



The Midnight Cry

Nov/Dec 2013, Volume 5, Number 5

A Magazine of Urgent Understanding

**What Is
The
Beginning
of Months?**



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From the Editor ...



Time continues to hurtle by at such a rapid pace that it is sometimes difficult to keep up with all that is happening. We see major problems, not only on the international stage with Israel, Syria, Egypt, Iran, and North Korea, but here at home, too. Today, as I write, the government of the United States has just ended its shut-down brought on by the stubbornness of both the Republican and Democrat parties. The result is a complete failure to come to a sensible solution for reducing the nation's monumental debt

problems. President Obama presented an unyielding and defiant attitude of no negotiation with the Republicans, especially on the subject of "Obamacare." Now, at the last moment, the debt ceiling has been temporarily raised to avert a default on the loans! Billionaire Warren Buffet has warned that, if the US defaults on its loans, the effects on worldwide financial markets will be as great as the end results of a nuclear war. Another highly regarded CEO in the financial field declared that the US defaulting on its financial obligations would lead the world into *Armageddon!* So, instead of a solution to our national monetary problems, our political leaders have agreed on a postponement until January 15, 2014.

What will happen in the next few days, weeks, and months? These occurrences along with so many other "signs of the times" make some people who are watching world events wonder how long things can continue. Troubles are multiplying, and yet, even as we "look through the glass darkly" (1 Cor. 13:12), we can see that prophecy has it all recorded in advance!

Time flies by! But, when we look at all that has happened in recent years, it is amazing to realize that only 80 years have passed since Jesus Christ raised up Herbert W. Armstrong to restore the Gospel of the Kingdom of God.

In the late 1920's and early 30's, the entire world was in spiritual darkness. A false "Christianity" had replaced the true gospel, and Satan the devil had deceived the whole world (Rev. 12:9). Jesus Christ proclaimed that *the gates of hell would not prevail* against His one true Church, but Satan was trying to erase God's truth from the face of the earth. Then Christ opened the spiritual eyes of Herbert W. Armstrong and brought him into awareness of the spiritual darkness that was covering the earth.

God's Spirit led Mr. Armstrong into studies of the Holy Bible where, to his amazement, he found that the Bible in so many instances teaches the diametric opposite of what the so-called Christian churches teach as church doctrine. II Peter 3:18 states:



But grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and for ever. Amen.

Jesus Christ is the living Word of God and the Holy Bible is the written Word of God!

Mr. Armstrong yielded to God's Spirit and began to grow in the knowledge of Jesus Christ. "The knowledge of Jesus Christ" is the comprehension of the Word of God; thus, Herbert Armstrong grew in the understanding of the Holy Bible! He and his wife began observing the seventh day Sabbath, and new truth after new truth was revealed to him.

From Mr. Armstrong's autobiography we see that he and his wife in the early 1940's were also keeping the annual holy days of God! (See photo section, pages 118-119, Volume II, *Autobiography of Herbert W. Armstrong*, hardback edition.) They did this faithfully for a number of years, even though they did not understand the significance of these special days. Because of this unquestioning obedience, God eventually revealed much of their meaning to Mr. Armstrong.

The faithful observance of biblical truth set the Radio/Worldwide Church of God completely apart from the so-called Christian churches of the world.

The Bible tells us that the Sabbath is a "sign" between God and His people! Ex. 31:13 states:

“Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, verily my Sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the LORD that doth sanctify you.

Mr. Armstrong was aware that the weekly Sabbath was holy time and was a sign to be kept by God's faithful as *a perpetual covenant throughout*

their generations. Verse 16 declares:

“Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations, for a perpetual covenant.

Jesus Christ was the Lamb of God and our Passover. He was the sacrifice that removes the sins of the world; thus, there is no longer any need for animal sacrifices. Hebrews 9 and 10 make this very plain. However, Galatians 6:16 tells us that the New Testament Church is the Israel of God today, and is, therefore, still subject to the laws, commandments, and ordinances listed in the Old Testament that do not involve animal sacrifices.

Herbert Armstrong carefully studied God's Word, and when he read verses stating emphatically that the commandments in those verses were to be kept forever, he wanted to be obedient and observe that commandment or ordinance. There are several scriptures that we can read, but let's look at II Chronicles 2:4, where King Solomon was preparing to build the Temple of God:

“Behold, I build an house to the name of the LORD my God, to dedicate it to him, and to burn before him sweet incense, and for the continual shewbread, and for the burnt offerings morning and evening, on the sabbaths, and on the new moons, and on the solemn feasts of the LORD our God. This is an ordinance for ever to Israel.

Through diligent, Spirit-led Bible study, Mr. Armstrong understood that the animal sacrifices and burnt offerings of the Law of Moses were symbolic of Christ's sacrifice as the Lamb of God. Today, the animal sacrifices and burnt offerings are

represented spiritually by God's people, who give themselves as "living sacrifices" (Rom. 12:1-2) to God. Mr. Armstrong understood that the sweet incense that was burned on the altar (Rev. 8:3-4 symbolized the prayers of the saints. God's end-time Elijah understood that, instead of the *physical* performance of these rituals, the *spiritual* application of them is in effect today!

But what about the days on which these ordinances were to be kept?

Mr. Armstrong recognized that the Sabbath, the new moons, and the solemn feasts were listed together and were to be observed as "an ordinance for ever to Israel"! Therefore, in the late 1930's or early 40's, the Radio/Worldwide Church of God not only continued to keep the holy weekly Sabbath, but it also began to observe the annual holy days. The observance of the annual holy days became a part of Church doctrine!

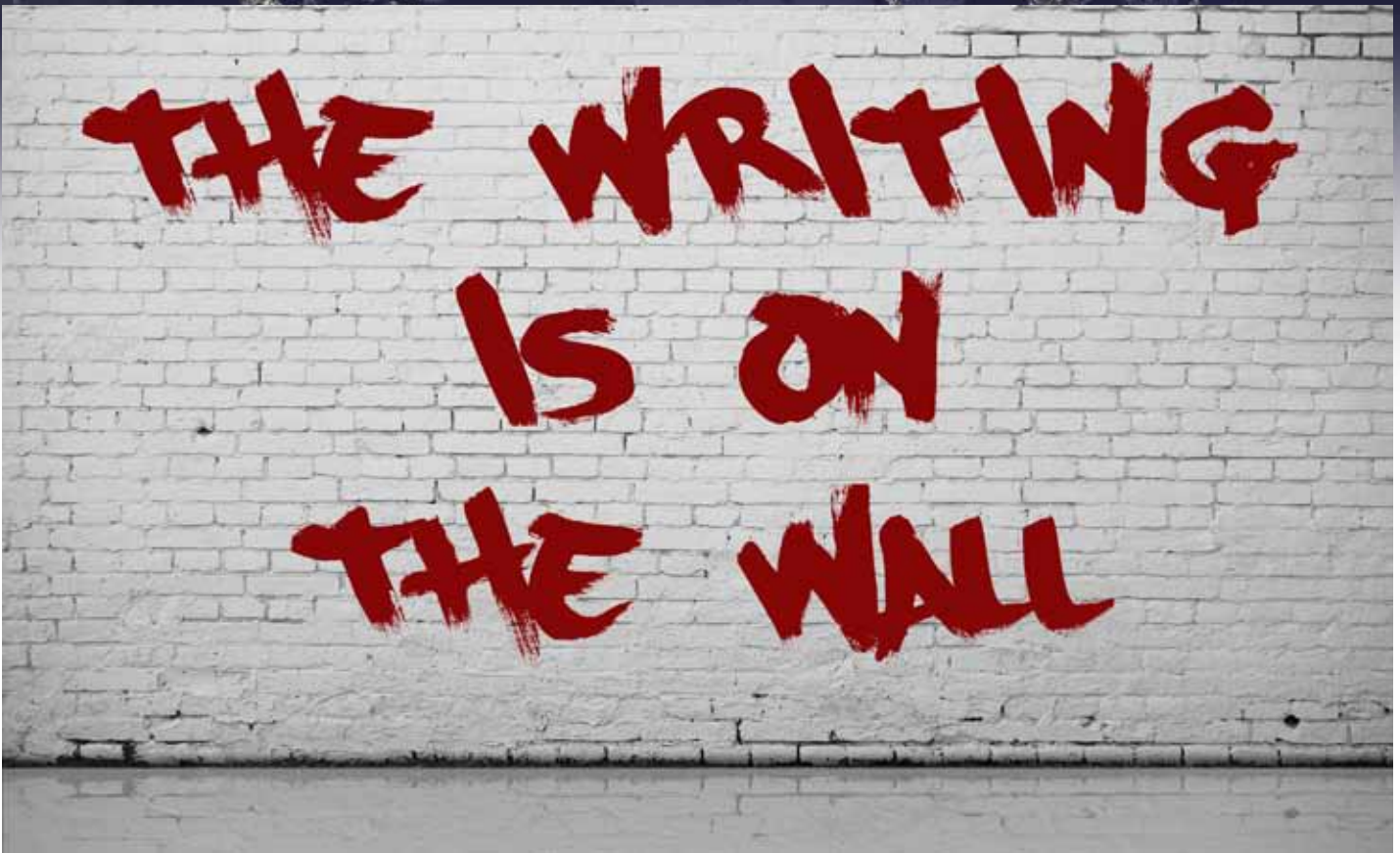
But, the new moons were NOT kept! WHY?

The Sabbath, the new moons, and the holy days were to be observed forever! Why, then, was it decided that the Sabbath and the holy days would be kept by the true Church—but the new moons would NOT be observed?

The surprising answer to this question will be answered in a new series of articles beginning this month in the *Midnight Cry*, titled "The Beginning of Months." So, get your Bible, read the first article, and prepare to be shocked by more new truth that has been tucked away in the pages of your Bible!

Your brother in Christ,





by Reuben Lister

Just before 8 o'clock on the morning of December 7, 1941 a Japanese commander radioed to his pilots these three words - "Tora! Tora! Tora!" These words are now etched into history as the words that signalled the successful Japanese surprise attack on the American naval base in Hawaii. That day saw 360 Japanese war planes attack Pearl Harbor without warning, completely surprising the Americans. Within minutes of those three infamous words being uttered, bombs and torpedos would wreak havoc on the ships at anchor in Pearl Harbor. President Roosevelt called it, "A date which will live in infamy."

To all intents and purposes, the Japanese achieved at least one of their objectives - total surprise; but, as providence would have it, there were no aircraft carriers in the harbour and damage to the na-

val dock-yard base was relatively minor.

Another amazing point that would be remiss not to mention was that, of the ninety ships in the harbour when the attack took place, American technology and skill was able to raise and repair all but three of the damaged or sunken ships - the Arizona and the Utah were destroyed immediately but the Oklahoma was later raised and then lost again. That was a remarkable achievement. [Information from "The U.S.A. Department of Defence 50th anniversary of WW2"]

These "coincidences" - the failure to do any major damage to the dock facility, the absence of aircraft carriers at Pearl Harbor, and the amazing ability of the United States engineers to rebuild all but three of the damaged ships - were they really coincidences, or something bigger?

This surprise attack forced the U.S.A. into the war that Britain, France and Poland had been involved in since the first of September 1939, when Hitler invaded Poland. Thus, with the industrial and military might of the USA that became available to them, it was then possible for the Allies to achieve victory.

The Miracle of Dunkirk

In May 1940, during the Battle of France, the British army was encircled by the Germans and were forced to retreat to an area around the port of Dunkirk. Then, amazingly, the German army halted in their attack and the ensuing lull in the action allowed the British a few days to organize an evacuation. Prime Minister Winston Churchill then gave orders that any boat or ship, regardless of size, was to assist in the rescue of the 338, 226

encircled British soldiers, as well as the 123,000 French. It took over 900 vessels to successfully evacuate the troops, and this was described by Churchill as “the miracle of Dunkirk.”

The Enigma Machine

At the end of World War One a German engineer, Arthur Scherbius, invented the Enigma machine - a machine designed for sending coded messages to the German commanders. The Germans believed the code was impossible to decipher, but in July 1932 three Polish mathematicians - Marian Rejewski, Jerzy Rozycki and Henryk Zygalski - broke the Enigma Codes.

In July 1939, just before the Second World War broke out, the Poles passed the secrets of the Enigma machines on to British and French intelligence officers and handed over Polish-made replicas of the machine to the British. The British Intelligence at Bletchley Park, the national codes centre at Milton Keynes, England, then went on to develop their own deciphering machine, though the principle developed by the Poles still applied. Winston Churchill, commenting to King George VI after the war, certainly attributed the winning of the war to the breaking of the Enigma Code.

There are many other “coincidences,” too numerous to mention here, that changed the outcome of the war into victory for the Allies, but the tide has turned and now it seems we can’t even win an argument (a war of words) with our enemies.

The Tide Turns

On January 23, 1968 Commander Lloyd Bucher was in charge of the

“USS Pueblo”, a 176 foot long technical research ship, and former cargo ship, owned by the United States Navy. It was operating off the coast of North Korea when it was captured, with 82 sailors on board. This was at the height of the Vietnam conflict.

The 82 sailors were eventually released on December 23, 1968, 11 months after their capture. No attempt had been made to rescue these hostages, nor did the United States military make any attempt to reclaim the ship, which is still held by the North Koreans today. At the time the “Pueblo” was captured, it was equipped with sophisticated tracking and listening devices, and therefore gave up its secrets to the North Koreans.

On April 1, 2001 a U.S. navy surveillance aircraft was forced to land on Chinese territory after colliding with a Chinese jet fighter. This surveillance plane was equipped with the latest version of the N.A.T.O. link communication system, the Link-11 system, which passes information between ground stations and airborne early warning aircraft. Again, vital information had fallen into the hands of a foreign power.

On September 12, 2011 North Korea forced an unmanned U.S. spy plane to make an emergency landing by using powerful G.P.S. jamming techniques.

It Just Gets Worse

On December 4, 2011 Iran landed one of the greatest victories against the U.S.A. so far, when Iranian scientists successfully took control of the hi-tech R.Q.-170 sentinel unmanned drone, by spoofing its G.P.S. co-ordinates and thereby tricking the plane into landing in Iran instead of where it was pro-

grammed to land.

The R.Q.170 drone is one of the most hi-tech stealth weapons in the U.S. arsenal, capable of flying up to 50,000 feet high. It was designed to perform intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance and target accusation missions, as well as provide real time information, including imagery or video to the ground stations.

This very high-tech drone is now in the hands of Iran; enemy hands can now glean all the information from this prize, that landed safely into the waiting arms of Iran. This drone came gift-wrapped, if you will, with its military secrets intact from the United States of America.

A Tale to Tell

The well-executed raid into Abbottabad, Pakistan, on May 2, 2012, to capture the elusive Osama Bin Laden, the West’s most wanted man, was carried out by the United States elite team of well-trained soldiers, called the navy seals.

Their mission was carried out successfully, even though one helicopter crash-landed into the compound. Before being evacuated back to base, they were able to destroy all but the tail section of the crashed helicopter. This tail section had broken off just outside the compound during the crash. The mission was considered a great success – they had reached their objective, no Seal was killed, and they had their man.

With the loss of only one helicopter and with none of their own men lost in a mission as complex and dangerous as this raid was, it would seem that the loss of the helicopter was just unfortunate. However, this was no ordinary helicopter - it was spe-

cial. Not many people even knew of its existence; this was stealth-engineered, to quietly go about its duty leaving as little a blip on the radar screen as possible.

The U.S. has demanded that Pakistan return the highly secretive tail section, but this is highly unlikely, considering the circumstances of how it came into Pakistani hands. The tail, if you will, will tell the tale, and reveal even more of the latest technology from the West as it continues to fall into enemy hands.

Another Slap In The Face

The war in Vietnam ended on August 15, 1975 at the cost of 58,220 United States service personnel - a terrible cost in human life, which then ended in defeat. The financial burden to the U.S. taxpayer was in the region of \$584 million dollars.

The cost of the war in Iraq continues to bleed the coffers of the United States beyond redemption. Some of the financial facts are these -

1. The initial deployment of troops to Iraq cost nine to thirteen billion dollars.
2. Conducting the war - six to nine billion dollars per month,
3. Returning the troops to the U.S. - five to seven million dollars,
4. Temporary occupation of Iraq - one to four billion dollars per month.

To lose the war in Vietnam was a major slap in the face and an embarrassment to the U.S.A. The mighty United States of America, with all its military power, could have wiped Vietnam off the planet, but it didn't - why?

Why haven't we won in Iraq? A defeat in Vietnam was bad enough, but a second defeat, now happening before our very eyes in Iraq, makes you wonder what is going on! Why can't the U.S.A. win wars any more, even though it still has the power?

O How The Mighty Have Fallen

Oh, how the mighty have fallen! The British Empire at its peak extended to every corner of the globe - the sun never set on her colonies. Her possessions and wealth were almost impossible to measure. Those were the days when "Britannia ruled the waves" - the size and possessions of the British Empire have never been equalled.

Britain's brother across the waves, the United States of America, was the greatest and most powerful single nation on the earth at its zenith. At its peak of military power, it apparently took the combined power of the ten most powerful nations to match that of the U.S.A.

The Writing On The Wall

The writing was on the wall at King Belshazzar's feast that we read about in Daniel 5:5 & 25:

“In the same hour the fingers of a man's hand appeared and wrote opposite the lampstand on the plaster of the wall of the king's palace; and the king saw the part of the hand that wrote. ...And this is the inscription that was written: MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN.”

This is the interpretation of each word – verse 26 “Mene”: God has numbered your kingdom, and finished it; verse 27 “Tekel”: You

have been weighed in the balances, and found wanting; verse 28 “Peres”: Your kingdom has been divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.

Verse 30. “That very night Belshazzar, king of the Chaldeans, was slain.”

The outcome of these prophecies in Daniel came to pass exactly as revealed, and the prophecies about the English speaking nations, found in Genesis, Deuteronomy, Leviticus, Joel, Ezekiel and numerous other sections of the Bible, are just as certain as the hand writing on the wall at Belshazzar's banquet.

The Writing IS On The Wall For Britain And The U.S.A.

God said that if we obeyed Him He would bless us beyond measure - See Leviticus 26:38:

“If you walk in My statutes and keep My commandments and perform them, Then I will give you rain in due season, the land shall yield its produce, and the trees shall yield her fruit. I will give you peace in the land, and you shall lie down, and none will make you afraid; I will rid the land of evil beasts, and the sword will not go through your land. You will chase your enemies, and they shall fall by the sword before you, Five of you shall chase a hundred, and a hundred shall put ten thousands to flight; your enemies shall fall by the sword before you.

We have received all these blessings, and now we have turned our back on God - that is one huge, fatal mistake.

Another Pearl Harbor?

Is it possible that another “Pearl Harbor”, a surprise attack, will happen to the U.S.A, Great Britain or the nation called Israel? Could that happen? Would history indeed repeat itself? See Ezekiel 7:14:

“They have blown the trumpet and made everyone ready, But no one goes to battle.

Why does Ezekiel say that no one goes to battle? Could it be pointing to a future Pearl Harbor-type surprise attack, or might our enemies break our “Enigma Codes” - compromising our military’s secret computer communications satellite systems, our surveillance abilities and therefore control our response and confuse our weapons? Our enemies surely have their computer hackers working full-time on that plan. Is that the reason no one goes to battle?

Look At Our Wall Now

In everyday life, God’s name is taken in vain and He is even mocked. In a recent documentary on the war in Iraq, there was a group of American servicemen with heads bowed down, seemingly in prayer, but actually mocking God by pretending to ask Him to protect them in battle. This prayer was done as a joke by these soldiers, as they were about to go on patrol; they were laughing about it - they thought it was funny. God does not see the funny side, but will laugh at their derision when it comes. Psalm 2:4.

“He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; The Lord shall hold them in derision.

Look at our wall now, because we

don’t follow in God’s ways:

“But if you do not obey Me, and do not observe all these commandments. [I will do this to you:] I will even appoint terror over you, wasting disease and fever which shall consume the eyes and cause sorrow of heart, and you shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it. I will set my face against you, and you shall be *defeated by your enemies*. Those that hate you shall reign over you, and you shall flee when no one pursues you. (Lev 26:14, 16)

Notice in verses 17 & 19!

“I will set My face against you, And you shall be *defeated by your enemies*. Those that hate you shall reign over you, and you shall flee when no one pursues you. ... ‘I will break the pride of your power.’

We also see in Deuteronomy 28:25

“The lord will cause you to be *defeated before your enemies*; you shall go out one way against them and flee seven ways before them; and you shall become troublesome to all the kingdoms of the earth.

Coming Slavery

How much worse can things get for the English speaking peoples!? A nightmare of the worst kind - national slavery! Deuteronomy 28: 64-68:

“Then the Lord will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other, and there you shall serve other gods, which neither you nor

your fathers have known-- wood and stone. And among those nations you shall find no rest, nor shall the soul of your foot have a resting place; but there the Lord will give you a trembling heart, failing eyes, and anguish of soul. Your life shall hang in doubt before you; you shall fear day and night, and have no assurance of life. In the morning you shall say, ‘Oh, that it were evening!’ And at evening you shall say ‘Oh, that it were morning!’ because of the fear that terrifies your heart, and because of the sight which your eyes see. And the Lord will take you back to Egypt in ships, by the way of which I said to you, ‘you shall never see it again, and there you shall be offered for sale to your enemies as *male and female slaves*, but no one will buy you.’

These scriptures are written on our nations’ walls, and we have been weighed in the balance and found wanting. Sadly to say these prophecies are about to become a reality and it’s hard to believe, or indeed accept, that Great Britain, America and the nation we call Israel, will all be reduced to insignificance. All will go down together, ending in slavery and utter despair.

“The pride of Israel testifies to his face; Therefore *Israel* and *Ephraim* stumble in their iniquity; *Judah* also stumbles with them.” (Hos 5:5)

Set Free From Slavery The Second Exodus

After all this unimaginable terror that we have just read about, with our nations ending up in slavery in foreign lands, there is good news. God will set our people *free from*

slavery, free forever, never to be enslaved again.

“ It shall come to pass in that day that the Lord shall set His hand the *second time* to recover the remnant of His people who are left, From Assyria and Egypt, From Path’ros and Cush, From E’lam and Shi’nar, From Ha’math and the islands of the sea. (Isa 11:11)

“ For it shall come to pass in that day, Says the Lord of hosts, That I will break his yoke from your neck, And will burst your bonds; and foreigners shall no more enslave them. (v. 10)

“ Therefore do not fear, O My servant Jacob, says the Lord, Nor be dismayed O Israel; For behold I will save you from afar, And *your seed from the land of their captivity*, Jacob shall return,

have rest and be quiet, And no one shall make him afraid.” (Jer 30:8)

An in-depth explanation of exactly where Britain and the U.S.A. are revealed and identified in Bible prophecy can be found in the book The United States and Britain in Prophecy, which can be found in the Herbert W. Armstrong Searchable Library at herbert-armstrong.org under the heading of “Books and Booklets.” ❖

There are Approximately 111 Days Between the Resurrection of the 144,000 Firstfruits and The Return of Christ and His Wife at the Feast of Trumpets.

Where Will You Be?





The Beginnings of Months

By Robert Ardis

The Holy Bible is truth, as declared by Jesus Christ in John 17:17: “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.” The Word of God has been preserved for us down through the ages. However, a Christian must realize that we have a powerful enemy attempting to deceive and confuse those whom the Mighty God has called into His Church. Satan the devil is the god of this world (II Cor. 4:4), and the Bible pronounces that the entire world has been deceived by Satan (Rev. 12:9).

In this article we will see that small wording changes made by biblical scribes for the supposed purpose of clarification have actually caused deception. They have clouded God’s true intent and interfered with the Law of God. When an un-authorized change in God’s Law is

followed, the obedient and sincere follower is deceived into committing SIN!

This article is divided into four parts that I hope you can easily understand! I believe Jesus Christ has reserved for this late hour, the TRUTH contained here for us to grasp as His true Church that is *set apart by TRUTH*.

Part I: Changes

The Hebrew word for MONTH is *chodesh*. It is *Strong’s* #2320 and is used 246 times in 183 verses of the Old Testament!

“ 2320. cho^hdash; from 2318; the new moon; by impl. a *month*:--month (-ly), new moon.

As we proceed, it will become apparent that the meaning of this word *chodesh* has been altered,

opening the door to deception! Keep in mind the number—2320—and its meaning as defined by *Strong’s*!

The Hebrew word for the plural, MONTHS, is the same: *chodesh*, #2320! It is used as the plural of MONTH 43 times in 41 verses of the Old Testament, as shown in these examples:

“ This month^{H2320} shall be unto you the beginning of months^{H2320}: it shall be the first month^{H2320} of the year to you (Ex. 12:2).

“ And their drink offerings shall be half an hin of wine unto a bullock, and the third part of an hin unto a ram, and a fourth part of an hin unto a lamb: this is the burnt offering of every month^{H2320} throughout the months^{H2320} of the year^{H8141} (Num. 28:14).

In Moses’ writings he always uses the expression “*beginnings of your months*.” Never does he write *new moon* or *new moons*!

The Hebrew word for NEW is *chadash*, #2319, used 89 times in 84 verses.

The Hebrew word for MOON is *ya-reach*, #3394, used 41 times in 41 verses.

The expressions *new moon* and *new moons* incorrectly replace “beginnings of your months” in the Old Testament 20 times. In every instance the Hebrew word is *chodesh*, #2320.

The first verse using the singular expression *new moon* is I Samuel 20:5:

“ And David said unto Jonathan, Behold, to morrow is the new

moon^{H2320}, and I should not fail to sit with the king at meat: but let me go, that I may hide myself in the field unto the third day at even.

In this verse, the Hebrew word *chodesh*, #2320, is translated “new moon,” but it is apparent that the meaning has no connection to *new* or *moon*. This erroneous expression was written in place of “beginnings of your months” many years after Moses.

The plural expression *new moons* is first used in I Chronicles 23:31:

“And to offer all burnt sacrifices unto the LORD in the sabbaths^{H7676}, in the new moons^{H2320}, and on the set feasts^{H4150}, by number, according to the order commanded unto them, continually before the LORD.

Therefore, in this study, the first thing seen is an effort to distort the meaning of the *beginnings of your months*, by substituting *new moon* or *new moons*--thereby tampering with the RULES of God's calendar! This is very serious!

The *beginnings of your months* do not necessarily begin exactly on the new moon, but they are set according to the rules of postponement, as revealed by God from the very beginning!

Part II: Obedience to ALL of God's Laws

Now, the second part of this study brings up a command by God that we have NEVER observed:

“Also in the day of your gladness, and in your solemn days, and in the beginnings of your months^{H2320},

ye shall blow with the trumpets over your burnt offerings, and over the sacrifices of your peace offerings; that they may be to you for a memorial before your God: I am the LORD your God. And in the beginnings^{H7218} of your months^{H2320} ye shall offer a burnt offering unto the LORD; two young bullocks, and one ram, seven lambs of the first year without spot (Num 10:10-11).

WHY have we NOT observed this plainly stated LAW?

Notice as we leave Moses' writings that “new moons” are substituted for “beginnings of months”:

“And to offer all burnt sacrifices unto the LORD in the sabbaths^{H7676}, in the new moons^{H2320}, and on the set feasts^{H4150}, by number, according to the order commanded unto them, continually before the LORD” (1Ch. 23:31).

“Behold, I build an house to the name of the LORD my God, to dedicate it to him, and to burn before him sweet incense, and for the continual shewbread, and for the burnt offerings morning and evening, on the sabbaths^{H7676}, and on the new moons^{H2320}, and on the solemn feasts^{H4150} of the LORD our God. This is an ordinance for ever to Israel (2Ch. 2:4).

“Even after a certain rate every day, offering according to the commandment of Moses, on the sabbaths^{H7676}, and on the new moons^{H2320} [Moses never mentioned *new moons*], and on the solemn feasts^{H4150}, three times in the year, even in the feast of unleavened bread, and in the

feast of weeks, and in the feast of tabernacles (2Ch. 8:13).

“He appointed also the king's portion of his substance for the burnt offerings, to wit, for the morning and evening burnt offerings, and the burnt offerings for the sabbaths^{H7676}, and for the new moons^{H2320}, and for the set feasts^{H4150}, as it is written in the law of the LORD (2Ch. 31:3).

Understand! *New moons* are NOT written in the law of the Lord—the *beginnings of months* is what is written!

This law of God is written by Moses, very plainly, beginning in Numbers 28:9:

“And on the sabbath^{H7676} day two lambs of the first year without spot, and two tenth deals of flour for a meat offering, mingled with oil, and the drink offering thereof: This is the burnt offering of every sabbath^{H7676}, beside the continual burnt offering, and his drink offering. And in the beginnings of your months^{H2320} ye shall offer a burnt offering unto the LORD; two young bullocks, and one ram, seven lambs of the first year without spot...And in the fifteenth day^{H3117} of this month^{H2320} is the feast: seven days shall unleavened bread be eaten. In the first day shall be an holy convocation; ye shall do no manner of servile work therein: But ye shall offer a sacrifice made by fire for a burnt offering unto the LORD; two young bullocks, and one ram, and seven lambs of the first year: they shall be unto you without blemish (Num. 28:9-11,17-19).

Notice that the instructions re-

garding the burnt offerings for the Sabbath, the holy days, and the beginnings of your months are the same. The main difference is that the Sabbath and the holy days are commanded CONVOCATIONS and NO SERVILE WORK is to be done, while no such commands are given for the beginnings of months!

So, WHAT IS to be done on the beginnings of months? We will get to this a little later.

Coming into Ezra's time, the Sabbath, the holy days and the beginnings of months were all listed as part of one great command—and they were kept!

“And afterward offered the continual burnt offering, both of the new moons^{H2320}, and of all the set feasts^{H4150} of the LORD that were consecrated, and of every one that willingly offered a freewill offering unto the LORD (Ezr. 3:5).

Also in Nehemiah's day they were observed:

“For the shewbread, and for the continual meat offering, and for the continual burnt offering, of the sabbaths^{H7676}, of the new moons^{H2320}, for the set feasts^{H4150}, and for the holy things, and for the sin offerings to make an atonement for Israel, and for all the work of the house of our God (Neh. 10:33).

Later still, in the book of Hosea it is revealed that Israel foolishly adopted the demonic practices of the heathen nations, which involved the observance of false sabbaths, set feasts, and “new moons,” which greatly angered God...

“I will also cause all her mirth to cease, her feast days, her new moons^{H2320}, and her sabbaths^{H7676}, and all^{H3605} her solemn feasts^{H4150} (Hos. 2:11).

Vital scriptures show the importance of the beginnings of months. For example, in the book of Ezekiel it is revealed that the beginnings of months will definitely be observed in the Kingdom of God, although the counterfeit replacement of “new moons” is used in describing that time:

“And it shall be the prince's part to give burnt offerings, and meat offerings, and drink offerings, in the feasts, and in the new moons^{H2320}, and in the sabbaths^{H7676}, in all solemnities^{H4150} of the house of Israel: he shall prepare the sin offering, and the meat offering, and the burnt offering, and the peace offerings, to make reconciliation for⁷ the house of Israel (Ez. 45:17).

“Likewise the people of the land shall worship at the door of this gate before the LORD in the sabbaths^{H7676} and in the new moons^{H2320} (Ez. 46:3).

This describes activities in the World Tomorrow!

“And in the day of the new moon^{H2320} it shall be a young bull-ock without blemish, and six lambs, and a ram: they shall be without blemish (Ez. 46:6).

Part III: The New Testament Church

Colossians 2:16 is the only place in the New Testament where the beginnings of months is mentioned!

Actually, the counterfeit phrase “new moon” is used instead of “beginnings of months.” *New moon* is used in this verse in every version of the New Testament that I have access to, although it is a terrible error as will be shown.

“Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday^{G1859}, or of the new moon^{G3561}, or of the sabbath^{G4521} days (Col. 2:16).

Notice that *new moon* is Strong's #3561.

The Greek word for *new* is *agnaphos*, Strong's #46, used 61 times in 46 verses, and the Greek word for *moon* is *selene*, #4582, used 10 times in 10 verses.

However, neither word is used in Colossians 2:16. This Greek word, #3561, is used nowhere else in the New Testament. From the combination of the words, it appears that #3561 was manufactured to continue the *new moons* TRADITION as done in the Old Testament when referring to the beginnings of months!

Colossians 2:16 presents *new moon* as #G3561, *noume nia*. Strong's defines *noumenia* as:

“Feminine of a compound of G3501 and G3376 (as noun by implication of G2250); the festival of new moon: - new moon.

In my opinion, this definition cannot be accurate because the Bible does not teach a “festival of new moon.” #3561 is an invented word to promote the observance of the *new moons*, instead of the *beginnings of months* as God intended through the rules of the calendar!

Here defined are the two words

(#G3501 and #G3376) that are compounded to form G3561.

“ 3501, *neos neo teros*: A primary word, including the comparative (second form); “new”, that is, (of persons) youthful, or (of things) fresh; figuratively regenerate: - new, young.

“ 3376 *mane*: A primary word; a month: - month.

This one verse, Colossians 2:16, is proof that the beginnings of months were being faithfully kept by the Colossian Christians, just as were the eating of clean foods, using balance in consuming alcoholic beverages, and observance of the Sabbath and the holy days. The Colossians were obedient in following the Law of God. They observed the beginnings of months and all of the points Paul was addressing! The apostle Paul wrote the letter to the Colossians from Rome. In the letter he mentioned the Church in Laodicea that would possibly receive a copy of this letter (Col. 2:1). It appears that the beginnings of months were diligently observed in all of the New Testament Church congregations. Otherwise, the issue would have been addressed by Paul or one of the other apostles.

Mr. Herbert Armstrong and the ministry of the WCG did not understand Colossians 2:16. They taught adherence to “eating and drinking,” the holy days and the Sabbath, but they did not observe the beginnings of months. Nonetheless, it is plain to see that if you accept part of the verse, you must accept ALL of the verse!

God has reserved the understanding and acceptance of the truth regarding the beginnings of months

for the CGF! There are a few other churches that have been keeping the beginnings of months for months and maybe years—but they do not understand the meaning of these days.

Part IV: Did Jesus Keep the Beginnings of Months During His Ministry?

Did our Lord and Savior keep the beginnings of months during His earthly ministry? There is no description of Him doing so in the New Testament, yet He must have! **If Jesus had not faithfully kept the command to observe the beginnings of months—He would have broken God’s Law and would be guilty of SIN!** But we know from the Word of God that our Lord did NOT sin—ever!

Look again at the COMMAND to observe these days:

“ Also in the day of your gladness, and in your solemn days, and in the beginnings of your months^{H2320}, ye shall blow with the trumpets over your burnt offerings, and over the sacrifices of your peace offerings; that they may be to you for a memorial before your God: **I am the LORD your God** (Num. 10:10).

“ And to offer all burnt sacrifices unto the LORD in the sabbaths^{H7676}, in the new moons^{H2320}, and on the set feasts^{H4150}, by number, according to the order commanded unto them, continually before the LORD (1Ch. 23:31).

“ Behold, I build an house to the name of the LORD my God, to

dedicate it to him, and to burn before him sweet incense, and for the continual shewbread, and for the burnt offerings morning and evening, on the sabbaths^{H7676}, and on the new moons^{H2320}, and on the solemn feasts^{H4150} of the LORD our God. This is an ordinance for ever to Israel (2Ch. 2:4).

“ Sing aloud unto God our strength: make a joyful noise unto the God of Jacob. Take a psalm, and bring hither the timbrel, the pleasant harp with the psaltery. Blow up the trumpet in the new moon^{H2320}, in the time appointed, on our solemn feast day. For this was a statute for Israel, and a law of the God of Jacob (Ps.81:1-4).

Read these verses also in *The Good News Bible*:

“ Sing joyfully to God, our strength. Shout happily to the God of Jacob. Begin a psalm, and strike a tambourine. Play lyres and harps with their pleasant music. Blow the ram’s horn on the day of the new moon^{H2320}, on the day of the full moon, on our festival days. This is a law for Israel, a legal decision from the God of Jacob (Ps.81:1-4).

The observance of the Sabbath, the holy days and the beginnings of months are each commanded to be kept FOREVER. Therefore, Jesus Christ would have faithfully observed them during His ministry here on earth!

Notice the following verses:

“ If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father’s commandments, and abide in his

love (Jn. 15:10).

“For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; *but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin* (Heb. 4:15).

“For even hereunto were ye called: because *Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously* (1Pet. 2:2-3).

“Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven (Mat. 5:17-19).

“*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* (Jn. 21:25).

The Scriptures are plain and clear that the beginnings of months were commanded to be kept throughout the generations of Israel. It was part of the Law of God, and although it is not recorded, Jesus Christ—who

is the epitome of the Law—kept the beginnings of months, as did the early New Testament Church! The beginnings of months will be observed during the Millennium, the Wonderful World Tomorrow. And the Church of God’s Faithful has begun keeping these commanded days.

But HOW can we observe the beginnings of months and still hold a job in today’s society? Remember, God is a very merciful and loving God. He has given us the Sabbath as a great BLESSING! The Sabbath pictures God as the great Creator of all things! Each Sabbath we are freed from the shackles of this evil world and can relax and enjoy the holy time God has created for us. Jesus Christ said: “The Sabbath was MADE FOR man and not man for the Sabbath” (Mk. 2:27).

God has also given His people the seven annual holy days that depict the wonderful plan of salvation. Throughout the year, the called and chosen of God can rejoice and act out the plan of God—from our struggles with sin as portrayed in the Days of Unleavened Bread to the Feast of Firstfruits, picturing the harvest of the firstfruits at the First Resurrection. After the First Resurrection comes the interval of 111 fantastic days in Heaven as God-beings awaiting the beginning of the seventh month and the Feast of Trumpets. The Feast of Trumpets is a great thrill as we see ourselves with the King of Kings taking command of the entire earth, putting Satan away for 1000 years, and the Wonderful World Tomorrow becoming a reality. And after the 1000 years, the Second Resurrection occurs, with all the marvelous events that have been revealed to us!

God has blessed us with the weekly

Sabbath and the yearly holy days. But what do the beginnings of months picture to us? Remember that the beginnings of months are NOT holy days. They are not listed in Leviticus 23. There is no command to assemble as a holy convocation, but the beginning of the month is commanded as a day of celebration and rejoicing (see again Psalm 81). There is no command to refrain from servile work on the beginnings of months. Nevertheless, God commands that these days be kept throughout the generations of Israel. So what does this mean?

The Almighty God wants His people to be happy and rejoice at the beginning of each month. So He has made the “beginnings of months” a HOLIDAY for His people. This is the same great God who has planned for the JUBILEE, when there will be a year-long HOLIDAY for everyone to rejoice and praise Him for making that year possible. Thus on the beginnings of months we come before Him in rejoicing! We can do whatever we like, but we must keep Him in mind as the Sustainer of ALL things!

In this article we have touched on quite a few points that must be examined more deeply and this will be done in future articles on the subject of the “beginnings of months.” ❖

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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 talks restart in Geneva

The five permanent members of the UN Security Council, along with Germany, are joining representatives from Iran in Geneva on Wednesday for another round of nuclear talks. A previous meeting earlier this month yielded some progress on a deal with Tehran, but Iran was not yet ready to agree to terms of the deal.

Before Wednesday's meeting got underway, comments from Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, may cause tensions to rise at the negotiating table.

In a televised address on Wednesday, Khamenei insisted on "not retreating one step from the rights of the Iranian nation."

He also referred to Israel as a regional "rabid dog" that is trying to prevent a deal from taking place in Geneva.

Najat Vallaud-Belkacem, a spokeswoman for the French government, said Wednesday that Khamenei's comments were "unacceptable and [complicated] negotiations."

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

Comment: This world grows more and more dangerous as nations clamour to have a nuclear facility. We would expect Egypt to side with Iran on this matter as both nations will most likely be part of the "king of the South" group to stand up against the might of the European "beast power," or "King of the North." Dan 11:40-41

We hear so much these days about nations wishing to on the nuclear band wagon that the terms nuclear facilities, nuclear weapon, weapons of mass destruction are terms that can easily go over our heads or be dismissed by the thought that these weapons will never be used.

The cold reality is of course that the time is quickly approaching where in fact these devises will be used against human beings. It would be helpful to realise the results of such actions.

Nuclear explosions have both immediate and delayed destructive effects. Within seconds or minutes of detonation, blast, thermal radiation, and ionisation radiation, which is the effect of splitting the atom, will cause massive destruction. After 10 seconds the fireball of a one-megaton nuclear weapon has attained its maximum size of over one mile across. The shock front is some 3 miles further ahead. At 50 seconds after explosion, the blast wave has travelled about 12 miles. The delayed effects, such as radioactive fallout and other environmental effects, inflict damage over an extended period ranging from hours to years.

This is not very peasant to contemplate, but people need to know of the future they are heading into to give them an opportunity to avoid it. (Zech 14:12)

This warning is given by God's people who are set apart by truth through the organisation of God's very own Church. We intend to make more people aware of these disastrous trials to come, God willing, as best we can.

France: Israel Will Attack Iran

By Israel Today Staff.. It's not just that the West risks upsetting Israel by signing a poor nuclear deal with Iran, warned a French lawmaker at the weekend, insisting that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will follow through on his threat to attack the Islamic Republic. According to Israel's Channel 2 News, French parliamentarian Meyer Habib urgently phoned his nation's foreign minister as the latter was taking part in talks between Iran and Western powers in Geneva. Habib's message was clear: "I know Netanyahu. If you don't toughen your positions, [he] will attack Iran."

Netanyahu and most other Israeli officials view the deal currently on the table between Western powers and Iran as woefully insufficient, as it does not require Tehran to dismantle a single centrifuge and leaves the Islamic Republic very much capable of building nuclear weapons in the future.

Israel has repeatedly stated that it cannot allow Iran to go nuclear, or to possess the ability to go nuclear.

These are not idle threats, said Habib. Western powers must “toughen our positions in order to prevent war,” he reported told French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius.

It was shortly after that reported phone call that France is said to have “thrown a wrench” in the negotiations. Talks stalled on Sunday, with both sides agreeing to meet again later in the month.

<http://www.whysisrael.org/...>

Comment: It is very difficult to believe in organisations today that claim to monitor the peace and keep nations in check. Most nations with nuclear technology have signed the non-Proliferation Treaty. Israel is not one of them, so France is right to have its concerns. However The Arab state of Iran is under the tight supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency (I.A.E.A) Even so, when did Islamic radicals take notice of international law or treaties?

It is a fair question to ask what would happen if the power of a nuclear nation got into the wrong hands. The answer lies in Matthew chapter 24.

“For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.” Matt 24:7

The next verse explains that there is much worse to come.

“All these are the beginning of sorrows” Matt 24:8 Whatever Israel thinks or does will not matter much as this world balances on the edge of nuclear annihilation. The big problem with exploding a nuclear device over a nation is the possibility of retaliation, and increasing devastation. Small nations may blow up each other big time, but the radioactive fallout will kill us all.

Thankfully for the elects sake God will not allow mankind to be totally wiped out!

Super Typhoon Haiyan, one of strongest storms ever, heads for central Philippines

(CNN) -- Thousands of people in vulnerable areas of the Philippines are being relocated as the strongest storm on the planet so far this year spins toward the country.

With sustained winds of 305 kph (190 mph) and gusts as strong as 370 kph (230 mph), Super Typhoon Haiyan was churning across the Western Pacific toward the central Philippines as one of the most intense tropical cyclones ever recorded.

Its wind strength makes it equivalent to an exceptionally strong Category 5 hurricane.

The storm, known as Yolanda in the Philippines, is expected to still be a super typhoon, with winds in excess of 240 kph (149 mph), when it makes landfall Friday morning in the region of Eastern Visayas.

The storm is so large in diameter that clouds from it are affecting two-thirds of the country.

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

Comment: There is not much good news about in our world today. Again and again human beings suffer the ravages of our weather. We can feel for the people living in the path of this strongest ever typhoon in this world this year, but what can be done about it? What is being done about these natural disasters that are on the increase?

Mankind has spent, and is spending fortunes on trying to find out about climate change and natural disasters and how to combat them. One national leader, in the face of an oncoming storm remarked that he wished he could control the wind. Well in a way he could if he and his nation's trust were really in God.

“But as they sailed he fell asleep: and there came down a storm of wind on the lake; and they were filled with water, and were in jeopardy.

And they came to him, and awoke him saying, Master, master, we perish. Then he arose, and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water: and they ceased, and there was a calm.

And he said unto them, Where is your faith? And they being afraid wondered, saying one to another, What manner of man is this! For he commandeth even the winds and water, and they obey him.” Luke 8:23-25

God promises protection for obedience, so what is wrong, is anyone getting the message of blessings for obedience and curses for disobedience of God's Word?

“Therefore thou shalt love the LORD thy God, and keep his charge, and his statutes, and his judgements, and his commandments, always.” Deut 11:1

That is not just an Old Testament saying, it is vital to our wellbeing today. It really is not too difficult to understand: find out what God's Will is, and do it!

Disasters will continue to increase until the world realises the futility of doing its own thing and leaving God out of the picture.

Even so, we can feel for the people of the Philippines as Typhoon Haiyan approaches them, and pray not only for them but that the solution to all of man's problems lies just around the corner. Pray for “Thy Kingdom Come.”

The Fastest Growing Religion In America Is Witchcraft

What is the fastest growing religion in the United States?

If you said Christianity, you would be way off. In fact, the most recent numbers show that Christianity is in a serious state of decline in America. If you said Islam, you are much closer to a correct answer. Islam is the fastest growing major religion in the United States. But there is a faith that is growing even faster than Islam. It is called Wicca, and it is currently growing at an astounding pace.

Wicca emerged as a faith in the middle of the 20th century, but the origins of many Wiccan practices actually go back for thousands of years, and some researchers believe that certain aspects of Wicca can actually be traced all the way back to ancient Babylon. According to Wikipedia, Wicca "is a modern pagan, witchcraft religion".

It has been estimated that the number of Americans that are Wiccans is doubling every 30 months, and at this point there are more than 200,000 registered witches and approximately 8 million unregistered practitioners of Wicca.

And it is important to remember that Wicca is just one form of witchcraft. There are many other "darker" forms of witchcraft that are also experiencing tremendous growth.

This is a trend that didn't just start a few years ago. In fact, according to Wikipedia, Wicca experienced an average annual growth rate of 143 percent in the

United States between 1990 and 2001...

The American Religious Identification Survey gives Wicca an average annual growth of 143% for the period 1990 to 2001 (from 8,000 to 134,000 – U.S. data / similar for Canada & Australia). According to The Statesman Anne Elizabeth Wynn claims "The two most recent American Religious Identification Surveys declare Wicca, one form of paganism, as the fastest growing spiritual identification in America".

<http://thetruthwins.com/...>

Comment: I suppose we shouldn't be surprised that witchcraft is growing at a pace, as this is Satan's society. The only surprise is that it has taken so long! Perhaps God has slowed the pace of this pagan "religion" because He knows the sinister outcome. Another proof that the Four Horsemen are riding at this time.

Witchcraft is of the works of the flesh (Gal 5:20) so it is not of God, but that will not stop the relentless rise of paganism in our society, which really is even now a Godless society.

God will tolerate this for a little longer because He will not as yet take away free choice from humanity. Thankfully though the time is coming for God to set up His society, a society which will not allow us to harm ourselves and others by breaking the proven laws of God. Witchcraft will definitely be banned in that society.

The Midnight Cry Has Begun!

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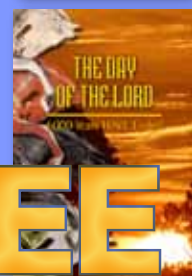
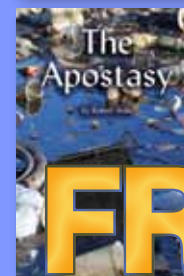
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