



The Midnight Cry

December 2009, Volume 1, Number 8

A Magazine of Urgent Understanding



**“The Bridegroom
has come!
The Bridegroom
has come!
Go ye out
to meet him!”**





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The Midnight Cry is published monthly (except bi-monthly March-April and October-November) by the Church of God's Faithful, 136 Woodland Dr., Harleyville, SC 29448, USA. This magazine helps fulfill the Midnight Cry of Matthew 25:6 and purposes to warn the scattered members of God's Church (Ezek. 34). This publication, mailed free of charge, is made possible by tithes and offerings of the Church membership. Voluntary contributions are welcome and are tax-deductible in the United States.

A Deceived World



Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, when asked by His disciples for signs of the end of the age, issued this major warning as a number one sign: "Take heed that no man deceive you" (Matt. 24:4). This warning is repeated by His faithful apostles throughout the New Testament (See Eph. 5:6; II Thess. 2:3; I Jn. 3:7). Deception would be the prime condition to identify the end of the age. And, as we know from Rev. 12:9, Satan has deceived the entire world—all of mankind. He has man deceived, and his goal through deceived men is to

deceive other men.

One of his deceptions is that many do not believe Satan or a spirit world actually exists. However, the Holy Bible has recorded in Luke 10:18 these words of Jesus Christ: "And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven." This statement by Jesus should be enough for any Christian to believe the devil does exist, but most people of the world, including many Christians, do not believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God! Therefore, direct statements from the Bible are considered by many as a collection of nice thoughts, but not the inspired Words of God.

The Islamic religion has the greatest number of followers on earth and has the Quran as their religious book; thus, they do not believe the Bible is the Word of God, nor do they believe Jesus is the Son of God. Yet they do believe there is a devil! Many "Christian" theologians believe the devil has deceived the Islamic world, as demonstrated in their jihad way of life – death to all who are unbelievers – living by the sword!

The Roman Catholic Church and the Protestant daughter churches total nearly 1½ billion people claiming to be "Christians", but Catholics are discouraged from reading the Bible as a source of proving whether or not they are deceived. It is reported that most Protestants can't name the first four books of the New Testament, so how do they know they are not deceived? And in the last two years it has been acknowledged that the United States, which was founded on the Bible and Judeo-Christian ethics, is no longer a Christian nation!

The world has been deceived! Satan has done this. He is the author of confusion. But God has His wonderful Master Plan that is succinctly brought to us in this month's article; "Why Satan Rules This Earth", by Mr. John Durrad.

Please realize that within the past quarter century, Satan has also deceived the true Church of God, composed of people begotten by the Spirit of God. Satan has caused the true Church to divide, split and splinter into over 300 competing and disagreeing churches and groups. I Corinthians 1:10 warns: "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the

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Synagogue of Satan

By Robert Ardis

Revelation 3:9 records a great promise by Jesus Christ concerning a group of people that He labels as the “synagogue of Satan”! He says He will “give” these people to His Faithful Church. Who are these people—and why would Christ “give” a people with such a title to His Faithful Philadelphians?

In the history of the world’s “Christian churches” there exists the old mother church, the Roman Catholic Church, and her Protestant daughter churches. Today history has repeated itself in a modern version of this. We can see this in the Worldwide Church of God (WCG) as the “old mother church” and her 300+ split and splintered “protesting daughter churches” which have come about since the death of Herbert W. Armstrong. The major difference in this comparison though, is that most of those making up the splits and splinters from the WCG are begotten brethren who have God’s Spirit, but are snared in these churches.

Some of these contentious divisions of the WCG collectively call

themselves “the Churches of God”. However, Christ said He would build His Church—His One True Church (Matt. 16:18)!

Thus, shouldn’t this question be asked: “If Christ has only one true Church, who would these hundreds of split and splintered churches belong to?” If they are not Christ’s churches, wouldn’t they belong

[T]here exists the old mother church, the Roman Catholic Church, and her Protestant daughter churches. Today history has repeated itself in a modern version of this.

to Satan— even though the people in those churches have God’s Spirit? Wouldn’t this awful title, synagogue of Satan, given by Jesus Christ, apply to them? The split and splintered churches erroneously state, “We are the Churches of God!” They should know that Christ has only One True Church, thus wouldn’t it be more accurate for them to state we are “the churches of god”, using little “c” and little “g”—meaning synagogue of Satan!

But they do not want to admit that!

“Behold, I will make (#1325, give) them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee (Rev. 3:9).

Can it be the Churches of the World?

Most of the splits from the WCG are offended by us as we state Christ’s words and label them as the synagogue of Satan. They claim the synagogue of Satan are those “Christian” churches of the world, now including the WCG that has become just another Protestant denomination.

Most commentaries view the synagogue of Satan of Rev. 2:9 and 3:9 as the Jewish religion contemporary with the apostles’ writings in the epistles of the New Testament. Other commentaries in referring to the synagogue of Satan infer it is the Papacy, or their version of the “man of sin”, or the “anti-Christ”, etc.—but these learned writers do not know God’s plan—the true Gospel.

Ask yourself; Why would Christ give the unconverted churches of the world to His Faithful Philadelphians—the CGF? This is a little ridiculous when it is thought out!

There exists today over one billion Roman Catholics and there are approximately 500 million Protestants. Thus if the synagogue of Satan is the “Christian” churches of the world—How many of this 1-½ billion would Christ give to His True Church?

The Bible is very plain that there shall be only 144,000 Firstfruits at the First Resurrection (Rev.14:3).

144,000 Firstfruits

The Bible is very plain that there shall be only 144,000 Firstfruits at the First Resurrection (Rev.14:3). The 144,000 Firstfruits include all of those God has called in Old Testament times all the way back to righteous Abel, plus those of the New Testament from Pentecost of 31 AD to the modern times in which we live. Why would God give His Faithful Church a part of this massive number of people [1-½ billion] who know nothing of the Plan of God and then offer them safety in the “place He has prepared (see v 10) and an opportunity to qualify for only 144,000 positions?

The churches of the world are not being called at this time—they are not the synagogue of Satan! Rev. 3:9 states that the synagogue of Satan will come and worship (God) at our feet! Those who know the New Truth revealed in our free booklet, The Deep Things of God, can understand from scripture that the Work of the 144,000 Firstfruits under Christ is to rule as Kings and Priests over Planet Earth during the millennium. The Firstfruits will rule in righteousness replacing Satan and his evil demons and their influence over mankind. Our rule under the King of Kings and Lord

of Lords will be just the opposite of Satan’s wicked rule! We will teach God’s Law of love and influence the world to live according to the Ways of God.

A Brief View of the Millennium

Israelites during the millennial reign will have access to God’s Spirit and the Gentiles will be taught the knowledge of God’s ways. This also is revealed in scripture as shown in our booklet, The Deep Things of God!

Isaiah 61:6 tells us:

“But ye [Israel] shall be named the Priests of the LORD: men shall call you the Ministers of our God: ye shall eat the riches of the Gentiles, and in their glory shall ye boast yourselves.

Israel will be God’s nation and an example to teach all other nations. Read chapters 60 and 61 of Isaiah to get this picture of the World Tomorrow.

One of the main assignments of the Firstfruits in the World Tomorrow is to be the spiritual guides to the Israelites who alone receive the Spirit of God during the Millennium. We, as Firstfruit Spirit-Beings of the Family of God, will guide, teach, and influence them! And in a step-by-step method the Israelites who will be taught by us shall become the

teachers of the multiple billions to be raised to physical life in the Second Resurrection.

The leaders of the churches of the world of today and their members will also be resurrected at the Last Great Day and have their first opportunity to really know the ways of God. At the Second Resurrection they will be taught God’s Ways and “worship at the feet” of the millions of Israelite God-Beings [not at our feet at this time before the great tribulation] whom the Firstfruits will have taught during the Millennium. That is an example of God’s step-by-step Plan.

Revelation 3:9 has nothing to do with the world’s churches! God is not calling the world at this time—He is concerned with the thousands of His begotten children trapped in the synagogue of Satan, the “churches of god”, unfaithful Philadelphians!

However, if these unfaithful Philadelphians are begotten children of God aren’t they Christians? Romans 8:14-17 tells us this:

“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the

The churches of the world are not being called at this time—they are not the synagogue of Satan!

Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may

be also glorified together.

The Bible never contradicts itself! And certainly there can be no contradiction within a single verse like Rev. 3:9, so who makes up the synagogue of Satan?

Ridiculous Speculation

Before answering the question we should also address another point of speculation brought out by the counterfeit church that has recently split off from the CGF. In their "Statement of Belief" they claim that: "Baptized members who have returned to the Babylonish system and doctrines of the world form part of the Mother Church and Protestant Daughters which are biblically referred to as synagogue of Satan."

Is that statement true? Again ask the logical question: Why would God give to His Faithful Church a group that has 'returned to the Babylonish system' thereby rejecting the Truth of God! They have specifically denied the True Gospel, the Sabbath and Holy Days and have accepted the Trinity doctrine, the pagan holidays, and follow the world's teachings! Why would God have those rebels come and "worship at our feet"? That is nonsense!

Heb. 10: 25-27 states the following fearful warning:

“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall

devour the adversaries.

"There remains no more sacrifice for sins" that are willfully committed. Those who have willfully returned to the Babylonish system are in an extremely dangerous situation. God would not have these people to come and worship [God] at the feet of His faithful Church (See also Luke 14: 16-24). To state that those people are the synagogue of Satan is foolishness from deceived, unlearned and unstable men seeking to amass a following.

The Plain Truth of the Identity of the synagogue of Satan

Consider the following:

- Christ said He would build His Church—not churches (Matt. 16:17). Thus if Christ has a Church—it is one Church—one true Church! Therefore, when we observe the 300+ splits and splinters of the former WCG, who are divided and in disagreement on many issues, the question must be asked; "Who do they belong to?" And the logical answer is; if they are not Christ's churches—they must be Satan's churches—the synagogue of Satan!
- Yet these churches of god are made up of those who are begotten of God, those who are "children of God" (Rom. 8:14-17). Comparing the churches of god today with the Churches mentioned in the New Testament, it is seen in early Church history that in each geographical area most were in agreement, in one accord, under the original apostles and Paul. This was true also

of the WCG under Mr. Armstrong until the 70's when the Mystery of Iniquity began to creep in. In the latter epistles of Paul, Peter, and John it is evident that discord and factions were becoming commonplace among the Churches of God.

- Observe the following scriptures:

“Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables” (II Tim. 4:2-4).

“But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of (II Peter 2:1-2).

“I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not. Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth them out of the church” (III John 1:9-10).

- See also II Timothy chapter 3, especially verse 1 and 13-14. Study also the Seven Churches of Revelation 2 and 3 and notice the different factions existing within the individual churches.

- Notice also that the begotten brethren of the synagogue of Satan are not the main problem! Jeremiah 50:6 is only one of many scriptures that identify the ministers of these churches as the trouble:

“My people hath

been lost sheep: their shepherds have caused them to go astray, [Satan deceived them] they have turned them away on the mountains: they have gone from mountain [the larger splits] to hill [smaller splits], they have forgotten their restingplace [as of now they do not know where Christ’s One True Church is located. The split churches are lost in 1986 with no growth in the “knowledge of Christ”—no New Truth that I am aware of—since the death of Mr. Herbert Armstrong (II Peter 3:18).

- The split and splintered churches are pictured in Matt. 25 as the Ten Virgins—five wise and five foolish—all fast asleep! But God has not given up on them! They will all be awakened by the ANNOUNCEMENT of the midnight cry that the Bridegroom came as “a thief” in 1997 and it is time for the “sleeping virgins” to respond. They must quickly go forth to meet Him in the “place” where

the first festivities of the wedding are held.

- Understand this! The Bridegroom and the wedding festivities in the parable of Matt. 25 cannot be taking place in heaven. The unwise virgins will not be able to knock on the door in heaven (see Matt. 7:21)! They will be locked out of the Place of

Christ tells us through the apostle Paul that there should be no divisions among us (I Cor. 1:10)

Safety—they are proven “unworthy” to escape and must qualify during the Great Tribulation (See verses 21-23 and Matt. 7:10-12).

• The “foolish virgins”, whose “lamps are gone out”, also possess God’s Spirit although it is apparently at a very low ebb. And they have the increased problem of trying to “buy oil” to determine through God’s Spirit where Truth is and hurriedly get to the wedding to “meet the Bridegroom”. But they will take too long in their investigation of where the One True Church is located—although the midnight cry will be sounding forth as a signal to them.

- The Laodiceans AND the counterfeit breakaway church will have “oil to sell” thereby creating more confusion for the foolish virgins.

- The “foolish virgins”, who have God’s Spirit, are not allowed into the wedding

festivities—but God still does not give up on them—they must qualify during the most difficult of times, the Great Tribulation, as stated above (see Rev. 15:2 and 20:4). Those who overcome (Rev. 12:11) will be part of the Bride and the 144,000 Firstfruits.

- Ask yourself; “What is a Christian?” Simply stated, a Christian is one who follows Christ (I Jn. 2:6)! Nevertheless, the begotten brethren of the synagogue of Satan are sound asleep (or blind as the Laodiceans are described), and have been led astray by their ministers instead of following Christ. But again, God has not given up on them. He will GIVE to us a number of them. They will not have a choice—Christ says He will GIVE them to us and in the last phrase of Rev. 3:9, He says He will MAKE them come and “worship at our feet”. They are part of the “lively stones” that must be added to the Spiritual Temple when we, the Pillars, have been set and qualified.

“Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie...”

[T]here will be those among us that cause “heresies” for the express purpose of proving those who are faithful (I Cor. 11:19)

- They say they are “spiritual Jews” (Rom.2:28-29) or Christians, but they are not following Christ. They are asleep in a 1986 time warp. Therefore, their statement is untrue—it is a lie (so says Christ)! They have been led

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Why Satan Rules This Earth

By John Durrad

The number 7 in God's Word is used symbolically to represent the whole of a thing. It indicates perfection or completion. 7 Church eras represent the total history of God's Church from Ephesus to Laodicea. 7 holy days represent the completion of God's plan for mankind. There are 7 Sabbaths from the Days of Unleavened Bread to Pentecost, and of course we have the 7-day week retained throughout man's history, to keep us in mind of the creation.

During the 7 days of creation week, God made a statement that was to change the course of history, dramatically—forever! This statement was so profound, so awesome, that we mere mortals should be dumbfounded every time we read it. God made this statement on the 6th day of the week just before he created the Sabbath day. It can be classified into 7 VITAL WORDS.

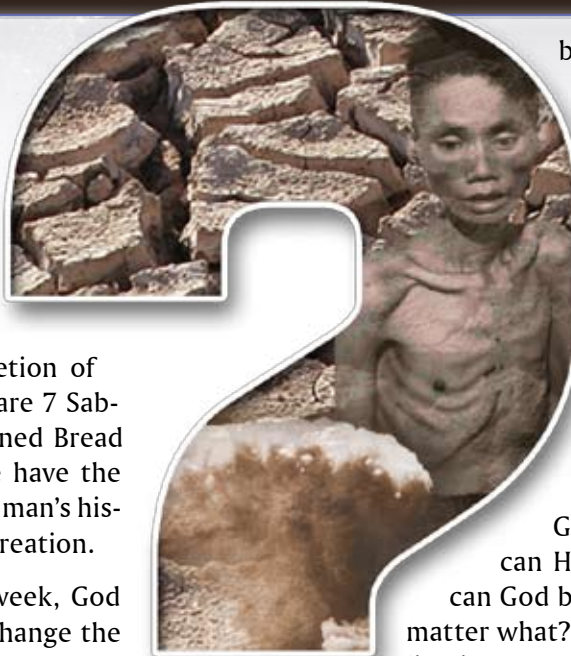
“LET US MAKE MAN IN OUR IMAGE” (Gen. 1:26).

These 7 words represent God's perfect and complete plan. This is what the Bible is all about. Around these 7 words the whole Bible is fashioned. It can be so easy to miss the real meaning behind these words.

Man was made in the image of God, certainly. But man was made physical, God is composed of spirit. Man is only an image of his Maker. But this is the least important meaning of these 7 words. Though God created us to resemble Him materially, His ultimate intention is that we become like Him spiritually.

God wants us to think as He does; but how is He going to accomplish that? God cannot, will not, force holy righteous character on us. It has to be developed – but how?

What is character? Character is the ability of an individual and separate mind to understand the difference



between right and wrong, and then to choose the right way. So what is the right way?

“As for God, his way is perfect...” (Ps. 18:30).

“But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed (James 1:25).

God's way is the right way, but how can He persuade us of this? Also, how can God be sure we will always obey Him no matter what? Let's go back to the dawn of civilization.

“And Cush begat Nimrod: he began to be a mighty one in the earth. He was a mighty hunter before the LORD: wherefore it is said, Even as Nimrod the mighty hunter before the LORD. And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel... (Gen. 10:8-10).

Nimrod formed a new, different way of life from that which God revealed at creation. That Babylonish way of life has spread through the nations, and now engulfs this entire world, its societies, its economics, its politics, its religions. It is the way of greed, of taking, of reliance on self, rather than reliance on God.

However, Nimrod and his wife, Semiramis, the self-styled “Queen of heaven”, were only human tools in the hands of a supreme ruler! This ruler rules over the Babylonish system called Babylon the Great, the mother of harlots and abominations of the earth. (Rev 17:5). This, of course, is no other than the arch-deceiver himself, Satan the devil.

“And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world... (Rev. 12:9).

Babylon means confusion, and God is not the author of confusion, but Satan is! Understanding that Satan is

behind the confusion that engulfs this world, the question arises, why does God, the Supreme Ruler over all, allow Satan's rule to continue? Satan now rules the earth – but why? Why does God allow such a state of confusion to exist on the earth, when He clearly is in control? Let us be sure that God is in control.

“Hast thou not known? Hast thou not heard that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? There is no searching of his understanding. He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength (Is. 40:28-29).”

God is the creator. He created Lucifer who became Satan. The creator is superior to the created. All things were created by God the Word (John 1:1-3). God is in control, but it is evidently not God's society in which we live.

Lucifer was an angel of high rank – an archangel. He had been given rule of this earth, a rule given to him by God. But Lucifer was not content with rule over the earth; he wanted the ultimate rule, to be in God's place. He and one third of the angels attempted to overthrow God, but were cast back to earth for their rebellion. Lucifer, a created being having free choice, willed to go against his Creator. For that rebellion, Lucifer became known as Satan, the adversary, the one who would dare to go against God.

Lucifer had a weakness. In his vanity he would not learn to hold his own will in check and submit it to the will of God. Despite all of his perfection and knowledge, he would not submit to the gov-

ernment of God. Notice that God did not create Lucifer with perfect character that was incapable of sinning. No! Lucifer was only perfect in his ways until he exercised his will against God. God created angels as His servants. They were meant to have temporal authority over God's begotten sons. One third of the angels rebelled. They refused to administer God's government faithfully.

Now, when the angels proved whether or not they would remain faithful servants, God then began the next step in His great plan. Before the creation of the world, God purposed to bring forth sons whom He could trust to carry out

“LET US MAKE MAN IN OUR IMAGE” (Gen. 1:26). These 7 words represent God's perfect and complete plan.

the responsibility of rulership. So what did God do? We come back to those 7 vital words. “LET US MAKE MAN IN OUR IMAGE.” So God is now in the process of creating from mankind many members in the family of God, over whom He will rule. It will be the Kingdom of God. This is the objective to which all other steps in God's great plan lead.

As members of the God family, we will exercise great power. But we must first be hardened and tempered, here – in this life – for that responsibility.

“Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some

strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy (1 Pet 4:12-13).

To harden and strengthen steel you must place it in a red-hot furnace. Being a member of the Kingdom of God would be too important a position for us unless we had many tough experiences in this life to strengthen and prepare us for it. We need to be tested before we are allowed eternal life in the Kingdom of God.

The experience with Lucifer has shown that not all created beings with free choice would obey God. Satan is spirit and his mind has been set. He cannot now repent. But he can and will be destroyed in due time. Human beings can repent during their short lifetime, and then receive eternal life as spirit beings. So this physical human, temporal existence is our testing ground, to prove whether we will obey God or not.

This is where Satan comes in. This is why Satan rules the earth! God has allowed Satan to rule this earth to test us. There are three basic things in this life to lead us away from God:

1. our own human nature,
2. this society,
3. Satan himself.

Look how Satan is involved. He has this world tied up and deceived. He deceives us through our own human nature and his society.

There has been a great falling away from the truth of God. Many of God's own people are now deceived or are being deceived as they languish in the outer court or

the Laodicean Church. You need to ponder on that vital and wonderful statement from the Eternal God, "LET US MAKE MAN IN OUR IMAGE." Realize your potential, get with the work of Jesus Christ and be very sure you understand why Satan, at the moment, rules this earth.

Don't be fooled, Satan is not a comical figure in a red suit with tail and pitchfork; no, he is a real and powerful being who is after your life – eternally! To be elevated to the Kingdom of God we must first shun the wiles of Satan and learn the ways of God.

We now come to a very exciting truth and a greater appreciation of the tremendous wisdom of our Creator in allowing Satan such a free licence to deceive in this world. God gives us His truth, His Word and His Holy Spirit to enable us to know right from wrong, truth from error, and discernment to do what is right. Then Satan is free to deceive us if he can. Here is the exciting bit. If we use God's Holy Spirit as God wants us to, then the trials from Satan can actually help us gain the Kingdom!

“**And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many (Matt. 24:4-5).**

We must be very aware that Satan works through men and will deceive many. But after we once learn the truth, he can't deceive us unless we deliberately yield to believe error. That doesn't mean

God doesn't sometimes allow us to be in error about something for a time. God reveals things here a little, there a little. God allowed Mr. Armstrong and the Church to be in error about Pentecost for quite

some time. We will, however, continue on the right track if we continue to learn and practice what is right.

God has allowed Satan to rule this earth to try

to deceive, if it were possible, the very elect. God needs to know if we will still obey Him, even under the extreme pressure Satan can apply. And Satan will gladly apply the pressure. This is actually what we need. God did not create us as a perfect finished product. We have to strive to become perfect. Romans 8:20 tells us we were created subject to vanity. That is true; we were created to desire vain things, things of no spiritual value, and we were made to desire the wrongs things.

Unfortunately some of God's people have failed, and some are failing now. You need to be sure you have the truth. God's people must be set apart by truth (John17:17). It will not be the easy road that leads to God's Kingdom!

Put aside vanity and perverse thoughts, and seek first the Kingdom of God. There is a good reason for God giving us such perverse minds.

“**Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man**

with his deeds; And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of Him that created him (Col 3:9-10).

We are told to "put off the old man," our human nature, and "put on the new man," Godly nature, which is possible with God's Holy Spirit. We are, therefore, to overcome the nature with which we are born. We learn to submit our will to that of God's in following His commands, although we may be tempted to do otherwise. Our trials and temptations are for our ultimate good. This is where Satan fits into God's plan. God calls Satan the tempter (Matt 4:1,3). Satan is very powerful. He has a very brilliant and active, though perverted, mind. He has great powers of suggestion and persuasion. He can suggest to us, by supernatural means, many improper actions which we would not necessarily think of.

We learn the lessons of life more deeply than if Satan were not here, for we are penalized more often when we heed his suggestions, hopefully with repentance afterwards. If we learn to fight

against and resist our nature now, while Satan is around, then we will not go astray when we are later put into places of great authority, both here and in the future Kingdom. Ironically, Satan is actually aiding God in His great plan for mankind!

We must give evidence in our lives that we are not falling for the devil's temptations. Our life before God is the evidence that God seeks. It is not easy, but Christ understands.

God is now in the process of creating from mankind many members in the family of God, over whom He will rule.

God needs to know if we will still obey Him, even under the extreme pressure Satan can apply.

He was tempted mightily by Satan (Matt 4) but did not submit. Our Great High Priest was tempted like as we are, yet without sin (Heb. 4:14-16).

If we continue to overcome Satan's temptations, God has promised to make us immortal. He has promised to give us rulership, and He has promised to give us something else, something very important.

“ Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God (1 John 3:9).

God promises that for all our efforts in overcoming temptation,

Unfortunately some of God's people have failed, and some are failing now. You need to be sure you have the truth.

mainly from Satan, He will see to it that, when we are finally “born of God” in the Kingdom and have a spirit body instead of this fleshy one we now have, we will then be unable to sin! Just like God and Jesus Christ. Our training in exercising our will against Satan will have aided us in bringing this condition about. For all our efforts in obeying God now, He will see that His Spirit remains in us forever. We will then be in a state of never again committing sin.

Now we can see how Satan has fit into God's purpose in spite of himself. He is unwittingly playing a part in our spiritual creation. How angry he must be when he sees us obeying God.

There is coming a time when Satan will not be around. Those who have overcome him during this life will reap the benefits of obedience to God. We will then be able to compare this age of Satan's rule with a government that is not under the sway of Satan. We have never experienced that – a government that is totally run by a benevolent being – as opposed to the current one of total and utter confusion. That is all we have ever known, except for the government of God in His Church.

Is it worth resisting the devil now? Even our rulership and position during the millennium is only a stepping stone to even higher rulership. Resist Satan now, and you won't have to resist him again FOREVER! The overcomers are going to rule under God and Jesus Christ forever and ever. This glorious future is worth all the trials and tribulations which are placed on us today to test and strengthen us.

Satan has his part to play, but not for much longer. Yes, we have to recognise that Satan rules this world today. We should not underestimate his powers of deception, but neither should we come under his rule. We are ruled by God, and we must put Him first. However, be very aware that while we are flesh, and live in this world, we can easily come under the sway of Satan.

We have to oppose him! We can then turn his temptations, his tests, and the trials he puts onto us, into assets of character. That is why Satan rules this earth; it is for us to develop the character that will enable us to live with the Father and Jesus Christ forever in the Kingdom of God. ❖

same mind and in the same judgment.” Gal. 5:15 cautions: **“But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.”**

Nevertheless, what we see today is a divided church in direct disobedience to these scriptures. This is also Satan's doing—a master stroke in causing confusion even among the people of God. Another article dealing with deception in this issue is titled, “The Synagogue of Satan”. That article reveals and identifies a mystery that has long been wondered about. Who are the people that compose the “synagogue of Satan”? Read the article and be prepared to be shocked at their identity.

Mr. Andres Yparraquirre's article about the “night time” portion of the Day of the Lord and “The Faithful Watchman” segment in this issue addresses the subject of DECEPTION from Bible prophecy and current events here in Satan's world! These messages are warnings to each of us to take heed lest we succumb to the wiles of the devil (see I Cor. 10:12; Eph. 6:11-13).

II Tim. 2:15 tells true Christians to **“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”**

As you read and study this issue of The Midnight Cry, along with your Bible, remember that God's Word is Truth and Satan the deceiver continually tries to pervert and corrupt the Truth, thus, we must diligently **“study to show ourselves approved unto God!”** And let's always remember I Thess. 5:21: **“Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.”**

Your brother in Christ,



THE MIDNIGHT CRY IS SOUNDING:

BE YE READY FOR THE MARRIAGE OF THE LAMB

By Andres Yparraguirre

“The Bridegroom has come! The Bridegroom has come ... Go ye out to meet him!”

This amazing message is the cry that jolts the ten virgins to alert wakefulness in the darkness of the midnight hour (Matt. 25:6). Jesus Christ has already come as a “thief” (Matt. 24:42-51) to make up His special treasure, His “jewels” (Mal. 3:17). He is making these jewels and those who have already qualified and are asleep in their graves ready to be the Bride for the marriage of the Lamb. He came to His Temple, the Church, secretly and suddenly (Mal. 3:1) at the beginning of the Day of the Lord that came as a “thief in the night” on October 1, 1997 (please request *The Day of the Lord* booklet for more understanding about this subject).

Christ always taught in parables (Matt. 13:34)! He hid the mystery of the Kingdom of God from the unbelievers, but made it plain to his disciples (Mark 4:10-13). This is still the same today. The true meaning of the parable of the



ten virgins has been hidden from those who do not believe that the Day of the Lord has already come. Events that are happening in the Church of God and in the world have shown us that the Kingdom of God is not merely coming (as the former WCG and the split and splintered churches preach), but is now at hand!

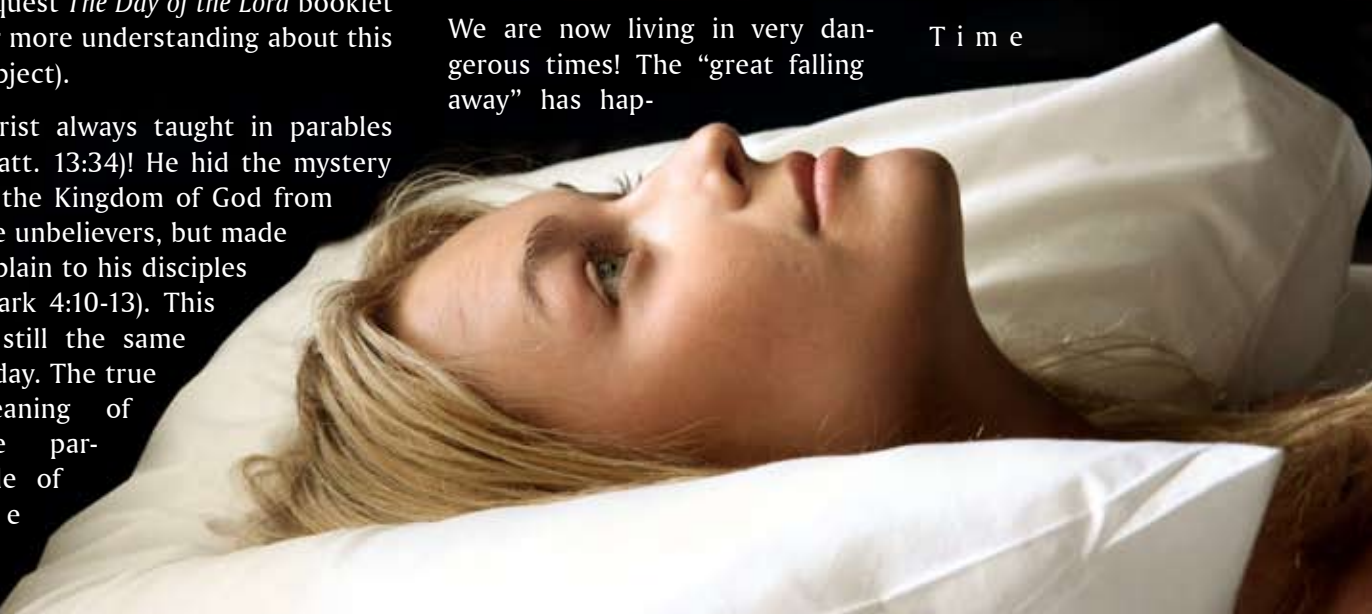
We are now living in very dangerous times! The “great falling away” has hap-

pened! The “man of sin” has been revealed, the Day of the Lord has come as “a thief in the night”, and the Living Christ returned as “a thief”, secretly and suddenly to His nearly destroyed Temple. Now we are awaiting the fulfillment of the earthshaking events of the seven seals and the visible coming of the Son of man in the clouds of Heaven for His Elect—His Firstfruits—His Bride (Matt. 24:29-31, 22).

Brethren of the people of God, now is the time to wake up from deep slumber and understand. Apathetic delay could be very costly. It can cost not only one’s present physical life, but eternal life as well.

“When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)” (Matt. 24:15).

T i m e



is short! The great tribulation is imminent and those who refuse to hear the voice of the midnight cry and seek understanding run the risk of being subjected to the fiery trial of the great tribulation, the like of which has not happened since the beginning of the world to this day nor will there be like it afterwards (Matt. 24:21). Indifference to the “Midnight Cry” and waiting too long, as the “unwise virgins” do, means that only the intense trial and terrible suffering of the great tribulation will make it possible to enter the kingdom of God (Rev. 12:17; 20:4). But many won’t make it into God’s kingdom despite this fiery trial (Matt. 25:10-12; Luke 14:22-24). It is therefore very important and urgent that we understand now—and believe.

Let me help you understand.

The Day of the Lord is not an ordinary day! It is not a 24-hour period of day and night. The Day of the Lord is God’s time resuming after 6000 years of time allotted to rebellious mankind. As the 6000 years was coming to a close, Satan caused deep darkness to ascend upon the true Church, the WCG. The apostasy occurred, a time of deep nighttime spiritual darkness which many of the called-out-ones of the “churches of God” still do not recognize as having come. But to those who understand that this has already happened, it is day and not night because they are spiritually awake (1Thes. 5:4-5).

“Woe unto you that desire the day of the Lord [the Day of the Lord’s wrath]! To what end is it for you? The day of the Lord is darkness, and not light. As if a man did flee from a lion, and a bear met him; or went into a house, and leaned his hand on

the wall, and a serpent bit him. Shall not the day of the Lord be darkness, and not light? even very dark and no brightness in it? (Amos 5:18-20).

“But of the times and seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night (1Thes. 5:1-2).

Applying these scriptures spiritually, we understand that the Day of the Lord would not come as a “thief in the night” unless the “night” came first. This is not about a night of physical darkness but a night of spiritual darkness that must first descend into the church of God as the Day of the Lord comes after man’s 6000 years ends.

Darkness indeed came 19 years ago in 1990, or four years after the death of God’s end-time apostle, Herbert W. Armstrong! Joseph W. Tkach, Sr., to whom Mr. Armstrong entrusted the leadership of the WCG, became the “man of sin” (2Thes. 2:3). He then led God’s people to fall away from the truth and the light of truth that is in Christ. That is recent history in God’s Church.

Now the Church must be proven worthy to escape not only the great tribulation (Matt. 24:21-22) but also the supernatural night of physical darkness (Joel 2:2; Matt. 24:29) during the wrath of the Lamb (Rev. 6:12-17). The Day of the Lord’s Wrath is a one year period of supernatural “darkness and not light” that is soon to come upon this evil world and the remnant of the Church (Rev. 12:17).

“The great day of the Lord is near, it is near, and hasteth away, even the voice of the day of the Lord: the mighty man shall cry there bitterly. That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness (Zeph. 1:14-15).

When spiritual darkness descended into the Church of God, nighttime came and it was time for the Day of the Lord to come as “a thief in the night”. It was time to proclaim, “The Kingdom of God is at hand”—the King has come to His Temple! That message was first sounded on the day of the Feast of Trumpets, October 2, 1997, exactly 12 years after the final sermon by God’s end-time apostle, HWA, on the Feast of Trumpets 1985.

We are now in the Day of the Lord, a day “in the which” shall come such awesome events as the great tribulation and the Day of the Lord’s Wrath (2Pet. 3:10; 1Thes. 5:2-3), one after another. Some just do not understand as yet. Christ will work with them when the message of the “Midnight Cry” is sent out in increased power and the time for Rev. 3:9 is ready to be fulfilled. Those who have rejected the plain truth of the Day of the Lord coming as “a thief in the night” in 1997 are going to wait until the great tribulation to proclaim His coming as “a thief”—they *wait too long*. Their false message will cause three situations:

1. Their counterfeit message will confuse and cause delay to the “unwise virgins”.
2. Proclaiming that Christ is coming as “a thief” is a contradiction! Making such an

announcement would not allow Him to come secretly as a thief!

3. Waiting until the great tribulation comes to proclaim Christ's coming as "a thief" eliminates the time needed for those who would respond and be "accounted worthy to escape all these things and to stand before the Son of man."

“For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But you brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief (1Thes. 5:2-4).

The timing of the Day of the Lord was an old controversy among the disciples that was long ago settled by the apostle Paul. Yet it has remained an issue to this day because some brethren failed to watch (Matt. 24:42, 36). I repeat: what were the things to watch? The apostle Paul gave us two things (signs) to watch for in chapter 2 of 2Thessalonians.

“Now I beseech you brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, That ye be not shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that day of Christ is at hand. Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and

that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God (2Thes. 2:1-4).

The Day of the Lord is an appointed time (1Thes. 5:1) unto God that should be fulfilled after the *falling away* occurs in the Church and the *man of sin* is revealed. It is an appointed time that could happen only when the majority of God's people are in spiritual darkness—when it is night (verse 2) in the Church and the majority have fallen asleep. **Now is that night, in fact it is now midnight**, and this cry is sounding as you read. **WAKE UP BRETHREN! GO FORTH TO MEET THE BRIDEGROOM, THE LORD JESUS CHRIST and BE YE READY FOR THE MARRIAGE OF THE LAMB! ❖**

Continued from page 6

Synagogue of Satan

- astray by the false ministers. They are not of the one true Church of Christ—they are of the synagogue of Satan! And if Christ's words are offensive to you, be careful!
- I repeat, God has not given up on any of these—He will never leave us nor forsake us. But if we are not diligent we can lose our crowns by the deception of deceived men (Rev. 3:11 and Eph. 4:14).
- Christ tells us through the apostle Paul that there should be no divisions among us (1 Cor. 1:10), but there will be those among us that cause "heresies" for the express purpose of proving those who are

faithful (1 Cor. 11:19). This is plainly seen in the Church today!

One other point that Christ gave us as an important point of truth is Rev. 12:16-17:

One True Church

“And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth. [The Woman—the one true Church will be protected in the Place prepared!] **And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, [The remnant of her seed are not in the Place of Safety—Why?] which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.**

The "remnant" are the "seed of the woman", begotten brethren

of God who keep the commandments and have the testimony of Christ. Yet they are not protected from Satan as the woman [the true Church] receives protection. Why is this? Very simple! They are Laodicea—and the counterfeit split and splintered churches not "given" to the faithful Church! They are the "remnant" of the synagogue of Satan, the unwise virgins, not a part of the one true Church! They end up in the Great Tribulation because Christ has only one true Church!

The Bible never contradicts itself. This is very evident when all the scriptures and common-sense facts are put together. Christ has one true Church—all of the others are the churches of god—the synagogue of Satan—not a pretty name, but it comes from the mouth of the "Living Word of God"—Jesus Christ Himself!

Whoso reads, let him understand!
❖

This Month's Top Articles from

The Faithful Watchman

Newsletter of the Church of God's Faithful



Through *The Faithful Watchman*, we endeavor to keep ourselves abreast of how our Lord Jesus Christ is orchestrating the ride of the 4 Horsemen as He sets the scene for the Two Witnesses to begin their 1260 days of prophesying and for the Great Tribulation to begin. Read daily updates to *The Faithful Watchman* online at setapartbytruth.org.

Scientists want debate on animals with human genes

LONDON (Reuters) - A mouse that can speak? A monkey with Down's Syndrome? Dogs with human hands or feet? British scientists want to know if such experiments are acceptable, or if they go too far in the name of medical research.

To find out, Britain's Academy of Medical Sciences launched a study Tuesday to look at the use of animals containing human material in scientific research.

The work is expected to take at least a year, but its leaders hope it will help establish guidelines for scientists in Britain and around the world on how far the public is prepared to see them go in mixing human genes into animals to discover ways to fight human diseases.

<http://www.reuters.com/...>

Comment: I have not heard of a speaking mouse, but I do know of a talking ass!

"And the LORD opened the mouth of the ass, and she said unto Balaam, what have I done unto thee, that thou hast smitten me these three times?" Num. 22:28

It is recorded that Balaam actually had a conversation with the ass until he realized it was an angel that was actually speaking. Animals don't talk, at least the way we understand speech, so these scientist are dealing with something that they need to take great care about.

God has given mankind licence to do as it wills up

to a point; however some things are just not acceptable, and giving animals human genes must be one of these things. Very early on in human history God had to step in and slow man's progress down because it was going the wrong way.

"And the LORD said, Behold the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do." Gen. 11:6

God is going to allow mankind to go so far down the wrong paths and then He will once again step in to save mankind from itself, this time for good!

UN targets undernourishment as infant killer

About 200 million children suffer from stunted growth in developing countries due to chronic undernourishment, which also contributes to one-third of child deaths worldwide, UNICEF said Wednesday.

The study found that undernourishment, meaning the consumption or absorption of too few essential nutrients, was a contributing factor in more than a third of deaths of children under the age of five around the world.

"More than one third of children who die from pneumonia, diarrhea and other illnesses could have survived had they not been undernourished."

Veneman noted that those who survive often suffer from poorer physical health throughout their lives and from a diminished capacity to learn and to earn

a decent income.

<http://www.breitbart.com/...>

Comment: Yet another report of the many problems we have, this time the shortage of food in the developing countries. It would be easy to say that if there wasn't any bad news there would be no news at all! Our minds become numb with the enormity of human suffering and problems, so much so that another bombing, another conflict, another disaster another starving nation, is just another day!

The reality is though that this need not be. If only mankind would only obey the voice of the God of the universe, the only God that matters.

“Hear ye the words of this covenant,...And say thou unto them, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel; Cursed be the man that obeyeth not the words of this covenant,

Which I commanded your fathers... Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts, Behold, I will punish them: the young men shall die by the sword; their sons and their daughters shall die by famine:” Jer. 11:2-4, 22

Mankind's heart is not any better today. In fact one would argue that it is far worse. All the efforts of mankind, striving for its own way is futile in solving any of the many problems, including malnutrition. In fact as the Bible points out, humans can only produce evil! Gen. 6:5

Flood waters force 500 from homes

More than 500 people across Cumbria are spending the night in emergency shelters or with relatives and friends after “unprecedented” floods.

Cockermouth and Keswick were worst affected, but communities across the county felt the impact of the deluge.

In Workington, Pc Bill Barker, 44, died when he was swept away as a bridge collapsed as he helped motorists.

The floodwaters have been receding, but 20-30mm of rain is expected to fall from lunchtime on Saturday.

The downpour over Cumbria was the highest level of rainfall measured in England since records began in 1727, according to forecasters MeteoGroup.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/...>

Comment: The dramatic headlines said, “A BIBLICAL FLOOD.” The floods engulfing Cumbria in the Lake District of England were caused by a level of rainfall that occurs only once every 1000 years, experts are saying. It was described as being of biblical proportions. Well, not quite true:

“And the waters prevailed exceedingly upon the earth; and all the high hills, that were under the whole heaven were covered. Fifteen cubits upward did the water prevail; and the mountains were covered.” Gen. 7:19-20

The Biblical flood of Noah's day covered the entire earth by many feet, enough to drown anyone not on the Ark. That is not to take away from the misery and devastation of the floods in Cumbria. Lives have been lost, homes and businesses destroyed as the severe weather continues to batter Britain with a tornado ripping through the Midlands destroying buildings, trees and cars. The UK looks set for more heavy rain with the Environment Agency issuing 20 severe flood warnings yet to come.

It would be timely to remember the Godly protection we all need as this world goes from bad to worse. Little does this world realize that the Day of the Lord's Wrath is yet to come as mankind endeavours to rectify 1000's of years of wrong living, the cause, really of all our problems!

Germany warns Iran of new sanctions over plans to build more nuclear facilities

Germany has threatened new sanctions against Iran if it goes ahead with its plan to build 10 new uranium enrichment plants. The Iranian move is another defiant response to censure by UN authorities.

German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle said on Monday that Iran could face further sanctions if it went ahead with its expansion plans. “What

is clear is that if Iran rejects the hand that has reached out, it must expect heavier sanctions," he said in a statement. He went on to say that the international community's patience was not unlimited and called on Iran to work together with the West to resolve the standoff.

<http://www.dw-world.de/...>

Comment: These "stark" warnings bounce off Iran like water of a duck's back. When will the nations realize that Iran will not give up its nuclear programme and will continue to develop a weapon that will give them the power to eventually accelerate the whirlwind of war against the Beast power or King of the North? (Dan 11:40) at the Beast power or King of the North? (Dan 11:40)

God's Church has been saying for some time that Iran and Islamic extremism is the most obvious candidate for the Biblical King of the South. As

time goes on this does seem to be more and more the case.

"Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets." Amos 3:7

If Iran, as the leading nation, does turn out to be the prophesied King of the South then all we are going to see are weak and ineffectual sanctions against them from Germany, UK, USA and Europe, which will allow Iran to continue to develop its nuclear weapons programme to the point of Daniel 11:40!

Time marches relentlessly on and this world will soon find itself in the grip of a horrendous power called, Mystery, Babylon the Great, The Mother of Harlots and Abominations of the Earth. This power will, for a short time control the earth, and it won't be with ineffective sanctions, it will be the power and might of a tremendous force.

The Midnight Cry Has Begun

If you recognise the signs of the times as prophesied by Herbert W. Armstrong and the World Wide Church of God, and if you are seeking God's True Church at this late hour, write or call to request our FREE Literature, or download our booklets at www.setapartbytruth.org.

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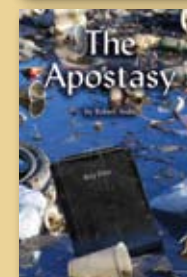
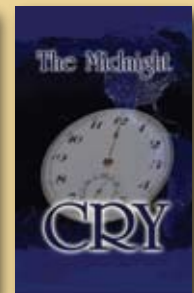
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