



The Midnight Cry

June/July 2011, Volume 3, Number 4

A Magazine of Urgent Understanding

WORLDWIDE DECEPTION





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From the Editor ...



A number of years ago there was a popular television program hosted by the very affable Art Linkletter. The name of the program was *Kids Say the Darndest Things!* The word "darndest" is not in the dictionary but has worked its way into acceptable society as a euphemism of the word "damndest." Mr. Linkletter used "darndest" in a very expressive voice that emphasized the fact that children can, indeed, come up with utterly surprising statements.

On his show he would interview either one child or a group of children, thereby proving the point of the program's name. In his interview, he would select a subject for them to discuss and, sure enough, those kids would come up with very amusing and "off-the-wall," "darndest" answers!

My 13 year old grandson, Lee, is a real "thinker," even at his young age—and he, too, can come up with, not just the "darndest things," but some truly *deep things*. Lee was reading from John 21 in his Bible one Sabbath when verse 25 really grabbed his attention:



And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen.

Lee thoughtfully considered what this verse of scripture was claiming:

Jesus did many "other things" that are not recorded.

These "other things" were not written in books.

If those "other things" had been written, there would not be space enough in the world to hold all the books that could be written of those "other things"!

My grandson knows the "world" is a pretty big place, and can hold an enormous number of books. The United States of America alone has 3.5 million square miles of land area containing hundreds of libraries.

Jesus Christ was born in 4BC and lived 33½ years before giving His life for the world. Just suppose that individual books of 300 pages each had been written about each **hour** of Jesus' life—how many books would that be?

60 minutes = 1 hour, 1 hour x 24 = 1 day. Therefore, if 24 books were written each day, covering every hour of each day in Jesus' 33½ years of life, how many books would that amount to?

365.25 days in one year x 24 = 8766 books per year, 8766 books per year x 33.5 years = 293,661 books about Jesus' life could easily cover all of the "other things" He did in His physical life.

Many libraries in the world contain more than 293,000 volumes; so is John 21:25 an exaggeration?

Lee knows that the Bible is the Word of God, and that it is TRUTH. He knows also that stating that this scripture is written in hyperbole would render the writing as not complete TRUTH!

The American Heritage dictionary defines hyperbole as: “an exaggerated statement often used as a figure of speech.” Synonyms for hyperbole are: exaggerated, overstated, embellished, inflated, and embroidered.

According to *John Gill’s Exposition of the Bible*, it is claimed that the account in question is a hyperbolic expression—and it goes on to say that hyperbole is used in many statements in the Bible, for example:

“That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply **thy seed as the stars of the heaven**, and as **the sand which is upon the sea shore**; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies... (Genesis 22:17).

Genesis 26:4 also mentions the stars of heaven for numbers:

“And I will make **thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven**, and will give unto **thy seed** all these countries; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed...”

In many instances the biblical scholars do not believe that the Bible is the inspired Words of God, and suppose such incredible statements as the promises to Abraham, written above, are an embellishment, or just overstated for emphasis. But Genesis 22:17 and 26:4 are verses where God is

speaking, and God does not embellish or overstate—He speaks the TRUTH.

Jesus, Himself, tells us plainly in John 17:17: “Thy Word is TRUTH!” Thus God does not exaggerate! The Eternal does not use hyperbolic expressions—He uses TRUTH!

Notice Isaiah 55:8:

“For **my thoughts** are not your thoughts, neither are your ways **my ways**, saith the LORD.

Also Hebrews 6:18:

“That by two immutable things, **in which it was impossible for God to lie**, we might have a strong consolation...”

Titus 1:2 confirms Hebrews 6:18:

“In hope of eternal life, **which God, that cannot lie**, promised before the world began...”

Men **think** differently from God. We Christians do not yet THINK like God does—although that is one of our goals in this Christian life! Even the very righteous men of old could not grasp the magnitude of God’s statement in Genesis 22:17.

A little over 400 years after the Eternal made the promise to Abraham, the **seed** of Abraham had increased in number by the millions! 600,000 men, plus at least an equal number of women, plus their children left Egypt on that Night to be Much Observed (Ex. 12:37). Thus, godly Moses, who spoke to God “face to face” (Ex. 33:11), was witness to what he thought was the fulfillment of one part of the promise made to Abraham:

“The LORD your God hath multiplied you, and, behold, ye are this day as **the stars of heaven for multitude** (Deut. 1:10).

“Thy fathers went down into Egypt with three-score and ten persons; and now the LORD thy God hath made thee as **the stars of heaven for multitude** (Deut. 10:22).

On a bright starry night, the number of Israelites appeared to Moses’ unaided eye as **more than the stars of heaven**. But the Eternal’s promise extends farther than Moses could see or imagine.

The “sand of the seashore” is an incomprehensible number, but God is God, and He means what He says. Yet, it is recorded that, on occasion, even some of God’s most faithful servants used exaggerated expressions, defined as hyperbole, in their expressions.

Genesis 41:46-49:

“And Joseph was thirty years old when he stood before Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh, and went throughout all the land of Egypt. And in the seven plenteous years the earth brought forth by handfuls. And he gathered up all the food of the seven years, which were in the land of Egypt, and laid up the food in the cities: the food of the field, which was round about every city, laid he up in the same. And **Joseph** gathered corn as **the sand of the sea**, very much [grain], until he left numbering; for it was without number.

Courageous Joshua is another man of old who used hyperbole in observing the hordes of Israel’s enemies. He described them as the sand of the seashore:

“And they went out, they and all their hosts with them, much people, even as **the sand that is upon the sea shore** in multitude, with horses and chariots very many (Josh. 11:4).

Exaggeration, embellishment, and overstating is the way most humans express themselves!

- That car was going at least 100 mph!
- Today is the hottest day I have ever seen.
- The storm last night was the most intense I have ever witnessed!

We have a tendency to stretch the truth—but God speaks ONLY TRUTH! And in Psalm 147:4, the Lord God Almighty inspired King David to record this fantastic, yet truthful claim: “**He telleth the number of the stars; he calleth them all by their names.**”

Modern science has built amazing telescopic instruments, and claims to be able to see all the way to the outer edge of the universe! They have photographed untold numbers of galaxies, each composed of billions of stars. They can view all of this, but it is too vast to number. And in their amazement they now see the possibilities of MULTIPLE UNIVERSES!

However, God, who does not lie, knows all the stars by name!

I am not sure who it was that took on the vain task of estimating the number of grains of sand on all of the seashores on earth, but I remember reading about this. Nonetheless, if vain men would read and believe Jeremiah 33:22 they could save themselves some trouble. The Eternal thunders out:

“As **the host of heaven cannot be numbered, neither the sand of the sea measured: so will I multiply the seed of David my servant, and the Levites that minister unto me.**

Understand! God is stating here that man **cannot** know the number of **the stars in the heaven nor the sand of the sea**, but He says He will multiply the seed of David AND the Levites to equal amounts or beyond those incomprehensible numbers!

Consider the challenge the Eternal presents in the verses preceding verse 22:

“Thus saith the LORD; If ye can break my covenant of the day, and my covenant of the night, and that there should not be day and night in their season; Then may also my covenant be broken with David my servant, that he should not have a son to reign upon his throne; and with the Levites the priests, my ministers (Jer. 33:20-21).

The royal prophet Isaiah was inspired to write in chapter 9 verse 7:

“Of the increase of his government and peace **there shall be no end, upon the throne of David [of the seed of Abraham], and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.**

The Eternal God gives Himself plenty of time in that verse; “**no end**” and “**even for ever**” can certainly mean that the throne of King David, which in reality is Christ’s throne, will continue on and on forever. And Christ is “**the seed,**” according to Galatians 3:16: “Now to Abraham and his seed were the

promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.”

The righteous prophet Daniel was given a vision of the never-ending Kingdom during the Day of the Lord—which is ETERNITY!

“I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like **the Son of man** came with the clouds of heaven, and came to **the Ancient of days**, and they brought him near before him. And there was given him **dominion, and glory, and a kingdom**, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: **his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed...** But **the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever** (Dan. 7:13 and 18).

Righteous men of old and highly educated scholars of today have a tendency to exaggerate when describing things or events. Nevertheless, even our vain embellishments of what God tells us in truth cannot match, or even come close, to what He has in store for us as His children.

“But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. **But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God** (I Cor. 2:9-10).

Yes! God has revealed so much to us! We understand the Pentecost resurrection; but all the glorious, specific details God has for us to experience can only be realized

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By Robert Ardis

One of the many revealing scriptures from the inspired Word of God that explains why conditions in the world are so very troublesome is Revelation 12:9:

“And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world...”

In practically every aspect of mankind's existence on Planet Earth, deception is the norm. The godless theory of evolution permeates every facet of today's society, from “the cradle to the grave.” Many of the very educated teachers of evolution might consider the existence of a “first cause,” but they deny the possibility of a supreme Creator God who has definite spiritual laws designed as a guide to the behavior of mankind. The disregard of God's laws is the main cause of the worldwide violence gripping the earth. This disregard has resulted in mankind's ignorance of the way to peace.

The highly educated who, in some cases, have devoted their entire lives to the study of evolution, or one of the branches stemming from this utterly erroneous theory, have no idea of the plan of the Almighty God. Nevertheless, Satan, the devil, is well aware of God's plan and foolishly seeks to thwart it.

The brilliant educators that are

steeped in evolutionary thought have been deceived by the devil and are thereby ignorant of the spirit world, and of the *spirit* that exists in every human being—which totally separates man from all other creatures.

“For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the SPIRIT of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the SPIRIT of God (I Cor. 2:11).

Neither mankind in general, nor the educated scholars realize the potential of the Spirit in man—but Satan does, and he exerts all of his powerful energies to cause men to fail in God's purpose for them. Thus, from the very beginning, Satan has sought to deceive mankind.

Romans 8:7 reveals a characteristic of man that Satan uses to his advantage in the deception of the world:

“Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

Many of the noted doctors of education are perfectly described in that verse: they are “carnal minded men” and are totally hostile against God and His righteous law. Romans 1:28-32 expands on this fact:

“And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave

them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Backbiters, haters of God, spiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things [which includes false theories and religions] disobedient to parents, Without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

The hostility toward God and His perfect law is why there are hundreds of different religions in the world, all teaching that their particular brand is the true religion (II Cor. 4:3-5):

“But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom **the god of this world** hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord...”

This is why, here in our time, many very sincere individuals are so deceived in their religious beliefs that they will load themselves down with powerful explosives, and in

the name of their god, blow themselves and any unfortunate other persons in their vicinity, to bloody bits. Satan is the god of this world and has thoroughly deceived the entire world into worshipping him.

Even in the so-called Christian religion, deception is so rampant that “Christianity” is separated into the old mother church--the Roman Catholic Church--and her hundreds of protesting daughter churches, divided and contentious, having only a “form of godliness” (II Tim. 3:5).

And worse than all of this, God’s true Church became terribly deceived after God’s servant, Herbert W. Armstrong, died in 1986! At that time Satan, through powerful *lying wonders*, motivated his “man of sin” to remove the true gospel from the WCG, and replace God’s doctrines with doctrines of the world!

Too many of our dear brethren, who unwisely believed they could not be deceived, easily succumbed to Satan’s lying wonders:

“*Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders. And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; **because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved** (II Thess. 2:9-10).*”

Many of you who are reading this article lived through those times! You saw and heard Satan’s evil power in the *deceivableness of unrighteousness* that came forth from the corrupted WCG ministry. That ministry supported and helped disseminate the wicked doctrines being poured upon God’s unsuspecting flock. And those days produced an extremely important test! If you truly loved God’s truth, you would

NOT be deceived—but as verse 10 states, some were perishing because *they did not love God’s truth* and were caught up in the *deceivableness of unrighteousness*.

This is a tactic of Satan! First, deceive through a corrupted ministry teaching false doctrines; once deception has taken root, then divide, lull to spiritual sleep, and conquer!

God places the blame on the Satan-motivated *hireling ministers*, as Jeremiah 50:6 plainly declares:

“*My people hath been lost sheep: **their shepherds have caused them to go astray**, they have turned them away on the mountains: they have gone from **mountain to hill**, they have forgotten their resting place.*”

The WCG has split and splintered, and the splits and splinters continue to fragment until now it is reported that over 300 churches and groups have come forth from the former Worldwide Church of God.

Satan rarely changes his deceptive tactics because they usually work. Thus, a modern version of the old mother church and her protesting daughters, made up of the begotten of God, has become swallowed up in Satan’s deception! That deception is here for all who have the spiritual eyes to see. Christ calls them “the synagogue of Satan” (Rev. 3:9)!

What a pity! Most of those deceived brethren are spiritually asleep and have no idea of what has happened.

What a shame! Many of these brethren seem happy and satisfied in the various churches, not understanding that God’s Church being fragmented displays friction and disunity--not the complete UNITY that should be among God’s elect.

What a sin! God’s Word thunders out that there should be NO DIVISIONS AMONG YOU (I Cor. 1:10), but the hireling shepherds, as the Bible predicts, have led the FLOCK astray—and into DIVISION, CONFUSION, and STRIFE.

There are other devices Satan uses to deceive God’s people—thus we should examine ourselves to be sure we are not deceived!

We have already seen a major cause of deception: some did not love the truth. In some cases, the doctrines of God were not internalized as a very integral part of the thought processes. Bible study, prayer and the other vital spiritual tools that keep us close to God, too often become secondary. Even the divided churches with their “social programs” can foster such an attraction that the physical becomes foremost in a person’s mind. And, of course, the “cares of this world” are a deception that can lead to “losing one’s crown.”

Observe how deadly the “cares of the world” can be, as seen in the parable of the great supper in Luke 14:16-24. Verse 24 is a frightening declaration to those who make excuse after excuse:

“*For I say unto you, That none of those men which were bidden shall taste of my supper.*”

Another method Satan has used very handily in deceiving God’s people is to teach them to believe that they are God’s very elect, and that as such they cannot be deceived. Most likely, most of the divided churches suppose their church is the true church and their members are the very elect! Therefore, they think scripture states that it is not possible for them to be deceived! And in that erroneous reasoning

they demonstrate that they ARE deceived!

This is easily proven. Just look around at the confusion and deception in the modern mother church and her DIVIDED daughter churches. The DIVISION proves there is **deception** among them. They can't ALL be right, can they? However, they can ALL be wrong!

Our Lord has declared in Matthew 24:24:

“For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.”

Therefore, many assume from this scripture that they are part of the “very elect” and that it is impossible to deceive them. But what they do not realize is that verse 24 is describing the tremendous deception during the GREAT TRIBULATION that shall come upon the world—NOT at this present time!

Notice that verse 24 is in the middle of verses 21 to 29, which are portraying the future time of the great tribulation—plain and simple!

The reason why the VERY ELECT will not be deceived is that they have been “*proven worthy to escape all these things,*” deception included (Lk. 21:36), and have been taken to the place of safety! In this “place prepared by God,” Satan’s *evil face* will not be allowed (Rev. 12:14). Therefore, the very elect will not be exposed to the deceit of the false Christs and false prophets—or the **super deception** of the beast and the great false prophet.

It will be *impossible* for the very elect to be deceived—but woe unto ALL others, as Revelation 13:4 and 13-14 show:

“And they worshipped the dragon [Satan] which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?...”

“And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast...”

The next question to be asked is: “Am I worthy to escape ALL of these things...or am I being deceived?”

With this question, the seriousness of the problem of DIVISION in the churches must be addressed. Especially when considering the place of safety, it must be understood that Christ has only ONE TRUE Church! Christ is NOT divided; therefore, there will be only one Church, in perfect UNITY in the place of safety.

However, Satan, the god of this world, knows human nature and preys on the vanity of proud men. In the past, Satan has snared men through their vanity, and he continues to do it today. Ill John 1:9 identifies one of these vain men of years ago:

“I wrote unto the church: but Diotrefes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not.”

The hiring leaders, the shepherds of the divided churches of today, are modern day Diotropheses, and will not cooperate with one another for the same reason: each desires the **PREEMINENCE!**

As the Head of the body, Christ has inspired the apostle Paul to write I Corinthians 1:10:

“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 same mind and in the same judgment (KJV).”

This is clearly stated! Christ’s true Church should NOT be split, splintered, divided or contentious. Yet, Satan the devil has thoroughly deceived the leaders of the divided churches by manipulating their pride and vanity, until they cannot come together as one body. The hiring leaders, seeking THE preeminence, have argued and fussed, and refused to agree; consequently, they continue to fragment.

1 Corinthians 11:17-18 is a clear picture of the CONFUSION existing in the Corinthian Church during the first century and also in the divided “churches of god” today:

“Your worship services do you more harm than good. I am certainly not going to praise you for this. I am told that you can’t get along with each other when you worship, and I am sure that some of what I have heard is true (CEV).”

Isn’t this true today—the DIVIDED churches CANNOT get along with one another! If that were NOT true, the churches would ALL be together in UNITY!

Paul next shows that Jesus Christ, the Head of His Church, can take a bad situation and bring something very good from it! In verse 19, he explains another important reason for the condition created by the DIVISION in the churches. God’s faithful will be identified as *genuine* and set apart from all of the divided churches as the ONE AUTHENTIC

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The Enemy Within

by John Durrad

Some years ago I worked for a company that made components for aircraft. In fact we were specialists in fasteners, or nuts and bolts. One of the materials we used was titanium. Titanium is 70% lighter than steel, with a higher tensile strength. Obviously, both qualities are a major advantage when used in aircraft. Of great importance was the fact that they should not fail in service. Our job was to test these bolts at every stage of manufacture. The material started as long rods, which were cut to length, and then the bolt head was forged. We would then take a sample from that forged batch, split it down the middle, and then mount it in Bakelite, ready for viewing through a microscope.

The forged components would look perfectly alright on the outside, but we needed a magnified close look at the structure of the metal on the INSIDE. This would tell us whether the parts could go on to the next process or whether they were to be scrapped. A similar testing procedure was carried out after each major process on the part.

Finding faults was always bad news for us in the laboratory. The production team looked at us as the enemy! Rejecting a batch meant that the company lost profit, the foreman lost face, and the men lost their bonuses. And the further down the production run the parts went—because of the greater time and expense invested in them—

the greater was the pressure on us to pass the parts as good. But we knew our responsibility. We knew that bolts that looked perfectly good on the outside could be dangerously defective on the inside. We also knew that these same people who were trying to get us to pass suspicious parts would be very happy on their next trip abroad if the wings on their aeroplane remained firmly fixed to the fuselage!

So, although they looked on us as the enemy, we were just doing our job. We didn't think of them as the enemy. Our enemy was the defective parts, with faults that were mainly hidden. We looked on these faults as THE ENEMY WITHIN.

God's people have always had enemies, those who are against God's Word, but we need to know who, or what, is the enemy within. Let's go back to our bolt factory. We now have the finished product. An aircraft fastener that is almost a work of art, tested at every stage of production – tried and tested! However, before the batch can be sent out to hold an aircraft together, there is one final test. A number of them will be taken out and tested to destruction. We have to know for sure if this batch of bolts is up to the job they were designed to do. Amazingly, even at this stage, some still fail. They have somehow gone through all the procedures without their faults being detected and possibly rectified. But there is no escape. This final test will show

their true strength.

This is very much like the parable of the wheat and tares in Matthew 13. Things are not always as they appear, but God's Word is sharper than a two-edged sword and will root out truth from error.

God's people today in the scattered churches have the opportunity to rectify their faults. They are being tested now, as we are. But many are failing the test. When the final test of utter destruction comes, some will not make it; they will not have enough strength. Some will be destroyed forever, some will make it – but why take the risk? Part of knowing the risk is knowing the enemy. The aircraft fastener that looks perfect on the outside may be hiding dangerous faults within. The tares look like wheat in the early stages of growth, and can remain undetected among the wheat for a while.

So, who or what is the enemy WITHIN?

Satan, of course, we know is our enemy; he is the accuser of the brethren (Rev. 12:10). Satan has been cast down; he has great wrath and great power. But how is he using that power? The last warning to the Philadelphians is not to let Satan take your crown; but look at how it is worded: "Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown" (Rev. 3:11).

Satan uses a man or men to do his work. The apostle Paul had to deal

with a Laodicean attitude, just as we do today.

Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels..." (Col. 2:18). God's own people had gotten into the worship of angels, that is, fallen angels or demons! But notice they were beguiled, or deceived **by a MAN!** How did this man deceive them?

"And not holding the Head..." (Col. 2:19). This means they looked to a man, not their true head, or real leader, Jesus Christ. These people knew that Christ used a man to lead. They forgot, it seems, that Satan uses the same method. Satan has control of today's society and has had control since the Garden of Eden (Gen. 2:16-17, 3:6). What did the first humans do? They loved the world more than they loved God.

“Love not the world (man's society) neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world (1 Jn. 2:15-16).

So society, because it is of Satan, is our enemy. It is a very real enemy to a true Christian, but it is an enemy WITHOUT, and we are concentrating on an enemy WITHIN! What about our own human nature? We know that it is deceitful and desperately wicked (Jer. 17:9), an enemy within. It is an enemy we should be constantly working on, and recognising that it is in all that we do.

But what could be just as treacherous as our human nature, and within the Church? That would

be one of our own brethren, also with human nature, and also in the Church. Although we don't even like to think it, this is an attack on God's people by God's people. This is an insidious attack by Satan, using those that he is able to, from the Laodicean Church and others. They may be our brethren, but not all are honourable.

“But beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues... And the brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against their parents, and cause them to be put to death... And a man's foes shall be they of his own household (Matt. 10:17, 21, 36).

Now, we should love all our brethren in all the scattered Churches; we should not attack them. Those that say that Mr. Ardis and the CGF are attacking them just don't understand our work. We know that many of the brethren are confused, misguided, and lukewarm. But we know that many of you would never think of attacking the CGF or any other of God's Churches. Unfortunately, Satan is able to work with some individuals. We all must be on our guard because the attack can come from the most unexpected quarters. It could be someone we became very close to during the WCG days, or during our time in one of the split-off groups. Satan is pulling out all the stops and some of our own brethren are making it easy for him.

“Our persecutors are swifter than the eagles of the heaven; they pursued us upon the mountains, they laid wait for us in the wil-

derness (Lam. 4:19).

One minister has made very uncomplimentary statements about Mr. Ardis, calling him a false prophet! On what does he base this? Let me quote Mr. Ardis from the booklet, *The Apostasy*.

“Am I really a false prophet – or is the man who makes this accusation against me a false prophet? The question needs to be answered, lest he be wise in his own conceit, and the answer must be from the Word of God – not just my opinion or his opinion! (*The Apostasy*, page 9)

You can read Mr. Ardis's full answer in the booklet. But this is a satanic attack by a man, a minister, from WITHIN God's Church. He is still trying to gain a following, mainly from God's people, and with some he will be successful. We must be so careful that strife and offenses don't get between us. We must, of all people, love one another. If we don't, God may allow us to be pruned out of the Body by the enemy within (Jn. 15:1-21).

God's Church went through serious problems in the 1970's. Consider what Mr. Armstrong said at that time, in relation to today's even worse situation.

“I came on the scene myself in the Sardis era. Now we have a lot of people who want to take anything that Christ put into the Church through me, and... Knock it in the head and say, 'that is wrong; that is a false doctrine.' We've had a lot of so-called intellects around here on this campus, trying to do that very thing... What happened here to us is like a cancer. I got the core of the cancer out, but

it has other parts. It will start reaching with its tentacles to the whole body if we don't get it out... That cancer has got to be removed (Pastor General's Report, Nov. 22, 1978).

About two months later in a co-worker letter, Mr. Armstrong said this:

“ God will give us the VICTORY in the end... God has allowed Satan to bring this upon us. First, to wake us up spiritually, and bring us back closer to Him, and second, to draw us closer together, and third, to sift out from our midst some of the chaff from the wheat. Brethren, this terrible ordeal is accomplishing those three things! It is a sifting time. Some “liberals” who wanted to water down God's truth are being sifted out (Co-worker letter, Jan. 18, 1979).

Those pillar members of God's Church today must stand up for what is right. We have to be defenders of the faith. We live in an age of deception--virtual reality! We have to know the real, true reality. The true reality is that we have an enemy or enemies within. Paul gave a special warning to the Church at Ephesus:

“ For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them (Acts 20:29-30).

How did these false ministers do this? Did they say to the people, “We are false ministers, and we are going to deceive you!”? Of course they didn't, they came subtly, as loving friends. So we need to be

able to recognise this enemy within in order to counteract the attack.

A false minister subtly mixes false doctrine with the true, in order to slowly move God's people away from the truth, as happened in the WCG. The best way to prevent this from happening is to be in daily contact with God and your Bible.

“ Whoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed (2 Jn. 9-10).

We have to be very careful about reading and studying literature written by men who have rebelled against what God taught through the end-time Elijah. Be aware that much of what you find on the internet regarding God's Church can be so much garbage! It is easy to open ourselves up to deception. False brethren generally have a critical attitude towards the ministry. Often they have an “axe to grind” over an offense or a minor point of doctrine. Usually they believe that only they have the right answer. Unless a person agrees fully with their approach to a subject, they think that person must be wrong.

“ And that because of false brethren unawares brought in, who came in privily to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus that they might bring us into bondage (Gal. 2:4).

They often try to get God's people hooked on the letter of the law, which can lead to a ritualistic or physical type of religion. God's law

must be obeyed in the letter and in the spirit – what it says and what it means. If you are following the law in spirit, then the physical requirements become a natural outgrowth of that obedience. You could follow all the physical details of the law and completely miss out spiritually.

“ Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the traditions of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ (Col. 2:8).

Paul also shows us that false brethren seem to always come up with some new truth. They are often people who study, only they never come to the knowledge that is able to help them become more deeply converted: “Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth” (2 Tim. 3:7).

Verse 5 tells us to “from such turn away”! As God's people, we have to be watchful and learn to detect enemies of the work. The true but sad history of God's Church has always been that some people in our midst are actually THE ENEMY WITHIN!

All of you who are reading this magazine should consider carefully your position in God's Church. There is only one Body led by Jesus Christ, “one Spirit...one hope...one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all” (Eph. 4:4-6). God has given you, both ministers and members, an awesome task. Consider this: could you possibly be an enemy of God within one of the split-off groups? The time will come when some of God's people will deal treacherously with one another, as law and order break down. Are you growing in grace and the knowledge of

Jesus Christ (2Pet. 3:18)? Are you set apart by truth? Have you the understanding and faith to know you are in the true Body of Christ?

The Church of God's Faithful is led by the Faithful One – Jesus Christ. But the membership must also have the faith of Christ. When things seem impossible faith must take over. Faith can take over from human weakness. We must all walk and work by faith. Paul says, "We walk by faith, not by sight." By sight, the CGF is just a little group – and our enemies are large and powerful. Can we cope with the responsibilities God has given us? The question could be asked if this work is too much for us. That would be the wrong question. The right question would be if this work is too much for God. The answer is obvious!

As time goes on, we should all expect some form of attack from the enemy within. It won't be just the ministry that will be attacked. So then, how should we feel towards those who are trying to harm us? And what can we do to defeat them? The Bible is very clear on how we should feel towards our enemies.

“Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you...Be [become] ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect (Matt. 5:43-44, 48).

If we are going to be able to finally take our place in God's family we have to become like God the Father. We call ourselves Christians

because we follow Christ. Christ always follows God; He puts God first. To be true Christians, we must be very sensitive to the Father's will, and proving what God's will is in our lives requires much faith.

1. We must first give our lives over to God.
2. We must renew our minds.
3. We must approach God with a humble attitude.

God is faithful to us. He will not let us down. We have God's Holy Spirit of promise to help us reject our wrong thoughts and renew our minds through prayers, study, meditation and fasting.

Having Christ living in us should make us very compassionate toward all human beings, even our enemies.

“Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head (Rom. 12:17-20).

The Moffatt version puts verse 20 this way: "You will make him feel a burning sense of shame."

The Living Bible puts it this way: "He will feel ashamed of himself for what he has done to you."

Verse 21 tells us not to be overcome with evil, but to overcome evil with good.

Another indication that God's will rules our lives, and that Christ is living in us, is that we are truly willing to suffer for righteousness sake. Our enemies will make us suffer, and it is even worse when they are God's own people – the enemy within.

It became very clear that, even during the Philadelphia era while Mr. Armstrong was alive, there was a hidden enemy within the Church. They became the synagogue of Satan. God does not mince words; he calls them by this name, and he calls them liars (Rev. 3:9).

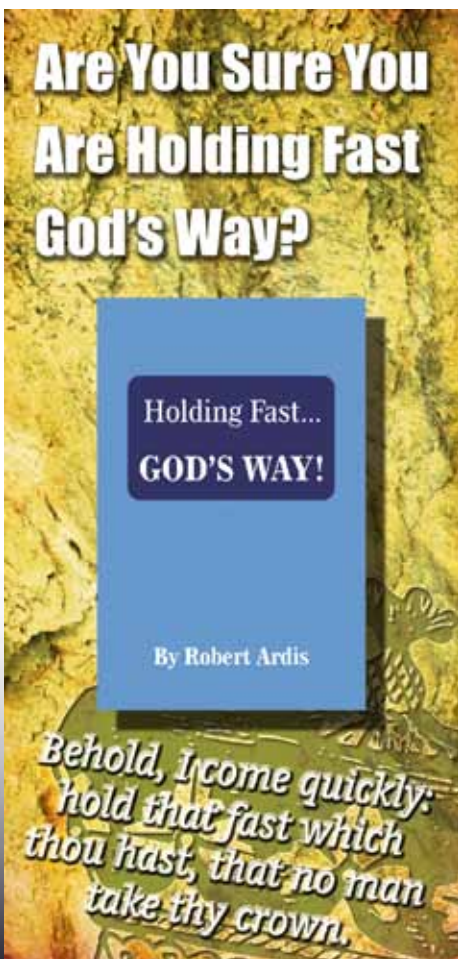
Now for the most part, we see these people for what they are: God's people, our brethren; and not all of us have been attacked personally by them. However, because of their actions, they have attacked God's truth, and that affects us all. God was not praising them when He called them the synagogue of Satan, and neither should we praise them, in action or in deed. We should love them, and certainly pray for them.

Just like the wheat and the tares – just like the bolts I used to test – the faults, the weaknesses, the shortcomings will be made manifest, clearly visible, after a period of time. And so, now the enemies within the Church are being made recognisable to God's true people in God's true Church. Our best defence to not be a part of this is to be sure you are a follower of Christ, and not simply a follower of a particular man.

We can show our love for the truth by backing the message in this magazine, *The Midnight Cry*, and being a wonderful example of the Christian way of life.

“ Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity (1 Tim. 4:12).

Being aware of the enemy within is one thing; dealing with it is another. If we do our part, showing a good example to those who at this time may despise us, we not only secure our crown, we help others to gain theirs! We can help the enemy within become the friend of God and Jesus Christ, and that ultimately is what God wants for us all. We have enemies in God's own Church. We have even had enemies within the CGF, as events have proven. But all will be made known in God's time. In the meantime, we have to try the spirits, whether they are of God. Then, we won't be taken in by THE ENEMY WITHIN. ❖



Cont. from pg 2 From The Editor

when it is a reality!

The apostle Paul writes in I Corinthians 13: 9-10 and 12:

“ For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away... For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

And the beloved John sums it up in I John 3:2:

“ Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

These statements are not exaggerations, embellishments or overstatements. These are PROMISES to us as the faithful of the Church of Jesus Christ, as declared in Galations 3:29: “*And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.*”

This study was prompted by my grandson's thoughts on John 21:25:

“ And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen.

This young man knows that God does NOT exaggerate—He does not have to—God can completely fulfill what He states.

Lee understood very quickly that

verse 25 is not an “overstatement,” but an easily understood TRUTH, when John 1:1-3 and 14 are considered. These verses tell us:

“ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made... And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us...

Jesus Christ, as the WORD, was God, and had existed with God from the beginning! All things were made—created—by Him before He became Jesus Christ. The stars are all numbered and named by Him. How many books would it take to describe each star, galaxy, or UNIVERSE in a first-hand account? He knows how many hairs there are on our heads (Matt. 10:30)! He knows the swoop of the sparrow (Matt. 10:29). He knows all there is to know—and is still learning.

Yes! Kids can say the darndest things, but I am so thankful for our kids who can also say some of “the deepest things”!

“ For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe (1Thes. 2:13).

Amen!

Cont. from pg 7 *Worldwide Deception*.

CHURCH:

“Of course, there must be factions among you to show which of you are genuine (1 Cor. 11:19, ISV)!”

This identifying description of being *genuine* is from the *International Standard Version* of the Bible, from which I seldom quote. But this rendering produces a clear meaning. Other synonyms of *genuine* are: *authentic, true, real, actual and legitimate*. Each of these words describes the one true Church that is set apart from ALL of the divided churches by TRUTH: “*Sanctify them through thy truth [genuineness]: thy word is truth*” (Jn. 17:17).

Jesus Christ identifies His *genuine* Church by TRUTH—the truth taught by the end-time apostle, Herbert W. Armstrong, and the new truths that have been revealed in the past 25 years. The split and splintered churches have NOT grown in new truth (the knowledge of Christ, 2 Pet. 3:18) during those years. Satan has deceived the modern day, “old

mother church and her protesting daughters,” and has them in a “slumbering and asleep” condition (Matt. 25:1-13).

Nevertheless, Christ is in charge, and an awakening is fast approaching! Our booklet, *The Midnight Cry*, expands on this subject! Satan’s deception will be removed from the “wise” and they will be made to quickly come to the true Church. It will be a different story with those “foolish” that wait too long. Revelation 12:17 reveals the absolute necessity of being in the one true Church:

“And the dragon was wroth with **the woman [the TRUE CHURCH]**, and went to make war with **the remnant of her seed [the “foolish” of the divided churches and the Laodiceans]**, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

God will have only ONE true Church in the place of safety! Please, do not allow Satan to DECEIVE you into believing that all of the split and splintered churches, which cannot get along today,

will be in the place of safety!

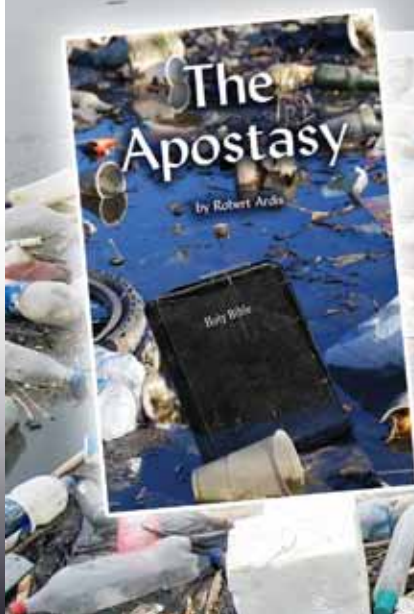
“Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man (Lk. 21:36).

Don’t let Satan or any of his deceitful tactics mislead you! These are urgent Bible times in which we live. Satan KNOWS his time is short—but how about you?

Romans 13:11-12 tells us that it is time to WAKE UP!

“And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent [the *Midnight Cry* is being sounded], the day is at hand [the DAY of the LORD has come]: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.

God’s people must STUDY and PROVE that JESUS CHRIST has only one true Church--and that is where you want to be! ❖



“The world will not fall away from truth—they have no truth to fall away from.” But many of those who have been invited to the Wedding Supper certainly can ... AND HAVE!

Take off the blindfold and clean your Wedding garment before it is too late!

Call, write for, or download your FREE copy today. See pg 16 or www.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.

Iran has already built a nuclear warhead pilot

The coming DEBKA-Net-Weekly out next Friday uncovers Iran's surreptitious leaps and bounds toward a home-made nuclear weapon. Tehran has not only executed four nuclear-capable missile tests, but actually constructed a nuclear warhead prototype.

This issue will show how Tehran crossed every red line set by the West against Iran acquiring nuclear arms by furtively exploiting the months of furious Arab unrest for high speed, undisturbed progress. Western and Israeli intelligence are now waking up to some unpleasant surprises.

<http://debka.com/...>

Comment: Iran President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad continues to exert his influence in utter disdain of the West. We should not be surprised to learn that Iran does indeed have a nuclear weapon. Bible prophecy tells us that the King of the South, most likely Iran, will "push" at the king of the North, the German led European Union. It would be very hard to believe that Iran would go up against the might of the EU if it did not have a nuclear device. Anyway, the German led EU takes no chances and launches a short sharp pre-emptive attack described in the book of Daniel as "like a whirlwind."

That is yet future, but now President Ahmadinejad continues with his utter contempt of any nation which attempts to curtail his ambitions. In the book of Ezekiel God is very angry with the house of Judah for the abominations which they commit and the disdain they afford to their God. "...and, lo, they put the branch to their nose." Ezek 8:17

The President of Iran continues to "thumb his nose" at the West in total defiance at what the reaction

might be. Little does he realise, unless he believes in Bible prophecy, that his attitude will lead to violent confrontation with a power greater than his which will culminate in his downfall!

EU is ticking time bomb for Cameron as more Tories demand Britain quits Brussels

This morning we learn that Oliver Letwin, a Minister at the Cabinet Office and one of the Tories' leading policy boffins, has privately concluded that Britain should withdraw from the European Union.

His fellow Conservative bright spark Steve Hilton has already reached the same conclusion.

Hilton is an arch moderniser, more Cameroonian than Cameron.

Both Letwin and Hilton are social liberals, enthusiastic about civil liberties.

They are staunch supporters of the coalition with the Lib Dems whose company they find congenial. So for them to be advocating Euroscepticism in its purest form - withdrawal of our EU membership altogether - shows how such views have become very much the mainstream of the Conservative Party - especially among the younger MPs.

This will make it harder for the BBC and the Eurocrats to dismiss those who come to such a conclusion as 'Europhobes' or 'Little Englanders.'

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

Comment: Members of God's Church have always known that the Britain would not remain in the European Union as the time of the end drew close. With these latest demands from Britain's Conserva-

tive party, that time of withdrawal may be nearer than we think, along with the ensuing disaster that the Beast power will bring upon the whole of mankind.

A previous British Prime Minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher once described the plans for Europe as "airy-fairy and absurd." She claimed that Europe has only been single under tyranny...not under liberty. Speaking in 1988 at a college in Belgium, Mrs Thatcher praised the sacrifices made by British soldiers during the First World War, thousands of who lay buried nearby in the fields of Flanders. "Had it not been for that willingness to fight and die" she said, "Europe would have been united long before now—but not in liberty and justice."

Mrs Thatcher instinctively sensed the dangers of a United Europe as these latest Conservative party members do. But God has a message for those who wish to rule the world on their terms. The message is the one given to King Nebuchadnezzar, a great king whose heart was lifted up with his pride, and who God humbled mightily. God is mindful of political changes in world affairs and permits certain events to take place in accordance with His overall Plan. In these unusual and uncertain times we can be very thankful that God is in complete charge. King Nebuchadnezzar was brought down by God and made like a wild beast, "till he knew that the most high God ruled in the kingdom of men, and that he appointed over it whomsoever he will." Dan 5:21

The EU is a ticking time bomb but the overall outcome will be just as Almighty God planned it!

Deadly drought puts 10 million Africans on verge of famine

Ten million people in the Horn of Africa have been hit by the worst drought in 60 years, with some areas on the verge of famine and thousands on the march in search of food and water, the UN said Tuesday.

A poor rainy season coupled with rising food prices have led to severe food shortages in countries, including Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and Uganda.

Cattle and sheep are dying at higher rates than usual, reaching up to 60 per cent of mortality in some areas.

"Over 10 million people are affected by the drought in one way or other," said Elisabeth Byrs, spokeswoman for the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. "We believe that the drought situation in certain regions is the worst in 60 years." (emphasis ours)

Recent trends indicate that the situation is worsening, with the UN refugees agency recording over 20,000 Somalis arriving over two weeks at Kenya's overcrowded Dadaab camp, many arriving exhausted and suffering from malnutrition.

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

Comment: Many would argue that the Third Seal of the book of Revelation, the Black Horse representing famine has not yet been sent to the earth, that famines have always been with us, and that conditions in the world are not getting any worse. However, three years ago a similar report of a famine in the Horn of Africa was in the news, but this drought and famine is going to be much worse. These conditions are familiar with the African continent, and it hits hardest the people who don't have much to live on anyway. The rich can ride food shortages with the minimum of hardship.

Jesus Christ when on this earth as a human being made an interesting comment when he said, "For ye have the poor with you always, and whensoever ye will ye may do them good: But me ye have not always." Mark 14:7

Christ was pointing out that society will always have the poor and needy, and those that can, should help them where necessary: but then he said you won't always have me. He was referring to the time he would be crucified as a human being, but there was also a broader meaning to what he said. Christ left behind His Church, and God's Word went forth, but a time would come when even that would be curtailed.

"Behold the days come, saith the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD:

And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, and shall not find it." Amos 8:11-12

Not to diminish the plight of those who suffer hunger and famine, but for those who would seek sal-

vation a worse time is on the horizon. Thankfully this time of human rule will soon be over, and then we will no longer have famines either of food or God's Word as God's Kingdom is established over the whole earth. Africa and the world can look forward to that day.

NBC Apologizes for Omitting 'Under God' From Pledge During U.S. Open Broadcast

BETHESDA, Md. -- NBC issued an on-air apology Sunday for omitting the words "under God" from the Pledge of Allegiance during its coverage of golf's U.S. Open.

The words were edited out of a clip of children reciting the oath -- a move immediately noted by viewers, who took to Twitter and various blogs to voice their anger, the Huffington Post reported.

In a statement during the broadcast, NBC commentator Dan Hicks said, "We began our coverage of this final round just about three hours ago and when we did it was our intent to begin the coverage of this U.S. Open Championship with a feature that captured the patriotism of our national championship being held in our nation's capital for the third time.

"Regrettably, a portion of the Pledge of Alle-

giance that was in that feature was edited out. It was not done to upset anyone and we'd like to apologize to those of you who were offended by it.

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

Comment: This seems very much like what we call a "Freudian slip" Sigmund Freud was an Austrian psychiatrist who developed the theory of psychoanalysis after a long experience of working with hysterical and neurological disturbed patients. A "Freudian slip" is a slip of the tongue or pen, or some other unintentional act that seems to reveal an individual's real state of mind or character.

Although NBC apologised for editing out this very important part of the pledge, one wonders, knowing the way human beings want to push God out of the picture, if that is indeed what their original intention was meant to be.

"And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient." Rom 1:28

Retaining God in our human knowledge is one of the most important things we can do. Unfortunately today, mankind thinks it can get along quite well without God. A big mistake and a hard lesson soon to be learned.

The Midnight Cry Has Begun

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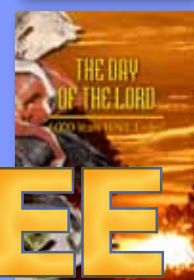
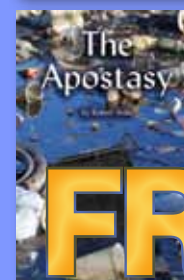
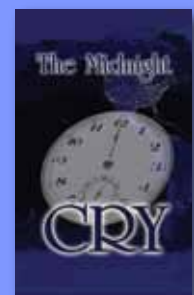
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