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" This Gospel of the Kingdom will be preached to all the world as a witness to all nations "

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'The Christian Herald' is published by 'Alpha and Omega Christian Foundation', a non-profit, non-denominational organization dedicated entirely to researching, re-discovering and disseminating the original faith as it was delivered to, and practiced by, the early New Testament Church.

Membership into this 'Foundation' is open to all who believe in the same ideals, and who strive towards a holy and pure Christian life:

OVH 39A
"As He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, 'Be holy, for I am holy.'" (1 Pet.15-16).

"I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God." (John 3:3).

"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the Kingdom of Heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven." (Mat.7:21).

"And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you [also] became examples [to others] who believe." (1 Thes.1:6-7).

The 'Foundation' believes that much of original faith has been lost, that a renewing of that faith, a re-dedication to the original ideals, and a reconciliation with the Eternal God, are absolutely necessary if the world is to be saved from the path of self-destruction.

The 'Foundation' also believes that in spite of the information explosion (or perhaps because of it), which the world has been undergoing for some time, humanity is in greater need now of the right kind of knowledge, than at any time in its history.

The 'Christian Herald' provides an informative service to the world leaders with a much needed analysis of world developments from a spiritual perspective, and proclaims the truth of God to a world that knows neither truth nor God.

This work is maintained wholly by voluntary contributions from its members, who believe that by offering prayer, honor, glory and worship to their Creator God, He will draw in more workers able to continue, and expand, this work of love to where it is needed in the world.

Following the examples of Jesus Christ and of His apostles, this 'Foundation' does not charge anything for its services, and although contributions are gratefully received and acknowledged, there is never a public appeal for financial support, nor a collection undertaken, during any of its meetings. Freely we have received, freely we give! God provides the blessings for those who do His will!

Our gratitude goes to those who give us the chance to serve them!

In Jesus' service!



Grigore Sbarcea
Coordinator

A MESSAGE TO THE WORLD LEADERS

The Gospel of Jesus Christ can become lost in a world saturated with information. Here is a message you cannot afford to ignore or loose.

Two thousand years ago, John the Baptist, a prophet of God, delivered this message to the people of Israel: "Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!" (Mat.3:2). He was followed by Jesus Christ who told them that the Kingdom of God was already in their midst, meaning that He - Jesus Christ - represented that Kingdom. (Luke 17:21 margin, NKJV throughout, unless otherwise stated).

Those who have repented and accepted this message, have received the promise that they will inherit eternal life and become **priests and kings** in the Kingdom of God.

"Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the first born from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and **has made us kings and priests to His God and Father**, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen" (Rev.1:5-6).

"And they sang a new song saying:

"You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; For You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of **every tribe and tongue and people and nation**, and have **made us kings and priests** to our God; And we shall **reign on the earth**" (Rev.5:9-10).

"And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and **judgment was committed to them**. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they **lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years**" (Rev.20:4).

"Now I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption.

"Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed - in a moment, in a twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. "For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal

must put on immortality.

"So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

"O Death, where is your sting?

"O Hades, where is your victory?"

"The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law.

"But thanks be to God, who gives us victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1Cor.50-57).

"But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, **lest you sorrow as others who have no hope**.

"For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so **God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus**.

"For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep.

"For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God.

"**And the dead in Christ will raise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord**" (1Thes.4:13-17).

These passages, cited in their entirety for your convenience, express the basic message that Jesus Christ brought to this earth: that human beings have been placed on this planet for a divine purpose. They have the chance to qualify for eternal life in the Kingdom of God.

A call to repentance is a call to a life of righteousness. Those who respond to this call have God's unbreakable promise that they shall receive eternal life in His Kingdom at the time of the resurrection from the dead.

This promise will be fulfilled shortly. The world is in the throws of the greatest

revolutionary change ever. Every nation in the world will receive a new leadership. New kings and new priests will take over and instal rulership according to the will of God. The current world difficulties and realignments are a prelude to that event.

This message concerns that change. It is a call to repentance to every leader in the world. God will not change the leadership of any nation before He gives them a chance to repent. Jesus Christ is telling everyone that it is not too late to respond to His call. He is giving you the chance to receive an inheritance far greater than the one you now possess. He said:

"The last will be first, and the first last. For many are called, but few are chosen" (Mat.20:16).

'The last' meaning that you are among the last people to be called to repentance in this age, and 'the first' meaning that you will be among the leaders in His eternal Kingdom. Make sure, therefore, that you are not only called, but also chosen.

This work is being done in the name of God, not in the name of any existing church or religion. We expect no credit and no recompense for what we do. We do this work because the Almighty has shown us that this message must go out to the world while conditions still permit.

Jesus Christ said of His servants: "You will know them by their fruits" (Mat.7:16).

We say: 'know us by our fruits!'

The fact that we have no affiliation with any existing church or religion, that we rely solely on the Bible and the Holy Spirit for spiritual inspiration, should give a clear indication that this is not the work of mere human beings. This kind of work is not possible without God's Holy Spirit.

Your repentance and conversion is between you and God. We are happy to facilitate and help you. We make no show and no publicity of our work. We keep no records and no files aside from our mailing list. If anyone wishes to have their name removed from our mailing list we will sadly oblige.

Having made ourselves and our work known, it is now up to you. We declare, on the revelation of God Almighty, that there is no other work on earth that preaches the true Gospel, the Kingdom of God, in this end of age. It is not hard to find out if our claim is true or not. It costs you nothing if you take this challenge, but it can cost you your inheritance if you ignore this call from Jesus Christ.

May God Almighty be with you and help you to make the right decision!

"Better a poor and wise youth
Than an old and foolish king
who will be admonished no more
(Eccl.4:13).

ARE YOU IN THE RIGHT RELIGION ?

Few things in the world are more important than being in the right religion. The quality of your life and your future are determined by the answer to this question! Here is how you know if you are in the right religion.

Is there a test which will tell you if you are in the right religion? How would you know if you are in the right religion? Is one with no religion better off, as so many people believe these days?

There are many ways of determining which is the right religion and which is not, but there is one simple test which is sure to give the right answer. If you go through life and fail to see a higher purpose to it, and if the thought of death terrifies you, then you are not in the right religion.

A priest and a nun of a certain denomination were confessing recently in a television interview how terrified they were to contemplate death because, they said "death is a such a dreadful thing." The priest, a former high prelate in his church, now in retirement, was saying how lonely he felt and how terrified he was that when his time comes there may be no one to hold his hand on his death bed. He served in one of those religions which forbid their priests to have a family.

As I was watching and listening to them, I was struck by the emptiness in their lives. After spending all their lives at the altar, there was nothing positive that they could say about life, nothing that they could look forward to in the end. Death was hanging over their heads like a foreboding calamity, something they would have avoided at all costs if they could.

If these people who served in a supposedly 'Christian' denomination, who were spiritual beacons to others, ended up with such a depressing view of life and death, in what condition must their followers be in?

Religion is supposed to give people a purpose in life which cannot be grasped by the normal physical senses; a purpose which becomes apparent only through the exercise of innermost thought and meditation. It is like a window being opened in your mind by the arrival of the Holy Spirit.

It is the thought that counts in determining the quality of one's life, and it is the thought that the founders of Christianity fought to purify and to set on the right path:

"But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man. For out of the heart proceed evil

thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witnesses, blasphemies. These are the things that defile a man..." (Mat.15:18-20).

Jesus Christ was saying that the feelings of your heart determine the quality of your thoughts and the manner of your speech. They make you holy or they defile you. Apostle Paul amplified on these thoughts when he said:

"Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy - **meditate on these things.**

The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace, will be with you" (Phil.4:8-9).

As I was thinking about the lives of Jesus Christ and His apostles and their teachings, and listening to the words of the terrified priest and nun, I was wondering what they learned during their life in the convent? What did they ever meditate upon in their solitude so that ended up with such a messy state of mind?

What I found even more puzzling is that their religion has turned death into an amazingly complicated and expensive affair with almost bankrupting expenses for the survivors. Luxuriously polished coffins, expensive pomp and ceremonies, meals, drinks and other paraphernalia which the dead may never have seen when they were alive. They spend more money on dressing up and farewellling a corpse than they do on the living. Nothing of the simplicity of the burial of Jesus Christ. And then they end up being terrified even of the thought of death. Where is the logic of it all? Is this not pure hypocrisy?

Compare this with the examples of Jesus Christ and of His apostles. Jesus Christ said as He laid His soul into the hand of God: "It is finished!" "Father, into Your hands I commend My spirit." (John 19:30; Luke 23:46). He did not lament the loss of His life when He knew that His time had come:

"My Father loves Me, because I lay down

My life that I may take it again.
 "No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father."
 (John 10:17-18).

Apostle Paul said:

"For to me, to live is Christ, and **to die is gain**. But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. For I am hard pressed between the two, **having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better**. Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you. And being confident of this, I know that I shall remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy of faith" (Phil.1:21-25).

"But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, **lest you sorrow as others who have no hope**. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so **God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus**."
 (1Thess.4:13-14).

Can you see the difference between the right religion and the wrong one? One offers hope and freedom from the fear of death, whilst the other gives sorrow and terrors of death.

I know in the depth of my heart that I am

in the right religion, that I follow the right Lord and serve the right God. My Lord said:

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"
 (John 11:25-26).

Well, do you believe it? It is all a matter of belief! When you die your body perishes, but your mind, your soul, your **beliefs** remain. They are held in store by the Almighty until the day of resurrection (Rev.6:9-11).

Then you are given a new body - a spiritual one - that shall never die **if, and only if, you believe**.

People believe what religion teaches them, that is why it is so important to be in the right religion. Would you like to be in the religion of the priest and the nun who served their god all their life then ended up being terrified of death and not knowing what life is all about? Or in the religion of Jesus Christ who said that if you believe in Him you will live forever?

As you grow old you don't need to be held in bondage by fear of the last act of your life. Look upon that event with joy as the time when the crown of real life is being placed on your head. **But to reach that stage you need be in the right religion!**

"A good name is better than precious ointment,
 And the day of death than the day of birth.

It is better to go to the house of mourning
 Than to go to the house of feasting,
 For that is the end of all men;
 And the living will take it to heart.

Sorrow is better than laughter,
 For by a sad countenance the heart is made better.

The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning,
 But the heart of fools is in the house of mirth"
 (Eccl.7:1-4).

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

World leaders talk of a new era of peace, progress and prosperity, but the signs of the times point to a different reality. You need to be informed and take the right decisions, if you are to survive the trying times ahead.

Since we started this work of witnessing the Gospel of the Kingdom of God a little over a year ago, we received a flood of revelations from the Almighty God about biblical prophecies and about mysteries of the Kingdom of God. At the same time we discovered that the forces of darkness are more prevalent, powerful and determined to prevent this work making inroads into this ungodly world than we imagined. This period has been one of extreme difficulties and trials. We lost one person.

We did not expect that a pioneering work of this nature would draw such a swift and savage reaction from the ungodly forces of this world. But now we realize that we are no different than those who have come before us in the name of Jesus Christ and God Almighty. The work of God has never been welcomed in this world. Yet rather than discourage us, it has given us confidence. Indeed, we are happy to be persecuted for the Word of God and the witness of Jesus Christ. After all, our Lord, the prophets and the apostles, have suffered severe persecutions and death, yet none lost faith or heart.

Throughout history, this has been the fate of all true Christians. Those who preach that Christianity is a religion of the privileged preach a false gospel. The judgment of God is about to fall upon the world and upon those who have misrepresented His Gospel. Our role is to warn the world that the great Day of the Lord is near.

At present, God is preparing those who will be leaders in His Kingdom. During the next thousand years, known as the Millennial Kingdom, those who are called to repentance and respond to God's call will reign with Christ over the kingdoms of this world.

A need for a change in world leadership is both required and unavoidable. Leaders of nations have failed to bring the world peace and prosperity, while leaders of religions have failed to deliver spiritual enlightenment. That is why there will be a change not only in kingship, but also in priesthood.

The reward for those who have abandoned the former life, with its temptations and thrills for a life of righteousness and holiness, is such that it cannot be compared with anything

else in this world.

"As it is written: 'Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.'" (1Cor.2:9)

Since the beginning of time, God has allowed the world to experiment with every form of government, social organization and economic system. It was a lesson in failure which the world had to learn before it was understood that only governments and systems based on the laws of God can maintain proper living conditions and a dignified life for all people.

Humanity is now at the crossroads. Since it cannot continue in the old way, it must choose between the way of God or the way of self destruction. The words which God spoke to ancient Israel are now valid for the whole world:

"I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; **therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live.**" (Deut.30:19).

The lesson which the world leaders should have learned, but which they seem incapable of learning, is that no matter how hard they try, without God, they cannot achieve peace and prosperity. Much has been said about the so called 'new world order', the new era of 'peace and prosperity', but they never mention God in their deliberations. That is why nothing will come of their efforts.

The current world difficulties will culminate in a world conflagration which will threaten the extinction of all life on earth. Jesus Christ said:

"Then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.

"And unless those days were shortened, no

flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened." (Mat.24:21-22).

A journalist wrote recently:

"Terms like turmoil and chaos... lose effect through repetition. And in a world beset with problems, there is a school, taking advantage of weariness with Armageddon forecasts, that argues along the lines of, 'let them sort out their own muddle, it won't affect us'. But even setting aside issues like nuclear safety and common humanity, a plunge into the abyss in a part of Eurasia [or other parts of the world] could engulf us all." (A. Clark, 'A Eurasian breakdown could engulf us all', The Sun-Herald, Dec. 29, 1991).

The prevailing anti-God philosophy and attitude in the world is fast bringing the world to the edge of the abyss. The world cannot enter the Millennial Kingdom in its present condition. Man's rule on earth will cease at the conclusion of six thousand years. God's overall plan for the world is paralleled by the days of the week. The first six days are for man to work. But the last day is the Sabbath of the Lord, the day of rest. So it is with the earth. After the exploitation and pollution which it has endured during the six thousand year rule of man, the earth will enjoy a Sabbath of rest - a thousand year Millennial Kingdom. The countdown to the Millennial Kingdom has already started.

A Christian Bishop named Ussher, who lived some four centuries ago, calculated that the creation took place in the year 4004 B.C.. Most biblical theologians believe that he was correct in his calculations. This means that in about half a dozen years we will have the dawn of the Millennial Kingdom and the end of six thousand years of man's misrule. Is it a mere coincidence that at this particular juncture in world history, life is being threatened from several directions? People who know little of biblical prophecies talk about the dangers of extinction of life on earth.

The prophecies of Jesus Christ are coming alive. He said that just before His return, conditions in the world will deteriorate to the point that the very survival of life will be threatened. Are we not living in those days? How much worse must things get before the world realizes that it is heading towards catastrophe?

For example, the question of population explosion. The world has reached the saturation point. The environment can no longer support

the ever increasing population. It has been estimated that within a generation the world population will double, then within a century or so it will double again. It will then continue doubling within an ever reducing cycle.

One scientist remarked that if the world survives to reach that level, life conditions will become so miserable that death will be preferable to life. Well, for many millions of people even now merciful death would be preferable to the hellish life they experience. For those dying of starvation in Africa and elsewhere, the question of survival is no longer an option, but dying with dignity is. A quicker death would be preferable to the slow, agonizing wasting they experience while watching their loved ones go through the same process.

About a decade ago, when images of starvation emerged from Africa, the world moved quickly to provide humanitarian aid. Now many more millions are starving on a far wider scale, but few want to hear of this. Images of starvation on television screens draw only cursory looks. Some television stations will not even broadcast such programs anymore. They have become unpopular, for they no longer pull audiences. They have lost their shocking value.

What would it be like when every country and every city in the world has doubled its present size? The environment is already dying. Can the world support this increase and exploitation when resources are already in short supply? Can the world afford not to turn to God now while it still can? Perhaps it is too late.

What were considered alarmist predictions a few decades ago, not only have been fulfilled, but exceeded many times over. We are now learning about world problems which only a few years ago were unheard of. A decade ago no one knew of AIDS. Half a decade ago there was no talk of the thinning of the ozone layer. These problems alone pose catastrophic dangers. AIDS is threatening to destroy the regenerating power of many nations. The thinning of the ozone layer is posing a threat to the vegetation and the microscopic marine organisms - the very support of life on earth - in addition to whatever harm they may do directly to human beings.

In February this year scientists raised the alarm when they discovered that the depletion of the ozone layer is much worse than previously thought:

"New finding of ozone depletion were so alarming, the scientists said, that they decided to release them before completion of the data analysis in late March." "Everybody should be alarmed about this," said Michael Kurylo, a research manager at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). "We're seeing conditions primed for ozone destruction. It's in a far worse way than we thought." (SMH, 5/2/1992).

Apocalyptic times are well and truly upon us, yet people do not repent so that God may spare the world these cataclysms.

"And men were scorched with great heat, and they blasphemed the name of God who has power over these plagues; and they did not repent and give Him glory." (Rev.16:9).

Governments are unable to address these problems because they require painful solutions. The masses who elect governments are more concerned with the pain of hunger than with restoring an ecological balance. Difficult problems are often postponed and left for the next government to solve with the result that little is achieved. Often they prefer not to air such concerns in public. Out of sight is out of mind. No one realizes that these problems will get much worse and cannot be solved unless and until people turn to God.

How many people remember the events of 1991? Aside from the Gulf War and the ecological and social disasters it created, how many know that in terms of natural disasters 1991 broke almost every record since record keeping began more than a century ago?

The US Congress allocates an annual percentage of its budget to help nations suffering calamities. By May of 1991, the sum allocated for the whole year was exhausted. There were droughts, famine, floods, earthquakes, volcanoes, mud slides, etc. Too many to be listed. Who remembers, for example, when approximately a third of China and nearly three quarters of Bangladesh were covered by floods? Or the repeated volcanic eruptions in Japan and the Philippines which caused damage over huge areas? Or the torrential rains in the heights of South America, where it seldom rains, which caused mud slides which covered entire communities? How many people know that large tracks of the USA and Australia, the bread baskets of the world, suffered the worst droughts on record?

Preoccupation with the Gulf War and events in the former Soviet Union, meant that most of these disasters passed unnoticed. As Jesus Christ said: "For as in the days before the flood [of Noah] . . . when they did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be" (Mat.24:38,39).

To compound the misery caused by these natural disasters were those caused by human folly. The year began with the madness in the Gulf and finished with the collapse of that bastion of atheism, the Soviet Union. People believe that communism failed. Communism has not failed, atheism has! Communism has not failed because it has never been tried. What they practiced in the Soviet Union and its satellites was not communism but a parody of it. It is a Satanic ploy to undermine every good idea that comes out of the Bible. True communism will work in the Kingdom of God.

Soviet communism has failed but so has American capitalism. Such is the vulgarity of capitalism that at a time when a company like General Motors is closing dozens of factories and laying off tens of thousands of its workers, it grants its retiring president an annual pension of \$US 1.2 million. The President of Chrysler who has an allocated salary of \$4.5 millions, went to Japan with President Bush to lecture the Japanese on work ethics. When it was pointed out to him that the President of Toyota, a much more successful company, earns a fifth of his salary, he stormed out of the meeting and left Japan indignant.

No social conscience on the part of those who clamber their way to the top. No Christian concern for one's fellow human beings from the leading citizens of the, supposedly, number one Christian nation on earth. Has no one ever told them that "it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God" (Mat.19:24). Even at the retiring age they still do not think of the purpose of life or what may lie beyond this temporary existence.

Where are the spiritual leaders of this nation? What have they achieved? Why are they silent in the face of such blatant greed and exploitation? Or are they part of the same mentality?

The country wonders why its economy is faltering so badly. Unfettered capitalism is just as un-Christian as is totalitarian

Bolshevism. Soviet communism has collapsed, now watch for the collapse of capitalism. Those who believe that the USA will once again dominate the world as it used to, or that Great Britain will rule the waves as during the height of its empire, have some surprise coming their way.

This author grew up behind the 'iron curtain' where the largest part of his education was indoctrination about the 'glorious future which the Soviet Union was leading the world into'. It was a trial by fire as few people had known. The 'communists' justified destroying everything and everyone in their way of their march towards their God-less utopia. But instead of utopia, it became the devil's nightmare.

Out of that atheistic nightmare, God had to bring someone at enormous personal sacrifice to preach His Gospel to the world, because those who had the Gospel made a mockery of it by turning it into a money making venture.

The Soviet Union collapsed into ashes leaving a cauldron of ethnic tensions and unfulfilled dreams that threaten to draw the whole world into catastrophic conflict. The chaos left

behind is only now apparent. God alone knows what three hundred million people will do with their nuclear weapons when wide scale starvation takes place. There are repeated warnings in the Bible that He will "bring disaster from the north and great destruction." (See our next story).

At a time when the world is facing the test of survival, few people understand that there is a connection between current problems and the general spiritual decline of the world. Even the Churches of God, who once prided themselves on their ability to understand the prophecies of God, have fallen silent. When their input is needed more than ever, they are engaged in an internecine war which is destroying them from within.

Once again, as it has happened throughout history, God has raised people from the lowest levels of society to do His work. The message which John the Baptist delivered to ancient Israel, is now being delivered to the whole world:

"Repent for the Kingdom of God is at hand!

"He who is often reproved,
and hardens his neck,
Will suddenly be destroyed,
and that without remedy."
(Pr.29:1).

DANIEL'S END TIME TEN-NATION 'BEAST' POWER REVEALED FOR THE FIRST TIME

One of the most important prophecies about our time, has been misrepresented for decades by the Churches Of God. You need to understand the truth about this prophecy and be prepared for its fulfillment.

About twenty years ago, I came across a booklet published by one of the Churches of God from the USA, which purported to interpret the prophecies regarding the British Commonwealth and the USA. The authors said that these countries will become victims of terrible conquest by a 'beast' consisting of ten European 'Common Market' nations just as the end of this age approaches.

The booklet was written when the 'Common Market' comprised only the original seven members, but the authors were certain that in the end it will have a total of ten members.

Although I knew little about biblical prophecies at that time, I had good knowledge of world politics and in my calculations I just could not see how Britain and the USA would be attacked with nuclear weapons by Central European nations. What puzzled me more was the fact that the Soviet Union - a force to be reckoned with those days - did not deserve even a mention in this end time cataclysmic scenario.

After much consideration I concluded that the authors must be wrong and I sent them a letter expressing my opinions and the reasons for saying so. But my views were, as one might have expected, ignored and the Church continued to publish that booklet, with little modifications, until quite recent times.

It is a well known fact that the Church of God evangelists treat with contempt anyone who disagrees with their views, and more so if these views come from members of their Church. I was disappointed that my attempt at communication with them did not warrant even a rebuttal let alone a reasoned correspondence, but I soon discovered that "all things work together for good to those who love God" (Rom.8:28). It forced me to reassess my association with those people - the only Church in which I was a member for any length of time - about three years.

I was attracted to this Church because,

unlike traditional Christianity in which the services are based mostly on emotions and tradition, its preachers made a strong claim to reason and intellect. But I discovered that these are the very things they deny their members once they become hooked on their religion.

The one good thing about that Church was that it made more use of the Bible than any other Church that I knew of. It was through them that I became interested in the Bible and I continued to study it even after I left that Church. What became evident about that Church is that although some people make extensive use of the Scriptures, unless they practice what they preach and unless they allow the Holy Spirit to work through them, they are no better than those who use the Scriptures only occasionally. In some regards they are worse, for they become vain, conceited, unmerciful, boasters, with no compunction about putting heavy burdens upon those whom they arrogantly call their 'brethren'.

A major problem with that Church is that many erroneous writings of the leaders have become 'holy writ'. They claim, like the Pope, that when they spoke in the name of God, they are infallible. Since no one has been allowed to question their writings the effect has been that over the years so many errors have been accumulated that the good doctrines and the good practices have been swamped by the erroneous ones. It is a typical example of a Church which starts out with good intentions, but which over the years, it succumbs to the foibles of human nature. As apostle Paul said, "a little leaven leavens the whole lump" (1Cor.5:6). No doubt, this is what has happened with these Churches of God.

When I joined that Church I was eager to find out about God and about the Bible, as I was coming out of a world in which God did not exist and where attendance at Church services was enough to block anyone's career or even to land him in jail. I went along with whatever the ministers of that Church required of me during the time I was busily studying their

publications.

It was a slow process for me because my English was rudimentary (not that it had improved much since then), but after about three years I knew fairly well what their teachings were about and the result was inevitable. The reaction (or lack of it) which I received to the letter sent to them about their end time prophecies, sealed my decision to leave that Church.

Twenty years have passed since then but recent world developments brought to mind that booklet and my letter with the obvious question: who was right, or was anyone right?

The "Common Market", now renamed the European Community, currently has twelve members with many more clamoring to get in, while the former Soviet Union has been replaced by a Commonwealth of eleven Independent States. So it would seem that both their prophetic understanding and my political instincts were wrong.

But what about Daniel's prophecy which speaks clearly of an end time powerful community of ten nations, which will cause much devastation to the world? (Dan.2:31-45). Where is it coming from? Is it still the European Community, or the Commonwealth of Independent States, or some other force which is yet to be identified?

Well, we shall let the Bible speak for itself and show you how easy it is to find out what these prophecies are all about and who this power is or going to be.

The authors of that booklet knew that this power will come from the north, the reference point being Israel, but concluded that the countries of the European Community, grouped around Germany, are located north of Israel. In longitudinal terms you can say that Canada is north of Israel too, but that, certainly, is not what the prophet had in mind.

If you look on a globe and go north from Israel, the only European countries you will find are the Ukraine and Russia. So we don't need to guess which are these countries because the Bible tells us exactly which countries it refers to. In the course of history many nations have moved about and changed their names, yet it is surprising how accurately the Bible still identifies those countries which are named in its prophecies. Notice:

"Set up the standard toward Zion.
Take refuge! Do not delay!

**For I will bring disaster from the north,
And great destruction" (Jer.4:6)**

So it is God who will bring disaster and destruction **from the north**, therefore you can be absolutely certain that this prophecy will not fail. This geographical location is reinforced several times:

"O you children of Benjamin,
Gather yourselves to flee from the midst
of Jerusalem!
Blow the trumpet in Tekoa,
And set up a signal-fire in Beth Haccerem;
For **disaster appears out of the north,
And great destruction" (Jer.6:1).**

How do we know that these prophecies do not refer to Turkey, Lebanon, Syria or even Iraq, as some American evangelists have suggested recently, for these countries are also located to the north of Israel. Here is the answer:

"Thus says the Lord:

**"Behold, a people comes from the north,
country, and a great nation will be raised
from the farthest parts of the earth.**

They will hold bow and spear;
They are cruel and have no mercy;..."
(Jer.6:22-@3).

The nation in the furthest parts of the earth, north of Israel, is Russia. But how do we know that these prophecies refer to our time and not to the ancient time when Israel was conquered and taken into captivity in far away lands? Here again is the biblical answer:

"Now these are the words that the Lord spoke concerning Israel and Judah. For thus says the Lord:

'We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace. Ask now and see, whether a man is ever in labor with child? So why do I see every man with his hands on his loins like a woman in labor, and all faces turned pale?

Alas for **that day is great, so that none is like it; And it is the time of Jacob's trouble, but he shall be saved out of it'.**

"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;
 Foreigners shall no more enslave them.
 But **they shall serve the Lord their God,**
and David their king, whom I will raise
up for them" (Jer.30:4-9).

The day of the Lord is coming at the end of this age, therefore these prophecies are for the time just ahead of us. This passage also identifies the nations which shall be the victims of this power from the north. Three names are mentioned: Israel, Judah and Jacob, in other words all the nations descending from the twelve tribes of Israel.

When Jeremiah wrote this prophecy, there was no longer a nation called Israel in the Middle East. The ten tribes which retained the name Israel (later also known as Samaria) when they separated from Judah, were taken into captivity more than a hundred years earlier by Assyria (not to be confused with Syria) and have by then vanished from history. Judah itself was being surrounded by the Babylonian forces and shortly afterwards it too went into captivity. After the fall of the Babylonian empire many Jews (people of the tribe of Judah) returned to the land of Israel, but none of the tribes of Israel or Samaria came back with the Jews.

The two nations, Israel and Judah, were taken into captivity by two different empires: Assyrian and Babylonian respectively. When the Babylonian empire rose, the Assyrian empire, which had occupied roughly the same area, had moved out of the Middle East in north westerly direction, taking along all its captive nations. They settled in Central and North-Western Europe and that's why there are so many books identifying those countries as descending from the lost ten tribes of Israel. Great Britain and the USA are said to descend from Ephraim and Manasseh, the two tribes which inherited the birthright bestowed upon them by the patriarch Joseph. These countries have dominated the world for the last couple of centuries and this adds credence to the prophecy which says that 'Jacob's trouble' will come at the conclusion of this age.

It is not a mere coincidence that during two world wars these countries have prevented the world from sliding into chaos. During the Second World War the democracies of Europe and Asia had already fallen under the heel of dictatorships and tyrannies. If Britain and the USA had lost that war, we would all be living under one form of tyranny or another.

It is not a mere coincidence either that most of the Bibles in the world, including those in many foreign languages, have come out of these two countries. But the irony is that while they provided hope and spiritual guidance to others, they themselves have fallen into deep moral, and spiritual morass. That is why they will no longer have the strength to withstand the disaster that will come upon them in the end.

These peoples together with their sister nations of Europe have maintained a civilized balance in the world for millennia. But now, right at the end, they too will succumb to the insidious power that has deceived the world and tried to destroy it from the very beginning. It is Satan's influence that has been behind the great empires of this world including the last great atheistic empire out of which will rise the 'ten-toed beast'. This is what Satan told Jesus Christ and Jesus did not contradict it:

"Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said to Him, 'All this authority I will give You, and their glory; **for this has been given to me, and I give it to whomever I wish.**" (Luke 4:5-6).

The disaster coming from the north, will fall upon all Israel. That includes modern Israel, Britain, the USA, and the other European nations which spring out of the tribes of Israel. It will, in fact, spread over the entire world.

The great day of the Lord, known elsewhere in the Bible as the great tribulation (Mat. 24:21) will occur at the confluence between this age and the Millennial Kingdom. Immediately after those days David will be resurrected (as will be a lot of other people) to become king of Israel once again, only that this time he will be king forever. That is how we know that this prophecy is for the time just ahead of us for that event has not occurred yet.

There is still more proof in the Bible which shows that Jacob's trouble does not come from the European Community, but from the Commonwealth of Independent States:

"Now the word of the Lord came to me saying, 'Son of man, set your face against Gog, of the land of Magog, **the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal,** and prophesy against

him, and say, 'Thus says the Lord God:
"Behold, I am against you, O Gog, the prince
of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal.

"I will turn you around, put hooks into
your jaws, and lead you out, with all your
army, horses and horsemen, all splendidly
clothed, **a great company** with bucklers
and shields, all of them handling swords.
"Persia, Ethiopia and Libya are with them,
all of them with shield and helmet;

"Gomer and all its troops; the house of
Togarmah **from the far north** and all its
troops are with you.

"Prepare yourself and be ready, you and
all your companies that are gathered about
you; and be a guard for them.

"After many days you will be visited. **In
the latter years** you will come into the
land of those brought back from the sword
and gathered from many people on the mountain
of Israel, which had long been desolate;
They were brought out of the nations, and
now all of them dwell safely.

"You will ascend, coming like a storm,
covering the land like a cloud, you and
all your troops and many people with you...

"Then you will come from your place **out
of the far north**, you and many peoples with
you, all of them riding horses, a great
company and a mighty army.

"You will come up against My people Israel
like a cloud to cover the land. It will
be in the **latter days that I will bring
you against My land**, so that the nations
may know Me, when I am hallowed in you,
O Gog, before their eyes. (Ezek.38:1-9,
15-16)

"Surely it is coming, and it shall be done"
says the Lord God. **This is the day of which
I have spoken"**

"So the house of Israel shall know that
I am the Lord their God **from that day
forward"** (Ezek.39:8,22).

From that day forward Israel and all other
nations shall know that the Lord is the God
of the whole world not just of Israel.

It must pointed out that at the end of the
Millennium there will be another tribulation,
but that will not be of the same magnitude as
the one at the beginning of the Millennium
(Rev.20:7-9). We know this from the words of
Jesus Christ (Mat.24:21-22). He said that during
the great tribulation God will intervene to
shorten the days so that a remnant will survive.
Life must continue for another thousand years,
that is why a remnant must be saved alive.
But at the end of the Millennium a new world
and a new heaven will be created and there will
be no more need for this world. Life, as we
know it at present will come to an end and
new life will begin only for those who are saved
and granted eternal life.

Daniel's prophecy therefore must be fulfilled
at the end of this age. But how do we explain
the fact that this prophecy speaks of ten nations
united in a loose alliance, whereas the
Commonwealth of Independent States has eleven
nations. Well, all we can say is watch out
as this Commonwealth of Independent States is
reduced to ten nations soon.

When that will happen you should be at peace
with your God for that is the only way you could
escape the tribulation which will be unleash
upon the world.

"It is the glory of God
to conceal a matter,
But the glory of kings
is to search out a matter"
(Pr.25:2).

WILL THERE BE A NEW TEMPLE IN JERUSALEM BEFORE THE RETURN OF JESUS CHRIST ?

How important is it that a new Temple is built in Jerusalem before the return of Jesus Christ? Unless you understand what is behind this claim, you could fall victim of one of the most odious deceptions of our time.

In the last few years there has been much fervor among Church of God evangelists concerning the importance of building a new Temple in Jerusalem before the return of Jesus Christ. Some have even visited the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem with much publicity and large personal entourage, urging and asking them when they are going to build the Temple. One evangelist, who is becoming rather famous for his prophetic misses, wrote in bold headlines only a few months ago that a Temple will be built by 1992. At least he believes in miracles, for no technology in the world can build in a few months what the nation of Israel built in seven years (1Kings 6:38). He, like all the others, believes that animal sacrifices must again take place in the Temple in order that certain prophecies are fulfilled before Jesus Christ can return to this earth.

We do know what the Jewish leaders think of this phenomenon, but we can imagine their bewilderment at being asked by, of all people, 'Christian' evangelists, when they are going to build a Temple to a God and a Messiah in which they do not believe. What is more puzzling is that these same evangelists will tell you in the very next breath that the great tribulation is imminent and that both the Temple and Jerusalem will be destroyed during that time. They believe that God will allow a Temple to be built in His name only to have it destroyed almost immediately. But that is how these people believe that God operates - putting His servants to great work and sacrifices then having them watch how their work goes up in a puff of smoke.

Well, what is the truth? Will there be a Temple in Jerusalem before the return of Jesus Christ and if so what purpose will it serve? It is very important to understand what the Bible says in this matter because misunderstanding this prophecy could lead to enormous expenses being wasted and could affect the faith and salvation of many people.

There is no problem in finding an answer to this question. All you need to do, as we have said many times, is to let the Bible speak for itself. But to do that, you need to know the Bible well and being an evangelist or even a Church leader these days is no guarantee that

you have reached that stage.

Let us examine the Scriptures which are often quoted as proof that a new Temple must be built soon:

"Now brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as from us, as though the day of Christ had come.

"Let no one deceive you by any means; for that day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that worshiped, so that **he sits as God in the Temple**, showing himself that he is God" (2Thes.2:1-4, emphasis added).

There are a number of unjustified assumptions about these verses which must be addressed:

* First, they do not say that a Temple must be built in Jerusalem, only that the man of sin sits in the Temple of God.

* Second, they do not say that he will be sitting in the Temple of God in the future, but that he was **already sitting** in the Temple of God at the time apostle Paul was writing this epistle.

* Third, they do not say that the Temple of God must be in Jerusalem.

When the Jewish people rejected Jesus Christ, God rejected them as His chosen people and with that He also rejected Jerusalem as the place for His Temple. The Christians became His 'chosen' people therefore the Temple of God must be sought amongst the Christian nations. That is why Jerusalem has been anything but the place for God's Temple for the last two thousand years. What will happen in the future after Jesus Christ returns is another matter. The truth is that until the Jews repent and become God's people once more, they are in no position to build a Holy Temple to God in

Jerusalem or anywhere else.

We know that the Jews will repent and become God's people once more, but not before the return of Jesus Christ:

"And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look upon Me whom they have pierced; they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieves for Him as one grieves for a firstborn" (Zech.12:10).

They will "look upon" Jesus Christ "whom they have pierced" after He comes back. It is then that God will grant them repentance and they will mourn and grieve for Him as for a "firstborn" son. Until then the Jews cannot build a Holy Temple to God.

Other Scriptures often used to justify the idea of a Temple in Jerusalem are found in the writings of Daniel.

"And in the **latter time** of their kingdom, when the transgressors have reached their fullness, a king shall arise, having fierce features, who understands sinister schemes.

"He even exalted himself as high as the Prince of the host; and by him the **daily sacrifices** were taken away, and the place of His sanctuary was cast down" (Dan.8:23,11).

The usual questions asked in relation to this verse are: "How could a sanctuary be cast down unless it first exists? How could daily sacrifices be taken away unless they are being performed?"

The problem is that those who ask such questions play a trick on their readers. They quote Daniel 8:23 first then Daniel 8:11. In other words, they put the cart before the horse. They reverse the order of events and make it look as if they are yet to happen when in fact they have occurred long ago. The 'sanctuary' has been cast down and the 'daily sacrifices' have been taken away long ago, as we shall prove.

A major problem with those people is that they do not know history. They always imagine that the events they do not know about must happen in the future. It is a convenient way of masking one's ignorance about the Bible and about history. Hence, we have the situation

in which these 'seers' claim that ninety per cent of all the Bible prophecies are yet to occur in the remaining years before the end of this age. According to them nearly six thousand years of human history has passed with only a small percentage of biblical prophecy being fulfilled while the last few years of this age will see an avalanche of prophecies being fulfilled. This comes from people who have built an opulent lifestyle on their professed ability to understand and preach the Word of God.

This, of course, is not true for the vast majority of biblical prophecies have already been fulfilled as have, in large measure, been the prophecies they connect with the Temple in Jerusalem. Let us analyze the Scriptures they quoted as 'proof' that a Temple must be built in Jerusalem soon and debunk this myth once and for all.

The king which Daniel said shall arise in the **latter time** (8:23) has nothing to do with the Temple in Jerusalem. It is just a careless use of the Scriptures to justify a point which is not there.

The evangelist who used Daniel's writings to 'prove' the need for a Temple in Jerusalem wrote:

Here again, referring to these last days [Dan.9:26], we see that there must be in existence [a Temple], which shall be destroyed by the evil Beast, and sacrifices which must be performed daily in order to be stopped."

This is a classic example of people reading into the Scriptures that which is not there. This is what Daniel 9:26 actually says:

"After the sixty-two weeks **Messiah shall be cut off**, but not for Himself; And the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, and till the end of the war desolations are determined" (emphasis added as it is throughout).

Can one imagine a 'Christian' evangelist saying that these things must happen again when the whole world knows that the Messiah was cut off nearly two thousand years ago and that the city and the sanctuary were destroyed shortly afterwards? Talk about deception and people masquerading as ministers of Christ! But let us go on for there is more to come. Continued this evangelist:

"Next, in that epochal book I referred to Daniel 11:31 which speaks of a tyrant who would arise and "Pollute the sanctuary of strength, and shall take away the daily sacrifice, and they shall place the abomination that makes desolate." I wrote, "Since this was a type of the coming Beast, then he must do the same type of things. For this to occur, a Temple or a sanctuary must exist in our time with a 'holy of holies'!"

Again let us read Daniel 11:31 to see if it says what this man says it does:

"And forces shall be mustered by him, and they shall defile the sanctuary fortress; then they shall take away the daily sacrifices, and place there the abomination of desolation."

No mention here of the Temple or of the 'holy of holies'. But what about the words 'sanctuary fortress' and 'daily sacrifices', what do they mean? You will shortly see that they do not mean what this evangelist says they mean. His misunderstanding comes from the words, "they shall take away the daily sacrifices." What are these daily sacrifices, and when were they taken away? Let us go to the book of Hebrews to unravel this mystery:

"For Christ has not entered **the holy places made with hands**, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another - He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the **sacrifice of Himself.**"

"For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect.

"For then would they not have **ceased to be offered?** For the worshipers, once purged, would have had no more consciousness of sins. But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.

"Therefore, when He came into the world, He said:

"Sacrifice and offering You did not desire,
But a body You have prepared for Me.
In burnt and sacrifices for sin
You had no pleasure..."

Then He said, "Behold, I have come to do Your will, O god,"

He takes away the first that He may establish the second. By that will we have been sanctified through the **offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.**" (Heb.9:24-25; 10:1-2, 5-6, 9-10).

If Jesus Christ put an end to daily sacrifices once and for all through the sacrifice of His own body, then how dare those deceivers tell Christians that they must look to Jerusalem for more sacrifices? This is what Daniel meant when he spoke of daily sacrifices being taken away. Jesus Christ was taken away by this "Beast" and with that all sacrifices came to an end. No need for a new Temple and no need for animal sacrifices before Jesus Christ returns to this earth.

A new Temple will be built in Jerusalem at the beginning of the Millennium not according to the design of the old Temple, but according to the new design given by God to the prophet Ezekiel (Chapters 40 to 48). Since Ezekiel received that vision, no such Temple has been built anywhere, and the only time it can be built and the sacrifices mentioned there performed again, is during the Millennium. As they have done with virtually every doctrine and teaching of the Bible these false preachers have also misrepresented what the Millennium will be like. They have failed to see the difference between the Millennial Kingdom and the Kingdom of God. We shall deal with this topic in a future article.

There is one question - a very important one - which has not been answered. It is the one about the 'abomination of desolation'? Does not Daniel 11:31 say that "they shall take away the daily sacrifices, and place there the abomination of desolation"?

There is a time lapse of nearly two millennia here between one event and another. The daily sacrifices were taken away with the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, but the 'abomination of desolation' will not be standing where it should not until just prior to the end of the age.

Also, Daniel 11:31 does not say that the

abomination of desolation will be placed in the Temple in the holy of holies. Where then will this 'abomination of desolation' be placed? Let us go to Matthew 24:15:

"Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads let him understand)"

Jesus Christ said that this 'abomination of desolation' will be standing not sitting, "in the holy place" not on the throne of God. What difference does this make? All the difference in the world. Since there will be no Temple of God in Jerusalem prior to the return of Jesus Christ then where is this 'holy place'?

No one has ever paid any attention to Jesus' words: "whoever reads let him understand." What is there to be understood? If He was referring to the Temple of God, He would have said simply, 'standing in the Holy Temple', but He knew that this holy place was not the 'holy of holies' in the Temple of God. Where is this place then?

Unfortunately, our revelations must end here. Jesus Christ told His followers that certain information is not for general consumption. Not that Christianity has any hidden doctrines because it does not, but certain knowledge can be dangerous in placed in the wrong hands (Mat.7:6).

However, if anyone is moved by the Spirit and wishes to know the rest of this story, we are offering the entire article. The knowledge of where this holy place is leads to the identification of the 'abomination of desolation'.

Whatever you may have read about the

'abomination of desolation' you can put in the rubbish bin. We are aware of many such publications and they are nothing but guesswork. This knowledge was not meant to be revealed before the end of the age. When you read our article you will understand how close we are to the return of Jesus Christ.

But what if a Temple is built in Jerusalem in the meantime? What would be the significance of such an event? From the Christian point of view, the importance of such an event would be nil. If the Jews want to do a service to God they would do infinitely better by repenting than expending their efforts on a building of little use at present. There is a good chance that the building will be destroyed before it is finished. Why? Because Jesus Christ will not return to any building built with human hands, but to us. **For we are the Temples of the Living God, in whom the Holy Spirit resides, and no Satanic minister will deceive us into believing otherwise.**

"And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For **you are the temple of the living God.** As God has said: 'I will dwell in them, and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people'" (2Cor.6:16)

The claim that a new Temple must be built in Jerusalem before the return of Jesus Christ is part of a wider deception designed to lull followers of Jesus Christ into a false sense of security. It is designed to make people believe there is a long time before He returns to take His people to Himself. Be sure you are not caught in this Satanic deception. Make sure you are not found sleeping with no oil in your lamps as do the foolish 'virgins' (Mat.25:1-13).

"Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord.
For me to write the same things to you
is not tedious, but for you it is safe.

Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers,
beware of the mutilation!

For we are the circumcision, who worship God
in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus,
and have no confidence in the flesh"
(Phil.3:1-2).

THE IMPORTANCE OF CHOOSING THE RIGHT LEADER

How do you know if you have chosen the right person as your leader? The world has turned up-side down the values and the qualities that make a great leader, but the followers of Jesus Christ are expected to know how to choose their leaders. At a time when the world is wallowing in deception, following the wrong person could cost you your salvation. Here is what you need to know about those whom you choose as your leaders.

Would you choose as your leader one who supported those who killed Christians? Who admitted having difficulty controlling the impulses of his human nature? Who converted to Christianity, reached the leadership of the church, then caused havoc by introducing doctrines of which no one has heard before?

Or would you vote for this man: A non-conformist, in conflict with the leaders, associating with prostitutes and the lower classes, gaining a following for himself then teaching a religion in conflict with traditional beliefs?

Would you approve of any of these people to be your leader?

Can you imagine the media headlines and the furor among people if persons with such records run for President of the USA? The people described above are, of course, apostle Paul and Jesus Christ.

The media from all countries are looking for what can be sensationalized, trivial matters which can be taken out of context - as we did to prove the point - instead of substance and intent which give meaning and purpose to life.

Jesus Christ, the King of Kings, and apostle Paul, a King under Him in the Kingdom of God, could not attain the standard required by those who aspire to the presidency of the USA. Which proves the point that it is easier and safer to become a King in the Kingdom of God than a leader in an earthly Republic or Kingdom. If you aspire to become leader in the Kingdom of God and announce your candidacy, God the Father and Jesus Christ will take note of your intention, and no journalist will hound you and search out your past misdemeanors for publicity.

In the USA they do not choose just anyone to lead them. They want angels over there. That is why that country is led so well and things are coming out so perfectly.

Recently, a number of unauthorized biographical books were published in the United States of America about the former President, Mr. Ronald Reagan and his wife Nancy. They compete

in revealing not important state matters, but the most unsavory aspects of their personal lives. The books became instant bestsellers, brought millions of dollars to their authors and created sensational headlines in the media across the country. They became the topic of discussion in many television and radio programs.

This phenomenon tells us more about the American media and the conditioning the American public, than about the former President's family life. A classic example of irresponsible, sensationalist journalism, characteristic of this paragon of spiritual and moral decay which the United States have become.

The American constitution guarantees individual freedom, but it cannot guarantee a sense of responsibility. Thus, the freedom of religion becomes the freedom to sin, to commit blasphemy, to worship Satan and other pagan deities, while the freedom of speech becomes the freedom to meddle in other peoples' affairs and to defile other people's memory.

President Reagan and his family had no power to redress this gross violation of their private life except to say that their friends would not buy such books. Of course, a good friend would not want to pry into your life. The authors, no doubt, embellished and misinterpreted many facts in order to make the books 'spicier' and more publicly appealing. It is a general characteristic of those who write this kind of material.

None of us were not angels when we grew up (some never grow up), and many of us are repulsed by the foolish things we undertook in the search for thrills and entertainment. But as we mature we remember the words of King Solomon of Israel, the wisest man who ever lived (1Kin.3:12; Ecl.1:16) (except for Jesus Christ, Luke 11:31), who said:

"Rejoice, O young man, in your youth;
And let your heart cheer you
In the days of your youth;
Walk in the ways of your heart,
And in the sight of your eyes;
But know that for all these
God will bring you into judgment.

"Therefore remove sorrow from your heart,
And put away evil from your flesh,
For childhood and youth are vanity.
(Eccl.11:9-10).

When we repent, God wipes clean our past errors. If God forgives and forgets, should not human beings do likewise? Any human being who does not respect this divine principle reproaches his Maker and commits blasphemy.

Christians do not delve into other people's lives in order to expose unsavory facts. We believe in repentance; we practice it in our lives; we respect it in other peoples' lives and expect them to respect it in us. Our Lord Jesus Christ said that we must forgive other people's sins not seven times, but seventy times seven (Mat.18:22). In other words, we must forgive others as many times as they request it, as long as they show genuine repentance.

It makes no difference what they did in their life. If they show remorse and ask forgiveness, we must grant it. Refusal to grant forgiveness is as un-Christian as exposing their sins. When people say that they are sorry for what they did, the matter stops there. No one has the right to meddle any further. True Christians certainly do not do such things.

We know that a person cannot become a 'saint' overnight. The process of repentance is long and painful. It is a difficult personal struggle to extricate oneself from past sins and errors. Even when people relent and go back to their sinful life, it is not for us to judge them or to start exposing their sins to the world.

The apostles of Jesus Christ gave us an example to follow. Whenever they spoke of people's personal sins they never revealed their name publicly (See Romans 1 and 2). They mentioned people's names only when questions of doctrine or attitude arose which posed a danger to the Church, but even then they did not delve into their private lives (1Ti.1:20; 2Ti.2:17; 3John 1:9). It is God Almighty and Jesus Christ who deal with such matters, who judge people, not we who are in the bonds of sin:

"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
(1John 1:8).

"For there is not a just man on earth who does good and does not sin." (Eccl.7:20).

"Judge not, that you may not be judged.

"For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the same measure you use, it will be measured back to you.

"And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye?

"Or how can you say to your brother. 'Let me remove the speck out of your eye; and look, a plank is in your own eye?

"Hypocrites! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck out of your brother's eye." (Mat.7:1-5).

When we pray to God using the Lord's prayer we say, "forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors" (Mat.6:12). If you then expose other peoples sins, is that forgiveness? If people have repented and been forgiven by God, they could stumble if their sins are exposed. That is an unpardonable sin. Beware, therefore, of meddling into other people's lives. Never forget the words of Jesus Christ:

"Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea" (Mark 9:42).

Sinful people have no qualms about their sins for they keep repeating them with no remorse. "This is the way of an adulterous woman [and man]: She eats and wipes her mouth, and says, 'I have done no wickedness'" (Ps.30:20). Exposing their sins means nothing. But it is different with those who have embarked on a life of repentance and righteousness. For them, such an act would be devastating. God annuls people's sins upon repentance and although they still remember their sins (as they should), they have the knowledge and conviction that God has forgiven and forgotten. Without that conviction and hope they are as good as dead. That is why many people who do not believe God, who have lost hope and faith, reach a point in which they cannot live with themselves anymore and commit suicide. That is Satan's way of solving problems not God's.

If you are ever desperate, when you see no other way out of your problems, turn to God. Give Him a chance to solve your problems for God's "strength is made perfect in weakness" (2Cor.12:9). Only then are you truly beginning to live a worthwhile life.

Recently, there have been a spate of publications about leaders in the Churches of God purporting to reveal their sins. Indeed, it is disturbing reading. The problem is that the authors do not deal only with their doctrinal errors, they get right down into the gutter,

revealing things which no one should want to read about other people's lives any more than they would want to read about their own lives. It is a Satanic ploy designed to destroy the Churches of God and to cause the faithful to stumble and loose their faith. Remember the words of Jesus Christ when He said:

"Why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye?"

"Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck out of your brother's eye." (Mat.7:3,5).

In the same chapter Jesus Christ warned His followers to:

"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits." (Mat.7:15,16a).

If you have something to say about those who lead the Churches of God, if you feel that they lead the Churches astray, expose their doctrinal errors, but leave their sins and their private lives alone. The Churches of God represent the body of Jesus Christ and if that body has an ill fitting member, it is for Jesus Christ to heal or discard that member.

Jesus Christ knows His body better than you do. He knows whom He appoints to lead His Churches and for what reason. If you knew the Scriptures, you would know that there is a purpose in everything He does. There is a reason why He allows hypocrites to lead His Churches.

Did He not call the religious leaders of His day hypocrites yet He told His disciples to obey them because they sat in Moses' seat? (Mat.23:1-36).

The trials which the Churches of God are experiencing these days are from above and are designed to test the spiritual strength of their members. Woe to those who allowed themselves to become Satan's instruments in the trials of Jesus' followers. It would have been better for them if they were never born.

Those members who have taken an easy ride throughout their lives, who have not done their homework, who have not prayed, studied the Bible and worshipped the Almighty "to show themselves approved before God" (2Ti.2:15), will not have the strength to resist the wiles of the Devil (Eph.6:11) and will find it very hard to stand on their feet. They are likely become the victim of deception and lose their salvation.

The Kingdom of God is for those of strong

character, who are able to discern right from wrong, true from false, good from evil, and holy from unholy. Apostle Peter wrote:

"Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy.

"If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of Glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified.

"But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evil doer, or as a busybody in other people's matters. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him glorify God in this matter.

"For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God. Now, 'If the righteous one is scarcely saved, where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?'

"Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator." (1Peter 12-19).

If you believe that you are a member of one of the seven Churches of God listed in the Book of Revelation (Rev.2 and 3), you should rejoice in your heart regardless of which Church Jesus Christ made you a member of. Every Church has good and bad within its ranks and Laodicea is no different than the other Churches. Some ministers of Satan have been twisting the Scriptures by using the command which Jesus Christ gave to His people to come out of Babylon (Rev.18:4), as meaning to say that they must come out of the Laodicean Church. Jesus Christ **never** told anyone to come out of His Churches.

To the members of the Laodicea Church who say that they are 'rich and become wealthy' and are 'neither hot nor cold', He told them to 'buy gold refined in fire' to become rich spiritually, and 'white garments' to cover their nakedness; **He did not tell them to come out of the church!** Whichever way the Laodicea Church is, it is still the Church of God.

If Jesus Christ has brought you into one of His Churches, you cannot join another Church and neither should you try to. If you remain

close to God, if you do not depart from the ways of God, you have nothing to fear. Neither should you worry if you are disfellowshipped from a church for doing the right thing. A minister or a priest can disfellowship you, but no man can put you out of the Church of God. Only Jesus Christ and you, yourself, can put you out of any of the Churches of God.

You don't need to belong to any group of people to be in the Church of God. Once you have been baptized, received the Holy Spirit and set on the right track, you are on your own. Your salvation depends purely and entirely on yourself. If you can fellowship with people of like-mind so much the better, but if you cannot there is nothing to worry about.

Study the Bible (Is.34:16; 55:1-3), meditate on the law of God all the time (Jos.1:8; Ps.119:97):

"Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them [the study of the Scriptures], that your progress may be evident to all. Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, **for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you**" (1Ti.4:15-16).

Fellowship with Jesus Christ and with His Holy Spirit for so have the prophets, the apostles and all true Christians through the ages. Beware of the deception for many false prophets have come into the world, especially

now in the last time. Look to no man as your leader, but to Jesus Christ for He alone is a true shepherd and He will guide you in the right direction:

"I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture"

"I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own." (John 10:14,9).

Do you know Jesus Christ? Does He know you? That is the only thing that matters.

"By this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says 'I know Him,' and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

"But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him" (1John 2:3-5).

"Now may the God of peace who brought u our Lord Jesus from the dead, **that great Shepherd of the sheep**, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. (Heb.13:20-21).

"Jesus said, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me' (John 14:6).

TRUE PROPHETS, FALSE PROPHETS, NO PROPHETS, WHICH PROPHETS?

At a time when the world is full of 'prophets' it is not always easy to know who is a right prophet and who is a false one. Too often luck of knowledge of the Scriptures causes many to take one for another. Here is how you recognize who is who.

Shortly after the first issue of 'The Christian Herald' was published in Dec. 1990, we received a call from a very excited person who told us that he was very grateful for receiving our magazine and that he strongly agreed with our viewpoints. Then he hesitated as if wanting to say something else, but not quite daring to do so. When we assured him that we appreciate any honest opinion, he advised us to be just a bit more careful when writing about Jerusalem because, he said, most theologians believe that what we wrote about that city had already occurred in ancient times and he didn't want us to end up being called false prophets.

He had shown our magazine to his church leaders who assured him that the desecration of the holy place had been done by Antiochus Epyphanes and the destruction of Jerusalem by the Roman armies under Titus. Therefore we should not look to Jerusalem to see these things fulfilled again. This means that there are two different opinions about the fulfillment of certain biblical prophecies regarding Jerusalem; those who understand them correctly are, presumably, true prophets while those who do not are false prophets. This requires a thorough, objective and open analysis of those prophecies, for no one wants to be called a false prophet.

There were four major articles in the first issue of 'The Christian Herald', two of which we regarded as very important. One was about the Gospel of the Kingdom of God and the other about the Creation - Evolution controversy. These articles required lengthy and painstaking research work while the others were written at the last moment as a reflection of our understanding of world developments in relation to biblical prophecy.

Very little comment was received about the articles which we considered to be important, but considerable feedback, most of it critical, about the other articles. If there is one lesson learned from that experience it is that if to draw people's attention to our writings we write something about prophecy. Nothing seems to stir people more than a good dose of 'unveiled' mystery, and woe to those whose utterances do not conform

with expectations of the future. Judging from the recent media hype about Nostradamus, it seems that the more incomprehensible and far fetched the prophecies are, the more attention they will receive.

One of the largest Churches of God in the USA publishes a magazine which, for years, has claimed to reveal 'the plain truth' about biblical prophecies. As long as it remained faithful to that logo, the magazine was very popular, but recently it fell silent on prophecies. The authors were wrong so many times, it seemed that they decided to play it safe. The problem was that the magazine became insipid and lost much of its appeal. The latest information suggests that the Church and its magazine are suffering from a slow terminal illness.

The question is are we becoming victims of a similar experience or are we going to continue speaking the truth of God boldly, in spite of the occasional setback? There is one difference between us and other preachers: we are not in this business to amass a fortune, we are doing this job because 'necessity is laid upon us' (1Cor.9:16). Or as Jesus Christ said:

"He who is a hireling and not the [true] shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them" (John 10:12).

In other words, those who preach the Word of God for profit run away when difficulties arise. We cannot do that and we won't, and if a mistake is made it will be found, corrected and avoided in the future.

At a time when biblical prophecies are coming alive, when they are being fulfilled before our eyes in the Middle East, in Europe, in the former Soviet Union, in America and in many other parts of the world, it would be a dereliction of duty not to speak out about what the Almighty has revealed to us about the world. If occasionally we are wrong, we are not alone. Almost every prophet expected their prophecies to be fulfilled during their life time, but most of them were

not. Jeremiah became so angry that God 'deceived' him he decided never to speak in His name again. But then God taught him such a lesson that he cursed the day he was born and continued to prophesy in God's name. (Jer.20:7-18).

Even the apostles got it wrong when they spoke about the end of the age and the return of Jesus Christ, for they thought it would occur during their life times (1Cor.15:51; 1Thes.4:15,17; James 5:8; 1John 2:18).

Because some people were incorrect with the timing of certain prophecies it does not mean that the prophecies have failed. All the prophecies of God have occurred as they were meant to and the few remaining ones are in the process of being fulfilled or will be fulfilled shortly. But not everyone is meant to understand when and how the prophecies are to be fulfilled:

"Many shall be purified, made white, and refined, but the wicked shall do wickedly; and none of the wicked shall understand, but the wise shall understand" (Dan.12:10).

Some of the strongest criticism received, came from people who, otherwise, had no compunction in taking many of our ideas without acknowledgment of their source. Some even plagiarized our work then sold it for money. For this reason, our writings are now under copyright.

Now let us analyze the writings which were criticized

"When you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near. Then let those in Judea flee to the mountains, let those who are in the midst of her depart, and let not those who are in the country enter her. For these are days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled" (Luke 21:20-22).

After this quote from Luke we continued:

"Is Jerusalem surrounded by armies now? No, not yet. They haven't finished with Iraq, but when they do they'll only need to turn around and they'll face Jerusalem. We said earlier that the current Middle Eastern crisis is not about Iraq and Kuwait. That's only the pretext to bring the armies of the world against Jerusalem. God works in wondrous ways.

"Would anyone, except a few Arab countries, have sent their armies against Jerusalem? Hardly. But now that they are there, it's a different story. Once Iraq is brought into line, whether by force or by diplomacy, those

armies are not just going to pack up and go home leaving the Middle East no better than it was before. No, they need to create conditions for the new world order and for that era of 'promise, freedom, and peace' of which President Bush spoke about. That cannot be achieved until the problems of Jerusalem are resolved and peace brought to that city first.

"Because three major world religions - Judaism, Christianity and Islam - claim it as a central place in their faith, the only possible solution is to make it an international city. That way also we would have the conditions for a Pope to visit that city [too]. Did you know that no Pope ever visited Jerusalem in two thousand years of Christianity? Only one Pope will God Almighty allow to step foot on that land and most likely he will come to inaugurate the 'new era of peace.' When that happens be ready for Armageddon."

It would be foolish to pretend that everything turned out as expected, but before we jump to conclusions, let us see which things came true. Armed with hindsight, let us compare our writings with biblical prophecy and with what actually occurred or may yet occur in the near future.

When the article was written, the U.S.A. and its allies were preparing the military coalition against Iraq. The general consensus of political commentators was that if the war broke out - there was still a lot of hope that it may not - it would be a mighty war, the 'mother of all battles', as President Hussein baptized it. Many believed that Iraq would turn the war into a blood bath reminiscent for America of the Vietnam experience. We did not subscribe to that view even though we said that America was heading towards disaster at home. America's punishment would not come from the Middle East.

On the other hand we expected that Iraq would be brought into line quite easily following which, the allied armies would move towards Jerusalem to pacify and resolve that long standing conflict. It was not foreseen that there would be a delay in that operation and that the leaders would try to firstly resolve that conflict by negotiations. But that does not mean that the thrust of our 'prophecy' has failed, for as long as the Middle Eastern conflict is not resolved, there is still time for all the things to occur. At present, not even the war with Iraq is settled, let alone the broader Middle Eastern conflict. There is a truce, not an end of conflict.

It is a well known fact that the American troops were rushed home prematurely, before Iraq

was brought into line. After all the effort and the expense that went into that operation, all it took was one ill conceived order and the whole thing fizzled out. The war against Iraq brought misery to a larger number of people than Iraq's aggression against Kuwait. The Kurds and the Shia people were decimated, and continue to be so, by the man who was supposed to have been vanquished by the allied forces.

Who would have thought that a coalition of armies under the United Nations flag would bring such an unsatisfactory resolution to the war? At a time when the UN's prestige was supposed to be enhanced in order to enable it to play an expanded role in world affairs, it has shown that it is still as incompetent and immoral as always.

At the beginning of Feb. 1992, one of the most important gatherings in the history of the United Nations took place. The heads of government from the United States, Russia, China, Britain, France and Japan gathered for a special session of the Security Council and decided unanimously to "strengthen and make more efficient...the capacity of the UN for preventive diplomacy, for peacemaking and for peacekeeping". The Secretary General of the UN said that the emerging system will lead to "the democratisation of international relations and participation of all States in developing new norms of international life." President Yeltsin said that Russia and the West "are not only partners but allies."

This Security Council meeting was hailed as officially marking the end of the cold war and the beginning of a new era. The world can breath easily; peace is breaking out everywhere and it will be enforced by none other than the most efficient, prestigious and powerful institution in the world - the United Nations. Human nature, the cause of all wars during nearly six thousand years of history, has been changed overnight by a decree of the Security Council. There will be no more wars and no more conflicts because the UN is working on it. Human beings have finally agreed to build a glorious future for themselves. And, of course, as we might have expected, they are going to do this without God. There is no room for God at the United Nations meetings. God is never mentioned during their deliberations.

In the discussions between President Bush and President Yeltsin which followed after the Security Council meeting, President Yeltsin proposed a global defence system against nuclear missiles by combining his country's space technology with America's Strategic Defence Initiative. He also proposed a drastic reduction in the number of nuclear warheads to about 2500

each which is less than a quarter of their present stockpiles. It has been reported that President Bush was cool to both these offers. His administration apparently is worried that by agreeing to such drastic reductions in the war arsenals they may lose the status as a superpower. They will come to regret their decision, for the weapons which they did not agree to destroy will eventually fall on their heads.

It may be of interest to the world leaders to know what God thinks of their plans to create a new world of peace without Him: "When they say 'Peace and safety!' then sudden destruction comes upon them" (1Th.5:3). As you put into practice your plans just remember these words.

We have a window into the future by seeing how the United Nations resolved the Gulf conflict. It imposed economic sanctions against an entire country in order to punish its leader. Heart rending pictures of children and innocent adults starving in a cesspool of misery have been coming out of that country in recent months. A hungry man exclaimed in a weakening voice, "Why is the United Nations doing this to us"?

What does the United Nations expect those starving people to do? To raise against their leader? If the Kurdish and the Shia people, who were much better prepared to fight, were massacred by Saddam Hussein's forces when they rose against him at the urging of President Bush, how much less can these people do to extricate themselves from their terrible plight? But this is the morality - the vision of the future - that we can expect from the 'democratized' United Nations.

If the UN wanted a different government in Iraq they had the chance to do it when their troops were advancing unopposed towards Bagdad, but they were turned back, and now they are bent on destroying the entire nation by famine and epidemics. If someone was doing this to any country, it would be considered genocide, but when the United Nations does it, it is necessary, honorable policy. If the images coming out of Iraq were of starving skeletal animals there would be a worldwide outrage, but they are only images of children and humans and they are expendable. God Almighty save us from the United Nations' new world order.

The members of the Security Council - the same people who decided unanimously to create this new wonderful world of peace - also voted unanimously to continue the economic sanctions against Iraq. Brave and moral new world this is going to be, but that is how the United Nations understands how to enact justice. They punish the weak and the innocent in the hope that the guilty might take notice. Any wonder that the

world is in such a mess! That is why God Almighty will soon intervene to show the world that justice is achieved by punishing the guilty not the innocent.

Next time you see a starving child or adult, remember that every human being in the world is made in the image of God. Our Lord said that when you do something to an innocent person, it is like doing it to Himself. God the Father and Jesus Christ are the God and the Lord of the entire world, although at present They are known by Christians only. But the time is at hand when they shall be known by everyone in the world.

Contrary to popular opinion, what the Gulf War has shown is not that the USA is the only remaining superpower, much as they like to think that way, but that it too, is finished as a superpower. When the leaders do not have the vision and the moral courage to lead troops to complete victory, no arms in the world will win you the war. The American administration believes they have won a resounding victory in the Gulf War because they no longer regard as important the questions of morality. What transpired in the end is not only an unfinished war, but a highly immoral one too. If God ever justified a war, He certainly would not justify this kind of result. The economic sanctions against the people of Iraq cannot continue - they must end at once.

"If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat; And if he is thirsty, give him water to drink; For so you will heap coals of fire on his head, and the Lord will reward you" (Pr.25:21-2).

"Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, and do not let your heart be glad when he stumbles; Lest the Lord see it, and it displease Him, and He turn away His wrath from him" (Pr. 24:17-18).

The Iraqi troops who were taken prisoners, kissed the hands of their captors, so happy were they to be freed from the hand of their oppressor. If the allied troops were allowed to continue only a few more days, they would have taken Bagdad and end the agony both of the people of Iraq and of their neighbors, but for his own reasons President Bush did not want that to happen. What started as a moral crusade against an evil power ended up as a farce and parody of justice. Home front politics and American geopolitical interests dictated the outcome of the war. None of the allies questioned the wisdom of ending the conflict that way.

Now it looks as if there will be another round of hostilities just in time to give

President Bush another boost in the polls before the presidential elections later this year, if he is still in the race. Iraq's military government is playing right in his hands. They have just announced that they will no longer cooperate with the United Nations officials in monitoring its arms-building and purchasing program. "Iraq does not recognize that it has any obligations" under Security Council resolutions 707 and 717 and "would not make any further declarations" on its weapons production plans.

The conflict with President Hussein is far from over, but the people of Iraq should not be starved because of the evils done by their superiors. When sanctions are necessary, they should be enacted against weapons and related materials, but never on food and life essentials. That is not Christian! If you do what is right, the odds will never turn against you.

What was said in the previous issue of 'The Christian Herald' about the USA remains valid. That country is still heading towards the most spectacular fall in the history of the world, more spectacular than the fall of the Soviet Union. Here is part of what we wrote then:

"The United States of America has become the most, morally and spiritually, polluted land on earth. Rampant homosexuality, bestiality, Satanism, glorified adultery, teen-age promiscuity, crime, theft, blasphemies,... everything that God condemns in the Bible, and warns people against doing...[they do].

"And now the children - the last frontier as it is - they, too, have to be corrupted and infected with these unspeakable abominations through this insidious use of modern technology [computer games which advise children to do abominable things]. And, as if it is not enough to do it to their own people, they are now exporting it to their friends overseas."...

"Can President Bush see, now, where his nation's truly vital interest is? Does he realize the danger in which his nation finds itself, and the catastrophe which is fast approaching it? If he does he ought to take quick measures, otherwise, the conditions are all there for the most spectacular fall in the history of the entire world. That this coincides also with the fast approaching great tribulation at the end of this age should only make it more obvious that the nations of this world in general, and the U.S.A. in particular, are about to face the truth and the consequences of their way of

life before God Almighty."

Some American religious leaders were very angry about these writings. Instead of being concerned with the sins of their people, checking out to see whether what we said is true or not, they were more concerned with the image of their country. Two more events have occurred since then which must be added to this litany of evils.

Firstly, there was a television interview with a famous rock star with a world wide following in which she urged everyone to have "at least one homosexual experience." America, the number one nation in the world, the people who proudly declare on their currency "In God We Trust," is now exporting sin, filth and immorality to the world by every means available: media, film, television, computer software and, the most potent means of all with the young generation, pop and rock music. They trust in God! Which god?

Secondly, a new book recently appeared on the market which created waves across America, by claiming to publish the results of research into women's sexual fantasies. The author claimed to have discovered that a large percentage of women fantasise about, would you believe it, being made love by animals. Many dismissed her methodology and her findings and so do we, but the fact that such material received instant publicity not only in America but also overseas, shows that the media is in collusion with, or under the influence of, Satanic forces bent on destroying every vestige of decency and reducing humans to the level of animals.

No expense is spared in publicizing such filth, yet we must struggle with primitive duplicating equipment because no one would touch our writings. This is the world in which we live and this is the witness which the world will have to face.

These two events have the potential to do unlimited damage to human society. Yet the leaders of the Churches of God found nothing unusual about them. None of these abominations and the dangers they pose are even mentioned in their publications. But they took issue with our work and found reasons to criticize us.

Is not the role of the religious leaders to warn their people against indulging in such abominable things? Are these people watching what is going on around them as Jesus Christ commanded His followers to do? (Mat.24:42). The Churches of God have well and truly fallen asleep (Mat.25:8-13), and fallen away (2Th.2:3).

Instead of encouraging the work we do, for they know very well that no man can do such work without God's Holy Spirit, they take issue with

the things we say. If they are uncomfortable that someone from outside the USA reveals the sins of their people and warns them of the consequences of their way of life, then they should get busy doing what is required of them. Our work is not meant to reach the general population, for we have neither the resources nor the command to do so. Our mission is to convey the will of God to the leaders of the world.

The spiritual leaders in all English speaking countries are failing in their job just as the leaders of ancient Israel failed in theirs:

"The word of the Lord came to me, saying, "Son of man, say to her: "You are a land that is not cleansed or rained on in the day of indignation.

"The conspiracy of her prophets in her midst is like a roaring lion tearing the pray; they have devoured people; they have taken treasure and precious things; they have made many widows in her midst...

"Her princes in her midst are like wolves tearing the pray, to shed blood, to destroy people, and to get **dishonest gain**.

"Her prophets plastered them with untempered mortar, seeing false visions, and divining lies for them saying, 'Thus says the Lord God,' when the Lord had not spoken.

"The people of the land have used oppressions, committed robbery, and mistreated the poor and needy; and they wrongfully oppress the stranger.

"So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found none."

"Therefore I poured out My indignation on them; I have consumed them with the fire of My wrath; and I have recompensed their deeds on their own heads," says the Lord God." (Ezek. 22:23-25, 27-31, emphasis added)

These words were spoken as much against ancient Israel as against the modern day descendants of Jacob. When Ezekiel wrote this prophecy, Israel was already in captivity. This prophecy, in fact, applies to all the nations of the world because all nations belong to God and He does not sanction that kind of behavior from the religious or secular leaders of any nation. It makes no difference when or against whom a prophecy was spoken; if conditions in any country match those described in the

prophecies of the Bible, then those prophecies apply to that country.

Here is another example of a prophecy spoken for ancient Israel, but which is valid for all nations today:

"There is no truth or mercy or knowledge of God in the land. By swearing and lying, killing and stealing and committing adultery, they break all restraint, with bloodshed after bloodshed.

Therefore the land will mourn; and everyone who dwells there will waste away with the beasts of the field and the birds of the air; even the fish of the sea will be taken away" (Hos.4:1-3).

This prophecy was spoken before Israel was defeated and taken into captivity, so it can be said that it was fulfilled at that time. But take another look at what it says. The people of the land together with the beasts of the field and the birds of the air **will waste away**. Did they waste away in ancient times? How could they? Only nuclear weapons can do such devastation. Hosea said that "even the fish of the sea will be taken away." This is not referring to fishing, the only way fish could have been taken away in ancient times. This is referring to pollution and nuclear devastation. This prophecy is for our time. Read the rest of the prophecies of Hosea to see how well they apply to the USA, to Britain, to Australia, to other industrialized countries and, indeed, to the whole world.

The people of ancient Israel failed to see that the Scriptures which God gave them were to be conveyed to all nations. They were to be an example to other nations just as the Christians were to be an example when they became the people of God. But just as Israel failed in the Old Testament times, so have the Christians failed in the New Testament times.

Because no one is speaking out the truth of God, He brought us from another country and another tongue to show the sins of His people and to tell the world the reasons for its tribulations:

"For with stammering lips and **another tongue** He will speak to these people."

"To whom He said, 'This is the rest with which you may cause the weary to rest,' and, 'This is the refreshing', **yet they would not hear**" (Is.28:11-12, emphasis added).

We could have spoken in another tongue, but we made the effort to speak in English - the

language of the descendants of Jacob and 'lingua franca' of the world. But it does not seem to make any difference for no matter what language one speaks in they remain deaf.

The United States of America appears on the surface to be the most Christian nation in the world, yet in reality it is the opposite. Under the guise of individual freedom, its citizens have a guaranteed constitutional '**right**' to practice whatever religion and whatever abomination they want. Is this what the 'founding fathers' had in mind when they drafted the USA constitution?

Not long ago, a leader of one of the Churches of God, wrote about how happy he was living in the USA and enjoying the freedoms guaranteed by its constitution. This leader does not know that the only constitution in the Millennial Kingdom will be the Bible. That is why we advise everyone to get acquainted with it now, to get a head start, so that it will be easier for them and for their people later on.

After he made that statement, it transpired that the leaders of that Church were enjoying more 'freedoms' than they should have been. Many things has God Almighty revealed through the plague of AIDS. As Jesus Christ said, "there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, nor hidden that will not be known" (Luke 12:2). Those who enjoy such 'freedoms' should repent without delay and start praying earnestly. It may be that God will spare them the agony of such revelations and forgive and forget their sins. "They do not consider in their hearts that I remember all their wickedness" says the Eternal God. But, the Bible also tells us that:

"The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in mercy. He will not always strive with us, nor will He keep His anger forever.

He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor punished us according to our iniquities.

For as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; As far as east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.

As a father pities his children, so the Lord pities those who fear Him. For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust" (Ps.103:8-14).

Watching TV on a Sunday morning in the USA, one is noxiated by boisterous, phony, arrogant, ignorant preachers, who make it obvious that their concern is money, not the preaching of

the Gospel of the Kingdom of God or the spiritual well-being of their people.

The kind of advise the religious leaders gave to President Bush before and during the Gulf War reveals the bankruptcy of their moral and spiritual standards. These people do not know that true Christians never go to war, never pick up arms to take other people's lives and never advise others to do so. Christians do not mingle in this world's affairs and, if forced to do so, offer their bodies "as living sacrifices" (Rom.12:1), rather than take other people's lives.

We do not need to defend our God as other religions do: He defends and protects us if we obey Him. If you start living according to the will of God, you could destroy all your weapons and all your defenses, no one will ever attack or harm you. You will prosper and enjoy good health as no other nation in the world ever did. This promise God made to ancient Israel, but it is valid today for all nations, and it will remain valid forever.

The promise of prosperity made at the national level must not be confused with the promise of salvation made at the personal level. Nations are not saved, they prosper and are protected against enemies. Individual people, however, are saved, but that process requires suffering. The leaders of present day Churches have confused the two promises. They have assumed for themselves the blessings God made to Israel, and have imposed horrendous burdens on the followers of Jesus Christ. That is why Jesus Christ said that He will disown them in the day of judgment (Mat.25:41).

Under the Old Testament, which is basically a covenant designed for national guidance, God promised national prosperity to those people who obeyed His laws, statutes and judgments. That is why people should not be too surprised to discover that in the Millennial Kingdom much of the Old Testament will come in force once again. In the New Testament, however, there are additional requirements for personal salvation. Christians achieve salvation not only by obeying the laws of God, but by leading a life of righteousness, modesty, simplicity, chastity, poverty and by placing themselves completely in the service of God. We are the sacrificial lambs of God and rejoice that God considers us worthy of such a sacrifice:

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service." (Rom.12:1).

How many preachers and church leaders preach

this religion today? We do not know of any, but we do know of many who boast of material 'blessings' and of leading a 'good' life. That is why in the day of judgment, Jesus Christ will tell them: "Depart from Me, all you workers of iniquity" (Luke 13:27b).

During the days of preparation for the Gulf War, President Bush said repeatedly that he would not link Iraq's invasion of Kuwait with the Israeli/Palestinian conflict, as Saddam Hussein requested. As a result of those guarantees, Israel abstained from entering the war even when missiles fell on its cities. They did not expect the shock that came their way after the war. President Bush used his presidential power to deny Israel the help it needed until Israel agreed to negotiate with its implacable enemies. For the first time in Israel's history, an American president was declared an enemy of Israel by members of the Israeli parliament. Nevertheless Israel had no choice but to obey.

We knew that after the war the attention of everyone involved in the Gulf War would turn to the Israeli/Palestinian conflict in spite of President Bush's protestations. We said that the allied troops will not go home leaving the Middle East no better than it was before the war. Well, the troops did go home, but they did not leave the Middle East as it was before the war. Without the Gulf War there would have been no peace negotiations.

An editorial in 'Sydney Morning Herald' (Feb.3rd, 1992), said:

Could it be that the Middle East peace process is acquiring a momentum that will make it unstoppable? The latest round of talks under the aegis of last October's Madrid peace initiative suggests that may be the case. Last week in Moscow, Israel and ten Arab countries - a gathering that would have unheard of 12 months ago - agreed to set up permanent working groups to discuss a range of the more touchy issues in the Middle East. Their efforts were applauded by the US, Russia, the European Community, China and Japan, and these powers vowed to continue pushing the peace process along. Certainly a comprehensive process is nowhere in sight. But a return to the old days of intermittent war between Arabs and Israelis now seems out of the question."

Prior to the war, America's interest in the Middle East was best served by its alliance with Israel, but after the war its interest shifted towards its newly found Arab friends. This will have enormous implications for the outcome of that conflict. Although America tries to be

seen as a balanced peace broker, Israel knows that it has become expendable. That is why it must now find accommodation with its Arab neighbors or it will find itself standing alone against the whole world. What few people realize is that this is precisely what it shall happen.

We said that Jerusalem must be pacified to enable the Pope visit that city for the first time. We thought that the allied troops under the United Nations flag would become peace keepers in and around Jerusalem to facilitate that visit. But whichever way, Jerusalem will be pacified, and the Pope will visit that city soon.

In April 1991, five months after we predicted this thing, newspaper headlines announced in bold letters, "POPE WANTS PEACE VISIT TO JERUSALEM." Even we were astonished because we did not expect this announcement to come so soon.

When this visit will take place, it will be the most momentous event in the history of the world since the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The world will be astonished by what will follow that visit.

Why do so many people think that what we wrote about Jerusalem has already occurred? Do they really understand history and know the Bible as they should? Let us see who is right. Here is part of what we wrote. We quoted this passage from Matthew and said that the events described in it are yet to occur:

When you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand), "then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Let him who is on the housetop not come down to take anything out of the house. And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes.

But woe to those who are pregnant and to those with nursing babies in those days! And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath.

For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened." (Mat.24:15-22).

Have any of these things occurred? Has the great tribulation taken place? Has the abomination of desolation been standing in the holy place? Has Jesus Christ returned? All these things are said to happen just prior to His

return, not in ancient times. If they would have occurred, the end of this age would have come, but the end has not come, and these things are yet to occur.

By the way, did you notice what day Jesus Christ expected His followers to observe when He returns? He said, "pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath." Sabbath not Sunday! Why should the flight not be in winter or on the Sabbath? Because in winter it is freezing, and on the Sabbath people are not supposed to carry heavy burdens.

What about the question of the destruction of Jerusalem? Will it be destroyed again or will it not? Titus destroyed and killed those who opposed him, but he did not take one from the roof and leave another, or take one from the field and leave another as Jesus Christ said that it will happen at the time of the great tribulation (Mat.24:40-41).

The prophet Zechariah wrote:

"Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of drunkenness to all the surrounding peoples, when they lay siege against Judah and Jerusalem" (Zech.12:2).

In 70 AD, it was the Roman armies which laid siege against Jerusalem not the surrounding peoples. Titus sent the Jewish people into exile, not gather them from the exile as the Bible says that it will happen at the end of this age:

"I will be found by you, says the Lord, and I will bring you back from your captivity; I will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you to the place from which I cause you to be carried away captive" (Jer.29:14).

"And it shall happen in that day that I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all peoples; all who would heave it away will surely be cut to pieces, though **all nations of the earth are gathered against it...**

"In that day I will make the governors of Judah like a fire pan in the woodpile, and like a fiery torch in the sheaves; **they shall devour all the surrounding peoples** on the right hand and on the left, but Jerusalem shall be inhabited again in her own place.

"It shall be in that day that I will seek to **destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem** (Zech.12:3,6,9).

This prophecy says that Judah and its leaders will be in conflict with the whole world. Was Israel in conflict with the world in ancient

times? But recently, how many times did Israel stand alone in the United Nations while everyone condemned it for the 'sin' of asking its right to existence? This is only the beginning - there is worse to come.

God says that 'in that day He will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem'. What nations were destroyed that came against Jerusalem in ancient times? Not only did He not destroy the Romans, but they prospered for thousand of years afterwards. This prophecy is for the end of this age and it is yet to occur.

The writings of Zechariah show that during the coming conflagration, nuclear and neutron weapons will be used, a prophecy which would have made no sense to ancient peoples:

"And this shall be the plague with which the Lord will strike all the peoples who fought against Jerusalem:

"Their flesh shall dissolve while they stand on their feet, their eyes shall dissolve in their sockets, and their tongues in their mouths..."

"Such also shall be the plague on the horse and the mule and the donkey, and on all the cattle that will be in those camps. So shall this plague be" (Zech.14:12,15).

After those events the Jews will play a very important role in the Millennial Kingdom:

"And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of **all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to**

year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles" (Zech.14:16).

"Yes, many people and strong nations shall come to seek the Lord of hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the Lord.

"Thus says the Lord of hosts: 'In those days ten men from every language of the nations shall grasp the sleeve of a Jewish man, saying, "Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you"'" (Zech.8:22-23).

The nations that fought against Jerusalem in ancient times have not gone to Jerusalem from year to year to worship "the King and the Lord of hosts" during the Feast of Tabernacles. No, these events have not occurred in ancient times, they will occur in the near future.

Notice also, as with the Sabbath, which Holy Day will be celebrated during the Millennium? Not Easter, or Christmas, or Halloween, or Independence day, or Queen's birthday, or Thanksgiving day, or any other pagan or man made holy day, but the Feast of Tabernacles and the other biblical Holy Days. It is during those feasts that people will worship and give thanks to God, not during the feasts that humans have allocated for themselves in contravention to God's commandments.

In conclusion, what we said about Jerusalem stands. The Pope will visit that city soon! The nations will surround it! Armageddon will occur! Much destruction will take place! And Jesus Christ will return to take His people to Himself!

"Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, and they also who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.

'I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the end,' says the Lord, 'who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.'" (Rev.1:7-8).

EPISTLE TO THE ROMANIANS

Who are the Romanians and what is their role in the end time trials of the followers of Jesus Christ? Here are the astonishing answers to one of the world's great mysteries.

In the first issue of this magazine, published in Dec. 1990, there was criticism of the leaders of the United States of America and of Romania for disregarding the law of God in the leadership of their respective countries. This was no more than what John the Baptist and Jesus Christ did when they criticized the leaders of their time for not respecting the law of God.

John the Baptist and Jesus Christ lost their lives as a result, but we assumed that because this is an 'enlightened' and democratic world, there would be a different fate for those who convey the Word of God. Yet we discovered that for the people of God nothing has changed in two thousand years.

All countries which are members of the United Nations Organisation subscribe to the "Universal Declaration Of Human Rights" which guarantees individual freedom, the right to free speech and the right of religious worship according to one's conscience. Since both the USA and Romania are members of the UN, we assumed that we could rely on this guarantee and speak out without fear. Unfortunately, the laws of men are not like the laws of God - immutable and universally applicable. Human laws are like holiday decorations: they are set up to look good on special occasions, but are ignored the rest of the time.

From the United States of America we received some criticism from a few religious leaders, but nothing more. From Romania, however, we received devastating news. The government of that country continues to deal with its critics the same way it has dealt with for half a century. We lost one person and are in danger of losing everyone.

One might say that since we knew whom we were dealing with, we should have been more careful. Well, aside from the protection mentioned above, there were two other reasons which led us to speak openly about the truth of God:

(1) When President Iliescu took over power from Ceausescu in Romania, he and his Prime Minister, Mr. Peter Roman, promised to introduce 'original' democracy in that country. Not Western-style democracy, but 'original' democracy. Since we did not know what they

meant, we assumed that their democracy would be like any other, giving people the rights enjoyed by those in all democracies around the world.

(2) We are not doing this work to please ourselves, but to please God. Those who have served God, know that when He calls someone to do His work, there is no choice but to obey:

"For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, **woe is me if I do not preach the gospel!**

"For if I do this willingly, I have a reward; but if against my will, I have been entrusted with a stewardship.

"What is my reward then? That when I preach the gospel, I may present the gospel of Christ **without charge**, that I may not abuse my authority in the gospel" (1Cor.9:16-18).

This is a work inspired by God, and anyone who thinks otherwise should take a closer look and see whether this kind of work can be done without the guidance and inspiration of God's Holy Spirit.

In our first issue, we reported how one of our people, who lived in Romania, has been persecuted for years because of her connections with us and we hoped that by exposing her case to world opinion the new Romanian government would relent and leave her alone. But we discovered that for the people of God few things have changed in Romania. Within days of the publication of our magazine, she collapsed into semi-consciousness and within a few weeks she died.

Under normal circumstances, this coincidence would mean nothing, but these were not normal circumstances. For although she suffered many persecutions and deprivations, as far as was known she was still in reasonably good health. What made us suspicious was that no one could say why she collapsed and what happened to her. All attempts to obtain information by mail or by telephone failed. The mail coming in or out of Romania was, again, heavily censored or 'lost'.

About the same time, the head of the

by telephone failed. The mail coming in or out of Romania was, again, heavily censored or 'lost'.

About the same time, the head of the Romanian Securitate, now renamed the S.R.I., made a statement in the Romanian parliament that the Securitate was keeping under surveillance certain 'enemies of the country'. They were no longer 'enemies of the people' as under Ceausescu, but 'enemies of the country'.

In June, 1991, during an international conference on human rights held in Moscow, Amnesty International declared that President Iliescu's political opponents were still disappearing and being murdered. They gave specific examples, names and dates. We were convinced that our person's collapse and death were not natural, but had no evidence to prove otherwise.

A few months later a member of the Romanian Securitate fled from Romania, contacted us and informed us that unknown people had broken into her house, assaulted her and left her for dead in a ditch. She was found and survived a few more agonizing weeks, but never regained full consciousness. Throughout her ordeal there was no hospitalization, no medical care and no attempt by the Romanian authorities to find her assailants. That person was the mother of this writer.

During her ordeal we received telegrams and letters from a number of people, some of whom we knew some we didn't. They all asked us to go urgently to Romania. The problem was that many of those who wrote to us knew that we could not go to Romania as long as the political situation was still dominated by the former communist nomenclature. We suspected that it was a Securitate trap and declined their invitation.

At a time when other countries in Eastern Europe are making great strides to rid themselves of the legacy of atheism, Romania remains in the throes of spiritual darkness. Soon after our magazine reached Romania, there was a meeting between President Iliescu and the leader of the Romanian Orthodox Church, both of whom were negatively mentioned in that issue. We believe - the Spirit is telling us - that they discussed our case and decided to retaliate against us and to send us a strong warning.

Twenty five years ago, I was earmarked to become a member of the Romanian Securitate, but I managed to trick them into allowing me to get a job on a Romanian ship. As soon as I crossed the 'Iron Curtain' I sought political

asylum in the West. They never forgave me for that. All the members of my family left behind died in poverty and loneliness, isolated and and socially ostracized.

Neither did I escape the long arm of the Romanian Securitate even in a country as far away from Romania as Australia. I lost a good job because of them. Democracies are great countries to live in, but they offer no protection against foreign intrigues and subversion.

When we received these tragic news from Romania we went before the Almighty in prayer and supplication asking why an innocent person had to die in such horrible circumstances because of the work we do on His behalf? The revelations we received astounded us beyond measure.

The persecutions which we suffer these days are directly linked to the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. The forces which colluded in His death are now working hand in hand in the persecution and death of His followers.

Jesus Christ called those who sought to take His life, unbelievers and sons of the Devil (John 8:43-47). The leaders of Romania are all former members of the communist, atheistic nomenclature.

Before Jesus Christ went on trial, He told His followers that they, too, will be persecuted as He was:

"If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you.

"If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

"Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master. **If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you.** If they kept My word, they will keep yours also.

"**But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake,** because they do not know Him who sent Me.

"If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin" (John 15:18-22).

Up to that time, the Jews were the chosen people of God, but because they rejected Jesus Christ, God rejected them and chose other people to replace them. The Gentiles who believed in Jesus Christ became the new people of God.

For two thousand years, the Jews have been 'the cast aways' (Rom.11:15), while the Gentiles the 'saved ones' (Rom.11:11). But apostle Paul then told the Gentiles:

"Do not be haughty, but fear.

For if God did not spare the natural branches, He may not spare you either. Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness. **Otherwise you also will be cut off.**"

"And they also, if they do not continue in unbelief, **will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them again**" (Rom.11:20-23).

In other words, unless the Gentiles prove worthy of their call, the wheel will turn and the Jews will become the people of God again. The Almighty revealed to us that this is precisely what is happening in the world right now. Because the Gentiles have failed in their mission, they have failed to uphold the values of God, and as a result they are losing their calling and their favored position, and the Jews are about to regain theirs. The Jews will shortly become the people of God once more.

The Jews will play a leading role in the Millennial Kingdom, guiding and teaching the rest of the world the ways of God. The fact that this historic role reversal takes place at the conclusion of six thousand years of human misrule on earth and the onset of the Millennial Kingdom is no accident of history. Neither is it an accident of history that the great falling away of the Churches of God is occurring at this time too.

The Jews had rejected and persecuted those who came to them in the name of God, while the Gentile Christians have rejected and persecuted those who came to them in the name of Jesus Christ. The last act the Jews did, as people of God, was to persecute and kill Jesus Christ. The last act the Gentile Christians will do is persecute and kill the witnesses of Jesus Christ.

We do not follow the traditional Christian religion just as Jesus Christ did not follow the traditional religion of the Jews (Mat.15:3). The Jewish leaders had departed from the true religion of God just as traditional Christianity has departed from the teachings of Jesus Christ and His apostles.

It is unfortunate for Romania that it has allowed itself to become Satan's instrument

in the persecutions and killing of Christians in these last days. But the world is not absolved from this ignominy for it knew all along what was happening, yet it did nothing about it. That is why the entire world is plunging headlong into the greatest tribulation ever.

In 1986, we sent a memorandum to world leaders seeking their help in putting an end to the mindless persecution which Ceausescu's government was inflicting on our people in Romania. In 1990 we sent 'The Christian Herald' to all the world leaders, and now this number goes again to all the national leaders and to many more other people. In the day of judgment there will be no excuse, no one will be able to say that they did not know of the atrocities which Jesus' followers endured in their midst.

Jesus Christ said that in the end of time there will be no faith in the world (Luke 18:8), yet He also said that the Gospel of the Kingdom of God must be preached in all the world **as a witness** (Mat.24:14). A witness against an unbelieving world.

When Jesus Christ sent His disciples in the world to begin the work of Christianity, He told them:

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Mat.18:19-20).

How different is this command from the one given to His end time servants. We have to preach the Gospel as a witness because the world no longer accepts it as a means of salvation.

Contrary to popular belief, the Gospel does not need to be preached to everyone in the world at this time, but only to the leaders - the people who are responsible for keeping the masses in ignorance of the knowledge of God. Giving the truth of God to those who can do nothing about their condition at this time would serve no purpose. It would be like giving pearls to the swine (Mat.7:6).

The chance for the world's masses will come at the end of the Millennium. Then everyone will be resurrected and given a proper chance to repent and be saved (Rev. 20:5; Ezek.37:1-14). But the leaders who knew the truth of God, who knew what was happening yet did nothing, will be like the Pharisees who knew that Jesus Christ was the Son of God yet

How is it that we use the Bible, the inspired Word of God, as our instruction book in spiritual matters yet no one understands our message? What do they teach in Churches these days that the Word of God is foreign to them? Do we deserve to be hounded, persecuted and killed for the work we do?

If we came with deceiving doctrines aiming to gain wealth from what we do, then they would be justified in what they do, but we mean no harm to anyone. We impart the words of Jesus Christ which lead to salvation, and this can be proven in the Bible, yet we pay with our lives for what we do.

This work should have been done by the Churches of God, but their leaders adopted a safe posture preferring to line their pockets and to indulge in the good life at the expense of the 'sheep' of Jesus Christ. Their time is over.

It was left to us to carry the torch of faith and the witness of Jesus Christ during the concluding years of this age. What is happening to us is no different than what happened to the servants of Jesus Christ throughout history. It makes us happy that we are found worthy to suffer persecution for preaching the Word of God.

The question is why has Romania been chosen to play such an important role in the life of the followers of Jesus Christ in this end time? Because Romania is the inheritor of the Roman empire, the 'beast' that took the life of Jesus Christ and usurped His true religion. Romania traces its origin to the ancient Roman empire, it has inherited its name, traditions, culture, language, temperament and character. You can see why we were so astounded when God Almighty revealed this mystery to us.

The country was founded by the Roman legions who remained on the land and colonized it when the Roman empire declined. The people are fiercely proud of their Roman heritage. The Romanian Orthodox Religion has its roots in Roman Christianity from which it split about a thousand years ago. But this heritage and traditions, instead of working to Romania's advantage, will be its undoing because its leaders are doing evil in the sight of God.

The forces guilty of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ: the Roman legions, the Roman leaders and the Jewish leaders are, once again, present in the persecution and killing of His followers in this end time. The Prime Minister of Romania, Peter Roman, at the time of the murder of that innocent woman, is of Jewish origin. Together with the President and the leader of the Orthodox Church, he too is

responsible for unleashing the Satanic Securitate upon an innocent woman. And so are leaders who will continue their murderous policy until the last Christian has perished. When that will happen, the Gentile Christians would have forfeited their right to be called Christians, this age would have come to an end and the world would be reduced to about a tenth its present size.

The Jewish leaders claimed that they were the children of Abraham - the chosen people - but Jesus Christ told them that they were the children of the Devil (John 8:33,44). No doubt the leaders of Romania would claim that they are proud Romans and Christians, but Jesus Christ would tell them that they are the children of the Devil too.

Books have been written and many films made portraying Romania as the land of Dracula. Dracul in Romanian means the Devil. In the Bible, many names of countries and people convey a meaning. Is the story of Dracula just a myth, or is there a meaning behind it? Those who understand biblical numerology, a science approved of in the Bible (Rev.13:18), might wish to calculate the name Ion Iliescu to see what it stands for. And while you are at it, why not calculate Carol Vojtila to see what that means. (We will explain the connection in a future article).

The Jews killed their own Son and vanished from history for nearly two thousand years. The Romanians are committing the same folly, but they will not have two thousand years to recover from the abyss into which they are heading. With the coming of the Millennial Kingdom the nations which are not worthy to enter that Kingdom will not survive the great tribulation. The nations which are not serving God will vanish from history altogether (Zech.14:18-19).

Let those who are bent on doing evil know that time comes when even repentance will no longer be possible:

"He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still" (Rev.22:11).

The Romanian leaders will, no doubt, say what the Jewish leaders said when they condemned Jesus Christ:

"One of them, Caiaphas, being high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing

at all, nor do you consider that it is expedient for us that one man should die for the people, and not that the whole nation should perish" (John 11:49-50).

One Man died for the people, but that nation died too. If it weren't for the promises God made to the Patriarchs it would never have revived.

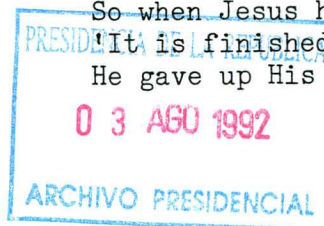
Romania beware, no such promises were made to your forefathers. Meantime stop sending

the dogs on our trail. You cannot touch us until we finish this work. When we finish it, you will not need to come after us, we will come to meet you in the right place and the right time. As you do what you must do, you may as well write your own epitaph and that of your own people. It will be the last thing you do for your lord before he is locked away for a thousand years. We will go as we must, but not for long. Then you will go, and when you do, you will go forever!

"After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, 'I thirst!'

Now a vessel full of sour wine was sitting there; and they filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on hysop, and put it to His mouth.

So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, 'It is finished!' And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit." (John 19:28-30).



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