

Leading scientists are now saying that the sun will have the stormiest eleven-year solar-cycle since the invention of solid-state electronics (this could be important). The solar storms

will begin next year and will peak around 2012. Other not so solid theorists have been saying that the magnetic poles of the earth will shift in 2012. Still others have said that certain calendars indicate 2012 is the end of this age. Could it be possible that the darkening of the sun and the blood red moon mentioned in Joel 2:31 is the result of a huge explosion on the sun? We know it occurs before the terrible day of the Lord so it is certainly possible that this prophecy might be fulfilled sometime during this violent solar cycle.

Even if this prophecy is not fulfilled in this period, what would a large explosion on the sun like the one observed in 1859 do to modern electronics, satellites and power grids that we have all become dependent on? Who might see an opportunity to move into the Middle East or against Israel if the United States was blinded for a significant period of time? By the way, if you think this is far fetched, an explosion on the sun did cause a power grid failure in Quebec Canada in 1989 but that solar storm was only a firecracker compared to the solar storm of 1859. The solar storm of 1859 reportedly fried telegraph wires and started fires.

### **Pestilence?**

Will the bird flu become the worst pestilence the modern world has known or will it run its course without crossing the species barrier to infect man? Nobody really knows, but scientists say we are overdue for a flu pandemic anyway.

Will Aids kill a quarter of the population of South Africa and then become rampant in South Asia and other places? It certainly appears there is little that can stop that from happening.

Will man create new pandemics through biological warfare and terrorism?

### **Evil men will wax worse and worse**

**Do we see any evidence of the following scriptures happening today? If we do then where are we in the biblical timeline?**

*2 Tim 3:1 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.*

*2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,*

*3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,*

*4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God*  
Only the myopic cannot see that that these traits are widespread in our culture.

*2 Pet 3:3 Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,*

*4 And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.*

*5 For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:*

*6 Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:*

*7 But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.*

Only the blind cannot see that scoffers in the church are teaching from the false foundations of evolution and walking after the psychology of their felt needs.

### **The expectations of world religions**

It was not long ago that full page ads appeared in top world media

saying that the Lord Maitreya Buddha (a Eastern and new age "savior") was going to reveal himself in a time of world crises when the world was ready for him to solve critical problems. His followers also say he is the Krishna, the Mahdi and the Christ.

The president of Iran says he believes the Mahdi (A Moslem "savior" -- also called the twelfth Imam) will appear in about two years and that Iran's mission is to prepare the world for his arrival. Many in Iran and elsewhere called the "Twelvers" are also proclaiming this message. They claim their will be seven years of world war in the era of his arrival.

Many into Catholic mysticism are saying according to a prophecy by their own St. Malachi there will only be one more Pope before the arrival of the Antichrist. They also say the apparitions of Mary tell the world to pray the rosary so she can intervene. They say her intervention will lessen the great chastisement coming on the earth.

The previous Pope indicated that his close friend the 14<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama (Tenzin Gyatso) was a holy man leading people to God. Many people in the world say this Buddhist and Nobel Peace Prize winner is now the moral leader of the world.

Even a segment of the Jews expects their Messiah to appear any day now (obviously not Jesus).

**The Bible says that in the last days many false Christs and false prophets would appear and deceive almost everyone (Mat 24:24, Mar 13:22). It certainly looks like we are now being set up for great deceptions by all major world religions.**

### **Blasphemy, heresy and doctrines of demons**

In some Christian institutional churches and seminaries some teachers are teaching that Jesus was not divine, that there was no virgin birth,

that the Bible is not God's word, that Jesus did not rise from the dead, that Jesus is not coming back, that stories in the Bible never happened, that there are no absolute truths and that there are other paths to God besides through Jesus. In fact, even a large segment of those who call themselves Evangelical Christians do not believe in absolute truths and the fundamentals of the faith, according to recent surveys.

The world media and intellectuals kowtow toward Mecca yet they have no fear when they write and display blasphemy and heresy about the Savior of the world. Some recent prime examples are "Jesus Christ Superstar", "The Last temptation of Christ" "The Passover Plot" and "The Da Vinci Code". There are also countless occurrences of blasphemies and lies on television and other media.

What will be next? After that we can probably look forward to many other attacks on the foundation of Christianity. They may even come to you complements of counterfeit Christians who really hate the message of the Bible. Their goal will be to make Jesus human and flawed like themselves so they can feel self-righteous while calling themselves Christian and living in their sins and sick perversions.

Our children are being taught lies in their school textbooks about any truths that originated with God. Teachers' and parents' hands are tied and they are told by our government what they can and cannot teach their children. The government also tells them how they can and cannot discipline their children and why mind altering drugs is a discipline of choice.

Many psychology concepts that have originated from doctrines of demons have infected all thought processes in the world. Some of these

doctrines of demons are taught as truths even in Evangelical Bible believing churches. In some of the more seeker-sensitive and post-modern churches you are more likely to get a psychology lesson on Sunday than any biblical truth. Psychobabble is now part of most Christian books, teaching series and seminars. Many, if not most, are now mixing a little deadly satanic poison with biblical truths. They are producing a mutant hybrid feel good half-truth that can be deadly to the absolute truth that those not in Christ are sinners in need of salvation. Christian truths that have conformed to worldly psychobabble also misrepresent how Christians grow in their faith.

#### **My people perish through lack of knowledge**

Bible studies in churches for the most part are not Bible studies anymore. They are canned magazine studies about the Bible. Just about everything in the Bible in these magazines is taught as applications for living today. They pay little attention to whom the message was originally written to and why. They also pay little attention to the full context of the passage and totally ignore any future prophetic implications or applications.

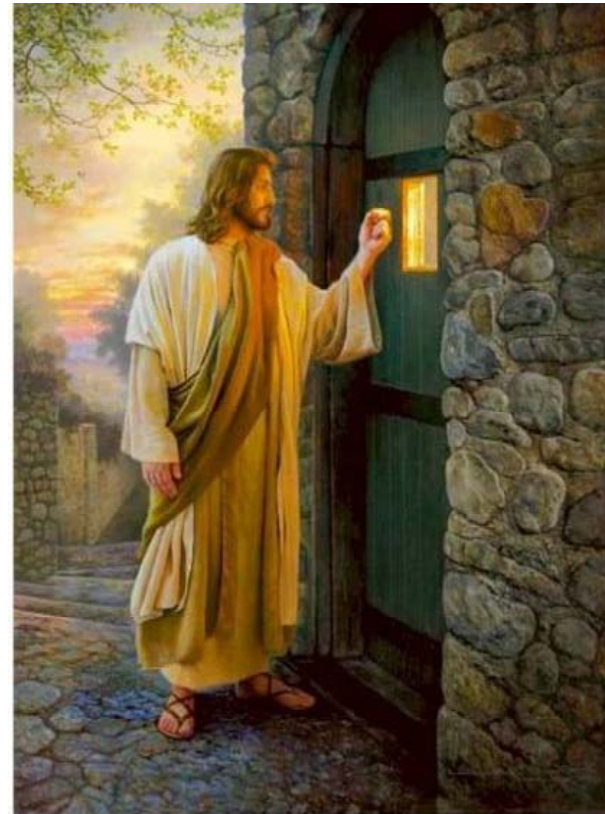
Most sermons from today's pulpits do not contain a salvation message or anything meaningful for the spiritual growth of the Church. Many of those who attend church do not study the Bible and are biblically illiterate. They are open to the wind bags of doctrine that increasingly teach nutty ideas from pulpits, books, television, radio or Internet ministries. **We were told that some would depart from sound doctrine in the last days and seek out teachers that would tickle their ears (2Tim 4:3).** We certainly see

plenty of evidence that this is occurring today. Some in the post-modern church movement have even said that biblical doctrine is divisive. So instead of providing sound doctrine in these churches they cater to peoples felt needs, induce tingling feelings and endorse mysticism so people can experience God.

Those who cannot or do not want to see the truth can ignore the handwriting on the wall that says we need to prepare for the apocalypse now. They will continue to go on thinking everything will remain as it has been. They will be in good company. Those that were judged in ancient days in the Bible had similar thinking before judgment suddenly came upon them. Even the ancient Jews thought judgment would not come in their lifetimes but it did for all those that were alive when judgment fell. I guess it would be unrealistic to expect anything more out of the people who identify with Christianity but do not know or follow the Savior. **Those who are not prepared for the apocalypse now, also will not be prepared for the judgment of their soul in the day of judgment at the great white throne of God.**

Those without the Holy Spirit that have been blinded by Satan will only read the propaganda that the Devil wants them to believe. They will believe the facade that man will make world conditions better and better even when all evidence points to the contrary. They will not know judgment is upon them until the birth pains of the Kingdom start suddenly (Jer 30:6).

On the other hand, if the Holy Spirit is speaking to you about your need of His Savior, you can make **Jesus your Lord and Savior**, and be saved out of the trial coming on all the earth to test all that dwell on the earth (Rev 3:10).



Let Him In by Greg Olsen (reformatted for layout)

*Behold,  
I stand  
at the door  
and knock.  
If anyone  
hears My voice  
and  
opens the door,  
I will  
come in to him  
and  
dine with him,  
and he  
with Me.  
Rev 3:20*