



The Midnight Cry

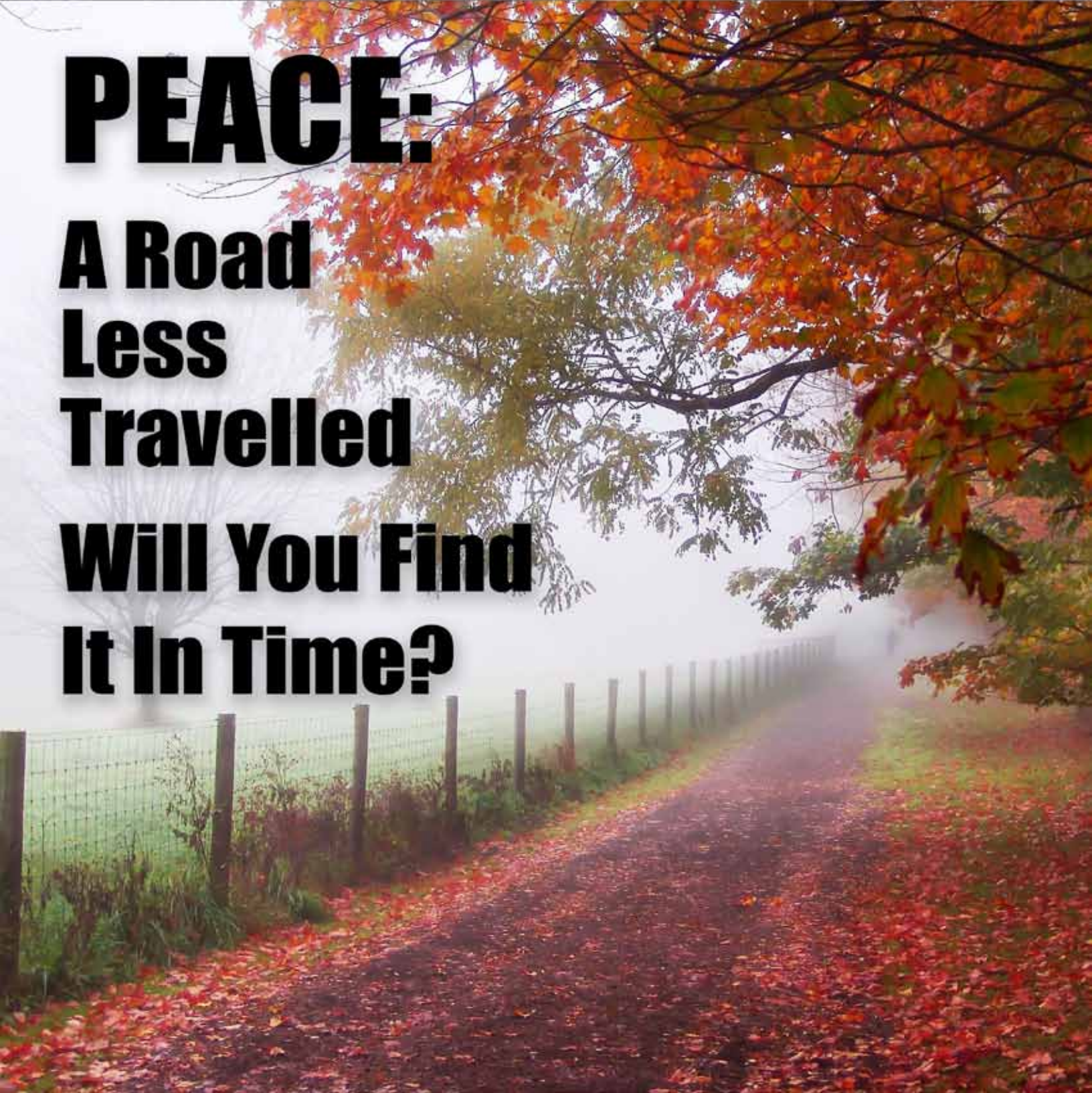
January 2011, Volume 3, Number 1

A Magazine of Urgent Understanding

PEACE:

A Road Less Travelled

Will You Find It In Time?





The Midnight Cry

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January 2011 • Volume 3, Number 1

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From the Editor ...



As the earth rapidly spins, and time continues to speed along, we have hurtled past the United States' Thanksgiving Day, the frenzied and burdensome Christmas season, and we have entered the New Year of 2011.

The promises made to the patriarch, Abraham, 4000 years ago have been fulfilled in the mighty blessings poured upon the United States of America and the British Commonwealth nations. These nations have been the recipients of most of this world's wealth. Yet few people recognize the fulfilled promises to Abraham as a fact of history or give thanks for these marvelous blessings at Thanksgiving time. And now it is apparent that these blessings are being stripped away, and these blessed nations are morally deficient, and are drowning in a sea of debt.

But drowning as they are, the Christmas buying frenzy intensifies the debt problem in a desperate attempt to find some nebulous hope for a brief moment of joy in getting things! "Santa Claus is coming to town"—as the song goes! Yes, Santa can come to town—but Christ is being kicked out of this supposedly Christian custom. What has happened to this nation that was founded on Judeo-Christian principles? Practically every evil that can be imagined is openly practiced and condoned by a God-rejecting, "enlightened society."

So, as we prepare for 2011, what can be expected for this world in which we live? What HOPE does this world have? The greatest time of trouble ever to come on this planet is predicted to happen at a soon expected future date. Could it begin in 2011? Matthew 24:21-22 is a serious warning:

For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

We absolutely live in Bible times, and mighty prophecies (history written in advance) is set to explode on the world scene. And if it were not for the mighty promises of scripture there would be no hope for 2011 or the years to follow!

A scripture that I refer to very often is Romans 15:4:

“For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.”

The Old Testament relates practically the same promise in Psalms 119:114 and 130:5: “Thou art my hiding place and my shield: I hope in thy word.” “I wait for the LORD, my soul doth wait, and in

Continued on page 12.



PEACE: A Road Less Travelled

by Gerry Neenan

A Tragic Vista

For nigh on 6,000 years, human hatred and its all-destructive progeny, war, have wreaked havoc and heartbreak on this earth. Adam and Eve's rejection of the tree of life resulted in the murder of their son, Abel, by his brother Cain. Man has learned little since then, and instead, has progressed to larger conflicts, including two world wars, and has never invented a weapon which he has failed to use.

In this highly technological era, even starving nations have access to advanced weaponry and in remote and far flung corners of the globe, death can fall swiftly, pitilessly and anonymously from the skies, and sometimes only God and the angels witness the gory aftermath. The modern day Israelite nations play no small part in the manufacture and sale of these weapons, and their rapidly deteriorating economies are heavily de-

pendant on its profits. Their youth act out every violent and murderous fantasy, courtesy of their Playstation, and when they find themselves with their "boots on the ground" in some modern war zone, they can prove themselves to be cruel and efficient killers.

Through the pages of the Bible, God has much to say about the hypocrisy of these nations, and the punishment He intends to mete out to them in the form of a resurgent Germany (ancient Assyria). Isa.10:5-6:

For nigh on 6,000 years, human hatred and its all-destructive progeny, war, have wreaked havoc and heartbreak on this earth.

“O Assyrian rod of mine anger, and the staff in their hand is mine indignation. I will send him against an hypocritical nation, and against the

people of my wrath will I give him a charge, to take the spoil, and to take the prey, and to tread them down like the mire of the streets.

How very different it will be in the World Tomorrow, when the Isra-

elites will have God's Holy Spirit, and will minister to the Gentiles, and lead them in His ways, as Isaiah 44:1-3 tells us:

“Yet now hear, O Jacob My servant; and Israel, whom I have chosen: Thus saith the Lord that made thee, and formed thee from the womb, which will help thee; Fear not, O Jacob, my servant; and thou, Jesurun, whom I have chosen. For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring.

It is not the Israelites alone who have a bitter lesson to learn about waging war, but *all* of the nations.

“Peace, Peace...”

The aftermath of WW1 saw the formation of the League of Nations, in the hope that it could prevent other conflagrations, and it has utterly failed to do so. The United Nations has fared no better, and though it claims to have brought some conflicts to an end, it has yet to prevent one starting in the first place. Many have earnestly struggled to bring lasting peace to human conflict, with the most noble of inten-

tions; yet the apostle Paul said, "For I know that in me dwells no good thing" (Rom 7:18).

With the many-fold increase in humanitarian crises, the UN struggles to do the minimum it is capable of, and it struggles with a large and wasteful bureaucracy. Our news media constantly bring reports of UN brokered ceasefires and treaties. As we learned during the Balkan crisis of the 1990s, cease-fires, more often than not, only provide an opportunity for the protagonists to rearm. While refugees may have an opportunity to flee, the fighting then recommences with renewed vigour. Peace treaties mean the opposite of peace; and even if an uneasy peace ensues, the ink is hardly dry when nations work feverishly to find loopholes in their provisions to seize control of what they yearn for. History has proven that man will always wage war when there is anything to be gained, and he will lie, steal and kill in order to do so.

International judicial systems like the Hague and International Criminal Court are controlled by nations with their own self-interest at heart, and are powerless to enforce their rulings. Some work toward the idea of a "One World Order," and neglect to understand that the aforementioned national carnality works against its succeeding in a way that would truly benefit all.

Carnal Human Nature

It has been clear for some time now that the solution to man's ignorance of the true ways of peace are completely outside of his own

human understanding and nature. Jeremiah 10:23 states,

“O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.”

The late General Douglas MacArthur said in this regard, "It must be of the spirit, if we are to save the flesh." The original delinquent parents, Adam and Eve, set in motion a type of child-rearing which fails to deal with human nature, and in the absence of at least the letter, much less the spirit, of the 10 Commandments, then we have seen humanity continue to fight and destroy to the point where it is nearing global suicide. All these inadequacies project themselves onto the world stage in the leaders who rise to the top, and in the narcissism and greed and hatred of those who follow them. When the first and second commandments are violated, man pushes God out of the picture and puts Satan in His place.

Those who take His name in vain invite a curse upon themselves, and do likewise by profaning the Sabbath. Disrespect for human parents is so hateful to God, and affects every relationship a child will develop in later life. When God's Kingdom is established here on earth, there will be no more murder, and the sixth Commandment

will not be broken. Likewise the peace and sanctity of the marital relationship will not be shattered by adultery (the seventh Commandment). Keys and locks will be a thing of the past, as none will steal (the eighth). A harmonious state of love and outgoing service will see minds and mouths full of truth, and the ninth Commandment will be kept. No longer will individuals or nations covet what belongs to another, but all will be willing to share and cooperate instead (the tenth Commandment).

In God's Kingdom, the Gentiles who will not receive the Holy Spirit will be ruled over by Jesus Christ and His resurrected 144,000 first-fruits (Rev.14:1), along with another 144,000 physical Israelites who will make up the human royalty of this Kingdom (Rev. 7:4). *Only* then will man truly know peace in his heart, and among the nations.

War in God's Church

Upon the death of God's apostle and end-time Elijah, Herbert W Armstrong, God's one true Church, the Worldwide Church of God, underwent a time of testing. Mr. Armstrong had succeeded in staving off a spiritual revolt (11 Thess. 2:7-8) until the time of his death, but now the ministry and membership were to have their spiritual metal put under the microscope -and who could have predicted the devastating result?

Despite having close to a 100,000 baptized members, shocking

How very different it will be in the World Tomorrow, when the Israelites will have God's Holy Spirit,

...the solution to man's ignorance of the true ways of peace are completely outside of his own human understanding...

events ensued. Some forsook their baptismal covenant with their Saviour, and have been replaced (Luke 14:21). Hiring ministers (John 10:12-13) who were fully aware of the apostasy taking place, timed their exit from the WCG to bring with them the optimum number of members to form spiritually dead churches, whose tithes would keep them in the manner to which they had become accustomed. A manner which our great, bounteous, magnanimous God had seen fit to reward them with, when they were doing His work in His Church. As of December 7, 1989, the WCG was no longer where Christ was working from. On that date, Jesus Christ ignited the Laodicean candlestick and handed it to Gerald Flurry, who proceeded to do a powerful and zealous work in warning God's increasingly scattered sheep of the apostasy taking place.

However, Mr. Flurry, on January 16th 1997, cast away that commission and began a vain work of trying to bring the Gospel to the world once more. In addition, he took a title not his to take, in claiming to be "that Prophet" of ACTS 3:22-23. He has imposed a dictatorial form of government in the PCG, and though he is a man who understood the family nature of God's government, he has proceeded to destroy families with his "no contact" ruling in regard to those who have left his group.

Few indeed have realised that Christ has preserved His faithful Philadelphian remnant, whom He will powerfully use to gather His

lost sheep from all this turmoil and confusion that exists among the brethren (Rev. 3:9), and that He will complete this task prior to bringing those whom He deems fit to a place of safety. In Gal. 5:20, "seditions" are listed as one of the fruits of the flesh, and simply means disunion.

If you have never heard of the CGF, then you have been blessed to have stumbled across us in this magazine. It is now up to you to prove our bold claim of being Christ's one true Church by diligently studying our publications and doctrines, for the apostle Paul said, "Prove all things" (1 Thess. 5:21).

Biblical prophecy tells us (Rev. 20:4) that there will be some who, in the fast approaching Great Tribulation, will have to give their physical lives in order to save their eternal lives. How very needless and pointless, as this outcome can

be avoided RIGHT NOW, by fleeing to the one place of spiritual safety that exists in the world right now—the CGF!

If you are one of those who chooses to prevaricate with Christ and not act with due haste, you may find yourself being led to a place of execution instead of a place of safety. How terrible that will be! You will then know that some whom you have known, in whatever splinter group you were in (or perhaps the Laodicean PCG), will have heeded the warning and will be readying themselves for the wedding of the

Lamb, in a place appointed by God. This could very well be the outcome of this warfare that goes on among the competing groups who constitute the Synagogue of Satan.

Christ, the "Prince of peace," is knocking on your door, and time is running out fast. Will you let Him in and take part in the greatest and most audacious

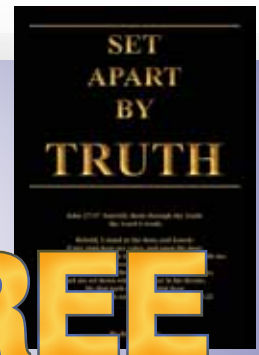
work in the history of the New Testament Church? The choice is yours. ❖

Mr. Armstrong had succeeded in staving off a spiritual revolt (11 Thess. 2:7-8) until the time of his death...

He [Christ] will powerfully use [His faithful Philadelphian remnant] to gather His lost sheep from all this turmoil and confusion that exists among the brethren (Rev. 3:9), and He will complete this task prior to bringing those whom He deems fit to a place of safety.

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God's Faithful

Contact information on pg. 16.



Personal Goals

by Jon Ardis

“...Even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased” (Dan. 12:4). What a life we live today! Never before in the history of the world has this prophecy been more alive. It seems we are forever on the go. Running to and fro, working longer and harder to play longer and harder. If there are children in the home, then there are never-ending school schedules, music lessons, baseball practices and games, softball games and tennis matches. Computers, laptops, I-pods, I-phones, Internet on every computer and cell phone--unlimited information and unlimited knowledge are a click away--and the hours, days, weeks, months and years are passing by at a mind-boggling pace.

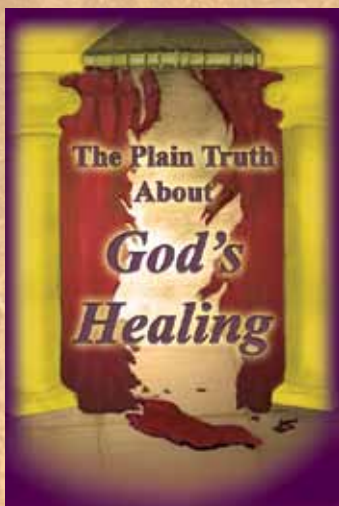
Also mind-boggling is to consider

that 2010 is now in the past and here we are in January of 2011. Time passes by so quickly. *James 4:14: “Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.”* Yes, time rushes by so quickly, and here we are at the beginning of a new year. And with the start of the new year, it’s guaranteed that most of us have at least thought about New Year resolutions. You know the ones: lose weight, get out of debt, find a better job, learn how to play the guitar, take up Spanish, the list is never-ending. And most of the resolutions or promises to ourselves will be broken or forgotten, and in most cases, our fast paced lives again will just get in the way.

It’s easier than ever before to get caught up in this crazy fast paced life. Here we are, just a short time

from the Passover season and an excellent time to step back and inventory our lives, inventory our routines and our goals for the future, both short-term and long-term. Physical resolutions come and go; some succeed, but most fail. However, we as PROFESSIONAL CHRISTIANS formulate spiritual and physical goals so we can overcome at a faster pace. The following twenty goals will help us become more successful in every aspect of our lives, and in the process, show God how much we love Him and the people around us.

Print out the 20 goals that are on the next page. Place them on your refrigerator door and on your bathroom mirror. Meditate on each one in the morning before or after prayer; then consider them at night and grade yourself. As we put these goals into practice, we will be ready for the Passover season and beyond. ❖



Fantastic, miraculous, spectacular healings occurred in the first century through the ministry of Jesus Christ—and by His apostles and disciples! Were those astonishing healings only for that time in history?

“And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover” (Mark 16:17-18).

Are we not believers today? Yet, so many are sick and need healing—and some have died—just as I Corinthians 11:29 states. What does “not discerning the Lord’s body” mean? Why is God not healing those who really do believe today?

Is the rarity of true healings today due to a lack of faith by the people of God?

Do God’s people really understand and apply all of the Biblical instructions regarding true healing?

The wonderful answers to these questions are joyfully presented in the pages of this booklet and come directly from the Word of God! This is NEW TRUTH given

by the grace of God our Father and from the knowledge of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior (II Peter 3:18).

Download or call for your FREE copy of The Plain Truth about God’s Healing and “Prove all things.”

20 Personal Goals To "Make Myself Ready"

1 I will awaken today with a spiritual, happy, thankful attitude. 1 Thess. 5:16, 18

2 I will try to keep my mind clean and clear, my thoughts on things above. Phil. 2:5, Col. 3:1-2

3 I will have Bible study, prayer, and meditation every day, seeking to grow in grace and knowledge. Eph. 4:15, 2 Pet. 3:18, 1 Thess. 5:17, 1 Pet. 1:4-10

4 I will try to attain a higher degree of the vision of God's plan of salvation, and diligently teach it to my family. John 17:24, Rom. 8:28-30, 1 John 3:2, John 4:24

5 I will look to God for wisdom and guidance through His Spirit and the mind of Christ. Prov. 2:6, Prov. 3:13, Prov. 4:7, Eph. 1:17, 1 Cor. 12:8, 2 Thess. 3:5

6 I will watch my words and thoughts, speaking softly, kindly and considerately. Col. 3:8-17

7 I will strive for a patient attitude, seeking to be tolerant and loving. Rom. 12:12, 1 Thess. 5:14, 2 Tim. 2:24

8 I will strive to "speak no evil of any man." Tit. 3:2, 1 Pet. 3:10

9 I will try to control any urges of selfish ambition and conceit that I may have, and, in humility, think of others as better than myself. Phil. 2:3

10 I will exercise self-discipline through God's Spirit, consciously denying carnal impulses – remembering to do God's will, and that my body is the Temple of the Holy Spirit. Phil. 2:5, 2 Cor. 10:4, Rom. 7:23-25, Rom. 6:12

11 I will try to "give no appearance of evil" in anything I do or say. Thess. 5:22

12 I will seek to be better acquainted with those "over us in the Lord," highly esteeming them as they follow Christ, being willing to discuss with them any doctrinal issues or applications of God's government in the local congregations that I might not understand. 1 Thess. 5:12-13, Heb. 13:7

13 I will "go to my brother," including the ministry, according to Matthew 18:15-17, in any event that could lead to offenses or hard feelings. Ps. 119:165, Luke 17:1, Matt. 18:7, James 3:2, Matt. 18:15-17

14 I will be diligent in all my work, doing my very best. Eccl. 9:10, Col. 1:10, Col. 3:23

15 I will make the most of my time. Eph. 5:16, Gal. 4:5, 1 Cor. 15:58

16 I will try harder all week, through God's Spirit, to plan for and keep the Sabbath holy – making it a "delight" to my family. Is. 58:13-14

17 I will gear my actions toward God's work and helping others, striving to think and act as Christ. 1 Cor. 15:58, 1 Cor. 6:20, Eph. 4:15

18 I will seek to glorify God in my actions and thoughts. Matt. 5:16, 1 Cor. 1:31

19 In all of these goals I will be conscious of the fact that I must "make myself ready" as the bride of Christ. Rev. 19:8, Eph. 5:26-27, 32, Matt. 24:46

20 I am aware that I must set my overall goal on PERFECTION, as the seventh principle doctrine of Christ. Heb. 6:1, Matt. 5:48

And At Midnight There Was A Cry Made...

Will You Be Wise?

And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.

Rev. 3: 7-12 &
Matt. 25: 1-13

The Midnight



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by Kurt Dohn

A few months ago I received a letter in the mail from a magazine that I subscribe to which deals primarily with the nation of Israel and the Jewish people but from a Christian perspective. The letter was in the form of a short article that described the current situation in the Mideast between the nation of Israel and the potential of Iran developing nuclear weapons.

The article explained that in order to prevent Iran from getting atomic weapons Israel must 'strike with a rod of iron' and forcibly stop Iran from doing so.

After reading the letter I began to ask myself questions about the term 'rod of iron' and how it is used in the Bible.

We all have preconceived ideas about things, people and words that we have developed over our lifetime and to me, and obviously the author of the article, the term 'rod of iron' meant something to punish or beat someone with but is that really true?

Since the term 'rod of iron' is from the Bible I began to research the Scriptures that used that phrase and some surprising things came to light.

Let's look at those scriptures where the term is used to see that there are other meanings that can add to our understanding and maybe change those preconceived ideas that we all have.

There are 4 scriptures where the term 'rod of iron' is used. They are Psalm 2:9, Revelation 2:27, Revelation 12:5 and Revelation 19:15.

“ Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pie-

es like a potter's vessel.' (Ps 2:9)

'Rod' in this context is from the Hebrew word *shêbet* (*shay'-bet*) and means to *branch* off; a *scion*, that is, (literally) a *stick* (for punishing, writing, fighting, ruling, walking, etc.) or (figuratively) a *clan*: correction, dart, rod, scepter, staff, tribe.

Revelation 2:27 in the New Testament quotes Psalm 2:9.

“ and she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne. (Rev. 12:5)

And finally Revelation 19:15 states:

“ and out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.'

In all cases in the New Testament the Greek word for 'Rod' is *rhabdos* (*hrab'-dos*) and means a *stick* or *wand*

We all have preconceived ideas... to me...the term 'rod of iron' meant something to punish or beat someone with but is that really true?

(as a *cudgel*, a *cane* or a *baton* of royalty): rod, scepter or staff.

We can see that 'Rod' is not just something to beat someone with but takes on a much deeper meaning when we see the true definition of the word as used in the Old and

New Testament. Our preconceived ideas of the word can cloud our minds into a limited understanding of the deeper meaning of the word.

Now that we see the broader meaning of the term 'rod of iron' lets ask ourselves how they apply to God's word and the King of Kings Jesus Christ.

In each case Jesus Christ is the one described as ruling with the rod of iron but how and why will he need a rod of iron to rule mankind?

We know from the Bible that in the millennium God's spirit will only be poured out on the nation of Israel, those descendants of Abraham, who come through the tribulation and their offspring during the 1000 years. Only the knowledge of God's way will be given to all rest mankind.

“ Yet now hear, O Jacob my servant; and Israel, whom I have chosen: Thus saith the LORD that made thee, and formed thee from the womb, which will help thee; Fear not, O Jacob, my servant; and thou, Jesurun, whom I have chosen. For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring: And they shall spring up as among the grass, as willows by the water courses. (Isa. 44:1-4)

Clearly God states that his spirit will be poured out upon *Jacob* and *Israel* not all of mankind. They will finally fulfill the destiny that God

planned for them after they had been led out of Egypt and made his people.

In all cases in the New Testament the Greek word for 'Rod' is rhabdos and means a stick or wand (as a cudgel, a cane or a baton of royalty): rod, scepter or staff.

But what about the rest of mankind, what will guide them during the Millennium?

They will have the nation of Israel to look to as an ensign or example of how to live God's way

of life. Their opportunity to receive God's spirit is not given during this time period. We can read in Isaiah 11:9-12:

“ they shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea. And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which

shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious. And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea. And he shall set up an ensign for

In the millennium, the nations will have Israel to look to for guidance and direction on how to live God's way. Israel will have God's Holy Spirit guiding them and they will desire to keep his laws.

the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.

And also in Habakkuk 2:14:

“ For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.”

It is similar to our lives before and after conversion. When we were unconverted we needed laws, statutes or rules to guide our lives and to maintain an orderly community. In the millennium, the nations will have Israel to look to for guidance and direction on how to live God's way. Israel will have God's Holy Spirit guiding them and they will desire to keep his laws.

Once we were converted and received the Holy Spirit we desired to lead a life worthy of our calling. We no longer needed to have rules and laws that dictated our behavior because we desire to do God's will and follow his way.

The Tribulation will be a time of horror for mankind, a time of trouble that has never been seen upon the earth. The survivors will be frightened and scared beyond belief, does it make sense that Jesus would use a rod of iron to beat them into keeping God's laws or, as the word rod can also mean, would he lead them as a shepherd leads his sheep guiding and directing them with the staff that is in his hand gently turning them in the way he wants them to go.

We read in John 10:11 'I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.' Jesus will have compassion on those who survive the Tribulation after all he was willing to give his life for us.

There certainly will be consequences for not following God's laws as we can read in Zechariah 14:17-19:

“ And it shall be, that whoso will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain. And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, that have no rain; there shall be the plague, wherewith the LORD will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles.

This shall be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all nations that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles. 'Those stubborn individuals or groups who thumb their noses at God's law will not be blessed but will receive punishment through plagues and lack of rain.'

I always like to think of examples that I can use to help me recall information that I have read. It is something that I learned to do in school to aid me in recalling the information for tests and while I know that the movie is not exactly Biblically accurate, 'The 10 Commandments' with Charlston Heston helps me to remember some of the meanings of the word 'rod'.

In the movie when Moses was led out to the desert by pharaoh he was given a shepherd's staff which pharaoh called his *royal scepter* to lead his subjects the scorpions and snakes. Jesus' rod will be a royal scepter and sign of his authority.

As Moses walked through the desert he used the staff as a *walking stick* to support him on his journey an example to us as we lean on Jesus to help us on our journey.

When Moses came to the well of Jethro he used his 'rod of iron' as a *punishing instrument* against the Amalekites who were cutting in line to water their flocks. Jesus will use his rod of iron in this manner as well to punish those who will not heed God's commands.

Moses used his *shepherd's staff* to tend the sheep of Jethro on the mountain of God using it to direct and lead them in the direction that he wanted them to go. Jesus will lead his people as a shepherd who loves his sheep. And finally when Moses received the 10 Commandments written on the tablets of stone by the finger of God so to will God write his law in our hearts.

Eventually all of mankind will receive God's spirit and a punishing rod of iron will no longer be needed. As we have seen the term 'rod of iron' as used in the Bible has much more meaning than just a means of punishment. It can be a royal scepter, a guiding staff, a walking stick or a writing instrument.

Preconceived ideas can sometimes cloud the way we think about scriptures when we read them. We have to make sure we look at and apply all of the meanings available to get a clear picture and understanding of what God is trying to tell us through his word. ❖

FREE LITERATURE

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NOW IN PRINT!

(cont. From pg 2) his word do I **hope**.”

Many of us have been taught as children to trust and have hope in the Word of God.

Psalm 71:5: “For thou art my **hope**, O Lord GOD: thou art my **trust** from my youth.”

And we have taught our children to **hope** in our Great God and the faithfulness of His Word as Psalm 78:7 admonishes us to do:

“That they might set their **hope** in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments.

Even in hard times, when it seems like we are so small, all alone and do not have the wherewithal to continue, we still have hope and know God is with us:

“I will also leave in the midst of thee an afflicted and poor people, and they shall **trust** [they will have faith and **hope**] in the name of the LORD. The remnant of Israel shall not do iniquity, nor speak lies; neither shall a deceitful tongue be found in their

mouth: for they shall feed and lie down, and none shall make them afraid (Zeph. 3:12-13).

We have **HOPE** in the Word of God and it tells us plainly in Haggai 1:13: “... I am with you, saith the LORD.”

He will supply our needs no matter what they are, even in the bleak days ahead; we must wait and exercise patience.

“But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus (Phil. 4:18).

And this promise is extended to the faithful throughout the future as we wait in **hope** and patience.

“The LORD also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the LORD will be the **hope** of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel (Joel 3:16).

We do not know what lies ahead in 2011. Efforts to achieve “peace in our time” will continue, but man does not know the way to peace

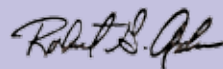
(Rom. 3:17). The article in this issue, “Peace: A Road Less Traveled,” by Gerry Neenan, explains why man does not know the way to peace. Also, an article by Kurt Dohn shows how “A Rod of Iron” applied in love will guarantee true peace in the World Tomorrow.

As of now, we know time is short, and we have a sense of urgency to get ourselves ready to meet our Savior. That must be the overall goal for a true Christian at this time as 2011 draws on. As we wait in **hope**, we must prepare and make ready.

Included in this issue of the *Midnight Cry* is an article by Jon Ardis, titled “Personal Goals,” which lists 20 points of overcoming that can be applied in our lives, in an effort to make ourselves ready as the bride of Christ. I **HOPE** we all can achieve these goals—in fact, we must!

What will 2011 bring? We do not know! But we must be ready for anything!

Your brother in Christ,



Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand. (Rev. 3:1)

What is also revealed is that conditions nationally and worldwide will become more and more severe. The world is teetering on the rim of the greatest time of trouble ever in man's history. But God has a **WORK** that will be done – the greatest **WORK** of **GOD** in New Testament times. I hope and pray that the Living Christ will make **YOU** a part of His **Work**!

Therefore, whoever you are, whether former member of the Worldwide Church of God (WCG), or second or third generation relative of old time members of the WCG, or someone who has never heard of the WCG or Herbert W. Armstrong, if God has opened your spiritual eyes, you will now be able to **UNDERSTAND** the **BOOK** of **REVELATION** – and God's Plan for you!

SetApartByTruth.org

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.

IMF: Instability Threatens Recovery

WASHINGTON—The uneven global recovery continues apace but sovereign debt and financial sector risks, particularly in Europe, could threaten global stability, the International Monetary Fund said Tuesday.

A pair of reports released by the fund suggested that advanced economies are still struggling to move past the recent financial crisis, while growing emerging economies are showing signs of overheating and inflationary pressures.

Policy makers around the globe need to address these issues, including through the expansion of the rescue fund for the euro area, or risk a faltering recovery, the IMF said.

The biggest area of concern remains Europe, where sovereign-debt issues and questions about some of the region's banks have led to an increasing amount of turbulence. The financial rescues of Greece and Ireland, as well as the potential for other countries to need aid, will continue to hurt market confidence in the region, the IMF said.

<http://online.wsj.com/...>

Comment: The world as we know it is disappearing and the consumer nations are looking at a bleak future of rising costs and dwindling resources. Some see the solution in becoming more self-sufficient, learning to live off the land, conserving fuel, and stockpiling foodstuffs. Many people are taking steps to save energy, not in a "green" way to save the planet, believing it is now too late for that, but rather focussing on saving themselves. The problem with growing your own food and living off the land, conserving fuel and stockpiling food is that when the situation deteriorates further you become vulnerable to desperate people who didn't prepare.

To answer this some are stocking up on guns and ammunition to defend themselves and their supplies. As Christians we do not, and indeed are not allowed to shoot people, so what do we do? The Bible tells us to take no thought, no anxious thought, on our well-being but rather to first of all seek the Kingdom of God. (Matt 6:31-33) We still need to provide for ourselves and our families, but it is a matter of priority. Trust not in man, that includes yourself, but rather put your whole trust in God.

"Ye have plowed wickedness, ye have reaped iniquity; ye have eaten the fruit of lies: because thou didst trust in thy way, in the multitude of thy mighty men" Hos 10:13

What should we be doing?

"Sow to yourself in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the LORD, till he come and rain righteousness upon you." Hos 10:12

Before long we are going to see widespread human nature in the raw! Stockpiling foods in a private store is only going to make you more vulnerable and a target for marauding gangs seeking to take by any means what you have diligently saved for yourself and your family.

Better by far to trust in God.

Blast at Moscow Airport Kills at Least 31

Russian media and officials say a suspected suicide bomber has killed at least 31 people in what investigators are calling an act of "terror."

No one claimed responsibility for the attack, so far.

The Interfax news agency reports Monday that Russia's Investigative Committee said the explo-

sion went off at one of Moscow's international airports, wounding at least 130 people.

The blast occurred inside the international arrivals area of the airport.

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

Comment: Latest reports are that 35 have been killed and at least 110 people injured in the blast, which has been blamed on Chechen Separatists. Police in Russia are investigating reports that a female assassin and a male accomplice detonated the device in the busy International Arrivals hall at Domodedovo airport.

Suicide bombers who kill indiscriminately women and children leave you with a sense of despair that human beings would sacrifice their own life to destroy others. When these suicide bombers are women and possibly mothers, that sense of despair extends to disbelief that they could do such a thing.

Jesus Christ's command was that we love one another, not lay down our life to kill one another.

"This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.

Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." John 15:12-13

Suicide bombers, whether they be male or female, may have some virtues, and believe in what they would call a just cause, but killing others in this random way will never be right. Without the fear of the one True God all their terrible efforts amount to just vanity, shame and murder!

Bankruptcy of U.S. is 'Mathematical Certainty,' Says Former CEO of Nation's 10th Largest Bank

(CNSNews.com) - John Allison, who for two decades served as chairman and CEO of BB&T, the nation's 10th largest bank, told CNSNews.com it is a "mathematical certainty" that the United States government will go bankrupt unless it dramatically changes its fiscal direction.

Allison likened what he sees as the predictable future bankruptcy of the United States to the problems at Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, whose insolvency he also said was foreseeable to those who studied their business practices and financial situation.

"If you run the numbers, on all those numbers that you just talked about, which I think are accurate, very accurate, in 20 or 25 years, the United States goes bankrupt," said Allison. "It's a mathematical certainty.

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

Comment: In mathematics 2+2=4. There is no room for doubt; it is as John Allison stated "a certainty." He went on to say that it was a mathematical certainty that the United States government will go bankrupt UNLESS it dramatically changes its fiscal direction. One wonders if there is now ANY way that the U.S. and many other nations of this world can avoid bankruptcy by any means! The problem is we tend to push the situation into the background by saying it won't happen yet. Mr Allison said the U.S will go bankrupt in 20-25 years! Why bother to tackle a problem that is 20 years away?

"Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil." Ecc 8:11

This world will continue on its own way until it is forced to admit error and except that there is a creator who sets laws and demands obedience for our own good.

Until that day, this lawless society will totter on.

New European Union school calendar omits Christian holidays

Strasbourg, France, Jan 14, 2011 / 02:11 pm (CNA).- A 2011-2012 school calendar published by the European Union has omitted Christian holidays, while continuing to note important Jewish and Muslim celebrations.

The European Union has printed three million copies of the calendar which will be distributed free-of-charge to students who request them.

Former French politician and government minister, Christine Boutin, wrote in her blog Jan. 11 that the calendar leaves out Christianity, "the religion practiced or recognized as forming the cultural assembly of our 'old' continent."

Boutin is a consultant for the Pontifical Council for the Family, as well as president of the Christian Democratic Party in France. She went on to lament that Christianity has "fallen into the limbo of collective ignorance."

While Christian holidays such as Christmas and Easter are missing from the calendar's pages, days commemorating "Sikh Baisakhi-Day, the Jewish Yom Kippur holiday, the Muslim holiday Aid-el-Kebir," remain in place," Boutin continued.

The Christian Democratic Party in France called the omissions "unacceptable" and has filed a petition asking that the calendars not be distributed as printed, but that students be given versions that include Christian holidays.

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

Comment: Christians in the first century AD had a hard time with serious persecution from the governments of the day. It seems the movement against Christians is starting once again to intensify, although it never really went away. In many areas of the world Christianity is under attack with even the EU joining in with this new calendar for schools omitting Christian holidays. Of course Christmas and Easter are not really Christian, just pagan celebrations with a Christian title. However the inference is clear – ban Christianity from the face of the earth. Christ's disciples were first called Christians, so called because they followed Christ.

"And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch." Acts 11:26

True Christianity and True Christians will never be destroyed because Christ the Head is immortal, and His followers are also promised immortality. Banning so-called Christian holidays from a calendar will not affect true Christians, but they will continue to suffer in this world because of their faith. Let us make sure that if we suffer it is because we uphold Godly principles and not because of sin.

*"Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glory God on this behalf."
1 Pet 4:16*

Australia floods inundate Brisbane, over 90 missing

Jan 12 (Reuters) - Thousands of residents of Australia's third-largest city evacuated homes on Wednesday as massive floods threatened to inundate the financial district, sparked panic buying of food and left authorities despairing for more

than 90 people missing.

The biggest floods in decades have so far killed 14 people since starting their devastating march across the northern mining state of Queensland last month, crippling the coking coal industry, destroying infrastructure, sending the local currency to four-week lows and threatening to put a brake on the economy.

With a flood surge expected to peak in the Queensland capital of Brisbane, a city of two million, on Thursday, search and rescue crews took advantage of rare sunshine on Wednesday to look for those still missing from tsunami-like flash floods that tore through townships west of the city this week.

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

Comment: This has certainly been a winter to remember for all the wrong reasons. The UK has had the worst winter for decades, and it's not over yet. America now has snow and strong winds in the North East. Sri Lanka has severe flooding, and Australia also have the most serious flooding for many decades. This type of weather disaster is devastating when it occurs in a third world country; but when it occurs in a modern complex city like Brisbane, even without loss of life, the outcome is total disruption to an ordered way of life that people are just not used to.

It was quite unreal that one report was of early-morning joggers trying to carry on as normal despite parts of their route being submerged! They were trying to carry on as normal and yet the disruption and devastation to many lives was far from normal to the people of Brisbane. This came upon them suddenly, they were not expecting such horror, and in a greater way the population of this earth will not be expecting the return of Jesus Christ to set their lives in order whether they like it or not.

"And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, (gluttony) and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares." Luke 21:34

What day would come upon them unawares?

"And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory." Luke 21:27

Surely these worldwide disasters would make people mindful that something was wrong, and they needed to get their own lives in order? Unfortunately it won't happen until these same people see the Son

of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

Mass evacuations as China's south battles 'big freeze'

Freezing temperatures in south-western China have forced the evacuation of 58,000 people from their homes, according to the Chinese authorities.

Ice and snow have closed roads, leaving thousands of motorists stranded.

Officials said the roofs of more than 1,000 homes in five provinces have collapsed because of the bad weather.

Those living in mountainous areas have been hardest hit - with tens of thousands being evacuated.

The authorities say that snow and ice across the region has damaged almost 300,000 acres of crops - with losses of nearly \$200m (£129m).

Across south-western China, highways and other transport networks continue to be affected by the cold weather.

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

Comment: China may be coming to California to build them a high-speed railway, but the labourers won't be Chinese, America will supply the muscle. It may not all be bad news but one cannot help thinking about role reversal and going cap in hand!

"The beauty of Israel is slain upon thy high places: how are the mighty fallen!" 2 Sam 1:19

The wonderful blessings given to Abraham and his descendants have been squandered and diluted by the sins of our modern Israelitish nations. One can only marvel at the greatness of those blessings that they have lasted so long and have been enjoyed by so many in the midst of almost total disregard for God and His Commandments.

Gentile nations are rising up, and it cannot be long before they take over and any blessings Israel still has will be swiftly withdrawn. This has to happen before we see the dawn of a new tomorrow.

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.

The Midnight Cry Has Begun

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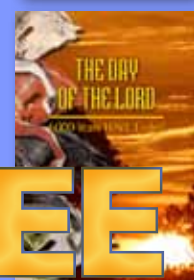
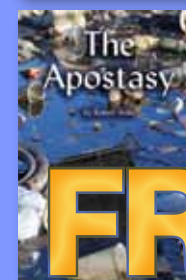
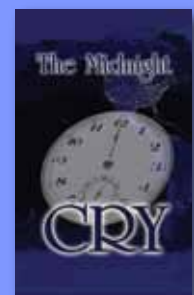
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