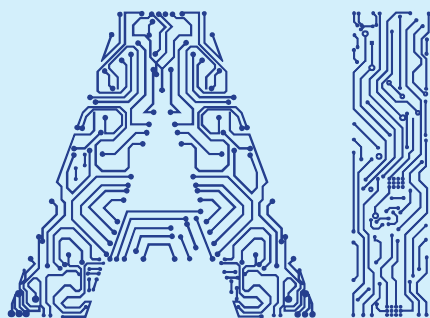


INSIGHT

Volume 10 Number 4

Winter 2024



WILL IT RULE THE WORLD?

International Congregation of Yahweh

INSIGHT

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Winter 2024



A MAGAZINE OF BIBLICAL UNDERSTANDING

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INSIGHT has been published by the International Congregation of Yahweh (“ICY”) since 1991 as part of ICY’s efforts to fulfill the commission given the New Testament assembly (Mark 16:15). During these last 32 years *Insight* has been on the frontlines of bringing Yahweh’s truth to a world of “religious Babylon”, and its staggering political and economic challenges. As we move through the final decade of this Jubilee cycle we will continue that editorial policy.

A nonprofit, religious organization, ICY is dedicated to the restoration of the original doctrines of the Apostolic assembly. ICY follows the practice of the New Testament assemblies who kept the Law of the Old Testament. The true assembly is built on the foundation of the apostles’ and the prophets’ (Eph. 2:20), message of obedience to Yahweh’s Law (Isa. 8:20; Jer. 26:4-6; Ezk. 20:19).

Our major doctrines include the name of the Creator, Yahweh, and His Son, Yahshua. Only these names are to be used in worship rather than Jesus, God, Lord, Jehovah, etc. Ample Scriptural and historical evidence support this belief; not the least of which is the commandment against taking the name of Yahweh in vain (Ex. 20:7).

Other major foundational beliefs are the atoning sacrifice of the Messiah Yahshua, and the inspiration of both Old and New Testaments. An ICY hallmark doctrine is the restored truth that the weekly seventh-day Sabbath is from dawn-to-dark; not from sunset-to-sunset as commonly taught. Yahweh’s true Holy Days and New Moons are to be observed as well. *Insight* is sent free of charge to all who subscribe. Since ICY does not teach tithing on money, this is made possible through free-will offerings of ICY members and other contributors. Circulation presently includes over 33 foreign countries and the USA.

ICY can be reached by phone: (870) 892-5419; e-mail: contact@icyahweh.org; or mail: P.O. Box 208, Pocahontas, AR 72455. For further information we invite you to visit our website: www.icyahweh.org.

References: All Scripture references throughout the *INSIGHT* are from the *King James Version* unless otherwise noted.
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Finding OUR WAY BACK

From the Editor: *Gary C. Miller*

This number of *Insight* completes our tenth volume. Starting with just a few readers in this country, *Insight's* growing family of readers now includes subscribers in over thirty-three foreign countries.

From its inception, *Insight's* mission has been, and will continue to be, bringing the truths of Scripture to light and restore the “faith once delivered to the saints” (Jude 3). This means restoring the sacred calendar, filtering out private interpretations of prophecy, and applying the Law to current topics affecting us personally, nationally, and globally.

In our world of “religious Babylon,” exposing confused doctrinal issues clouded by centuries of tradition, brings a head-on collision with those that claim to, but do not deliver, the original faith. The push-back by the thousands appointed to guard those traditions is inevitable.

In this melee, where is the true Gospel the Messiah, Yahshua, came preaching? Would He or those apostles of his day recognize what today is touted as the true Kingdom Gospel?

Emerging from the first century A.D., came a movement away from the doctrines of the early New Testament church. That trend to abandon the Old Testament Law's rightful place as the heart and soul of the New Covenant is now the mainstream practice of modern Bible-based Christianity (See Heb. 8:10).

This has left the New Testament with no “teeth”, no solid foundation, creating a feelings-based religious free-for-all. Now having no spiritual compass to find our way, we are heading toward another religious dark-age, while thinking we are now more spiritually enlightened; freed from the Law.

Nothing could be further from the truth of Scripture. It is the truth that sets us free, not the enslaving deceptions of false prophets (Matt. 24:5, 11) coming in the name of the Messiah or one named Jesus Christ.

As we “home in” on the final few years of this Jubilee the need for an in-depth source of Biblical truth comes into sharper focus.

Under the “gravitational pull” of what may well be the final fifty years of this age, we see an explosion of religious pundits. They are quickly gaining momentum pulling well-meaning truth-seekers in all directions. This religious acceleration sweeping hundreds of thousands toward “another gospel” is nothing new. Paul saw another gospel in his day (Gal. 1:6-7).

What is new in all this is the *size* or magnitude and *intensity* of these movements fueled by the Internet's pipeline of social media platforms. Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, WhatsApp, TikTok, Instagram, Snapchat, LinkedIn, Reddit; to name a few that each have at least 100 *million* monthly followers! Incredible but true. These provide a virtual playground where religious hobbyists multiply in record numbers like cell division.

Where are we headed globally? What is the religious fervor all about in this explosive Information Age?

Something bigger, more ominous, appears to be just below the horizon; not yet in clear view. Think about the last two or three years! A global movement is on its way. The ripples are there. The disturbance cannot be far behind. Is it a universal religious system?

We know economics drives politics, education, government, and the big business of *religion*.

A one-world false religious system cannot thrive and will have no muscle without a firm global economic base. Will AI (Artificial Intelligence) and digital currency be its tools to fulfill age-old prophecies in a “Great Reset” to usher in a global governmental and economic system?

Is this not why it is written, “...that no one should be able to buy or sell, except the one who has the mark, the name of the beast or the number of his name” (Rev. 13:17). This is in the context of worship, a universal religion (see vv. 12, 15). Its grip will be on the purse strings. Watch for it.

The world does not need another religion. It needs, must have, the *true* religion Yahshua established. What happened to *that* religion? ICY is helping find our way back to it.

★★★★★★

5 Unscriptural Calendar Beliefs

The Scriptural calendar has been a matter of differing views since time immemorial. A major cause for this uncertainty is the loss in antiquity of the knowledge of the patriarchal astronomers.

Although only sketches remain within the Scriptures, enough details are there to set weekly and annual Sabbaths, New Moons, Land Sabbaths and Jubilee years. This is not unexpected since Yahweh commands observance of those times in their seasons (Lev. 23:4; Gen. 1:14). How could He command us to keep His Sacred times, which is the sign He sanctifies us (Ex. 31:13; Ezk. 20:12, 20), but leave no record in His Sacred Scriptures showing how to set those times?

A survey of writings on this subject clearly shows numerous calendar dates for those times based on a variety of assumptions which must be compared with Biblical definitions. Separating Bible facts from tradition and private interpretations is often a thorny task.

This short study cannot possibly cover all details of such a vast topic, but is intended to focus on a few views found in literature on the subject.

What follows is a brief study of five common, but unscriptural beliefs about the Calendar.

(1). THE SUNSET-TO-SUNSET DAY

(a). Leviticus 23:32: One of the most entrenched beliefs is the sunset-to-sunset day which the vast majority of Sabbatarians use. Somewhat surprising perhaps, this nearly universally accepted definition has no Biblical basis; including Lev. 23:32 that in context, at the very most, only refers to Atonements; (Lev. 23:27-32). Note in verses 27-31 only the tenth of the seventh month is mentioned. Pulling Lev. 23:32 out of context and applying "...from evening-to-evening shall you observe your Sabbath" to all Sabbaths is a common mistake. For a more detailed explanation of the whole truth about this complicated verse see *"Explanation of Leviticus 23:32: The Evening-to-Evening Scripture"*; www.icyahweh.org; "store" (all literature free in pdf or printed form).

(b). Evening and Morning: Is not the six times the Genesis record (Gen. 1:5, 8, 13, 19, 23, 31) says "...and the evening and the morning were the first day...the second day...the third day..." definitive; that a Scriptural "day" starts at sunset, at evening, and runs through the night to the next sunset?

(c). The Place to Start: No, and for this reason. The place to begin defining the Biblical day is not with those phrases, but the first two lines of verse five that precedes them: "And Elohim [KJV "God"] called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night." These are His unequivocal definitions of Day and Night. What is "light"? "And Elohim saw the light [was visible]...and Elohim divided the light from the darkness." (v. 4; separated one from the other). What light? "...the greater light to rule the day..." (v. 16) which is the Sun (Psa. 136:8).

Clearly, when the Sun's light rules, that period is by Scriptural definition, the Biblical Day. Equally certain is the period of its rule starts at the earliest light of dawn long before sunrise, until night sets in about an hour or so after sunset. Observation shows too, the Scriptural Day is dawn-to-dark (varies from about 12 to 17 hours or so). In the summer daylight is longer. Shorter daylight time occurs in winter. The Biblical day is just the light portion of the 24 hour period. That is why day and night are mentioned separately numerous times (Gen. 7:4; 8:12; Ex. 10:13; 13:22; Num. 9:21; 11:32; Deut. 28:66; Jer. 33:20; Matt. 4:2; 12:40; Rom. 13:12; see also *"The Scriptural Weekly Sabbath is Not from Sunset-to-Sunset"*; www.icyahweh.org).

No amount of ingenuity can explain away those absolute facts of Scripture defining the Day as light, and darkness as Night. Once we find a solid definition in Scripture we must stick with it. No other verses can change nor contradict these definitions.

(d). Contradiction: Claiming the evening starts at sunset and continues to include the night too, contradicts the clear fact it has already been defined six times as part

"One of the most entrenched beliefs..."

of the light: evening and morning were...the Day.

All further conclusions about the Sabbath or other Biblical days must conform to those established facts that day is light and darkness is night. What is left to do is believe, accept and apply them.

(e). Where Israel got their Sunset-to-Sunset "Day": Now, since the sunset-to-sunset day is not Biblical as shown beyond controversy, where did Israel get that idea?

Notice the historical fact that some Israelites adopted the sunset-to-sunset day while in Babylonian captivity as shown by this frank admission from noted scholar J. Z. Lauterbach¹⁷: “There can be no doubt that in *pre-exilic times* the Israelites reckoned...The day began with the dawn... [notice] in *post-exilic times*, however, ...a change in the system of reckoning the day was made, and the day was reckoned as extending from the preceding to the following evening...”¹ The facts of history do not lie.

But there is little doubt such a huge change did not happen overnight. Gradually as apostates seized control of the seats of authority and influence, the non-biblical sunset-to-sunset day prevailed. This is a recurring theme of history in which the truth is pushed aside to make way for apostasy. Once apostasy becomes tradition, eventually the traditions become the “truth” which are then rarely questioned.²

The widespread use of Babylonian calendrical methods has replaced the Scriptural Calendar which set the *true Sabbaths* of Yahweh. As a sign of sanctification (plural; Ex. 31:13; Ezk. 20:10, 20), they clearly are a vital part of His plan of salvation; a role not to be underestimated.

(2). THE VERNAL EQUINOX VERSUS “THE TURN OF THE YEAR”

(a). The Vernal Equinox is commonly used as a Biblical marker to start the year. This mimics Constantine’s Nicean Council edict which connected Easter with the vernal equinox. Where is any reference in the Bible to the vernal equinox?

The method generally used is to spot the new crescent in the evening sky relative to the vernal equinox to begin the first month of the year. One choice is the new moon on or the next one after the vernal equinox of spring (March 21). Another is the new moon closest to the vernal equinox.

The reason given for these methods is to prevent the first month of the year, Easter, or Passover from falling *during winter*; as one typical view states, “...This seasonal shift from winter to spring can only occur at the time we call the vernal equinox....we begin our count from the new moon after the vernal equinox.”

Where does the *Bible* say winter ends and spring begins with the vernal equinox? Where does it show the count of the months begins with the new moon on, after, or nearest the vernal equinox? The fact is, the Bible says nothing regarding the equinoxes setting the seasons of spring and fall nor the first month of the year. The equinoxes are arbitrary secular dates setting spring and fall.

An early Jewish tradition decrees that Passover (14th day of the first month) cannot occur earlier than six days after the vernal equinox. The Bible nowhere says nor implies that.

Additionally, the Hebrew calendar, following current Jewish usage, defines the *tekufah* as both the equinoxes and solstices.³

(b). Turn of the Year; not the Equinox: The Bible emphasizes the solstices, the sun’s yearly turning along the horizon; not the equinoxes. Those turns, the solstices, are in summer [about June 21] and winter [about December

21]. There is no turning of the sun’s path at the equinoxes.

Notice a clear Biblical reference to the winter solstice:

“...arises it [the sun] there...Going toward the south and turning around to the north...” (Eccl. 1:5-6).⁴

The Bible again refers to this turning motion:

“...you are to make for yourselves...the Pilgrimage Festival of Ingathering at the turning of the year.”

(Ex. 34:22: Hebrew: “*tekufah*”; *Schocken Bible*);

“...turn of the year,” (*Green’s Interlinear Bible*).

The turning of the sun along the horizon is also indicated in Deuteronomy 33:14. Notice this translation of verse 14: “...turnings of the sun.”⁵

Also, “...turn, turning, turning around...of the solstice...” (Deut. 33:14).⁶

And notice how *tekufah* is translated in Psalms 19:6:

“...turning (of the sun at solstice)...”⁷

“...coming around...circuit... of the sun...”⁸

Clearly **the turn of the year** (Heb. *tekufah* used in both Psa. 19:6, Ex. 34:22) **is at the solstices**.

Since there is no turning of the sun at the equinoxes, this Pilgrimage Festival of Ingathering (Ex. 34:22), must be at a solstice. But not the winter solstice, for as this verse indicates, this Feast of Ingathering closely follows the wheat

“The Bible emphasizes the
solstices...not the equinoxes.”

harvest of the 49-day Feast of Weeks. It cannot be the Feast of Tabernacles which at no time occurs when the sun turns at some point along the horizon. So what is this Festival at the year’s turning, solstice? Pentecost.

(3). THE JEWISH CALENDAR

(a). Must be Derived from the Bible: The Jewish calendar has clearly dominated Sabbath and Holy Day observance through the centuries. It is presently the calendar of choice for many professing the Biblical seventh-day Sabbath, New Moons, and annual Holy Days. Others, while differing from that calendar on some few points, generally follow its tenets. If unproven by Scripture, we cannot use the traditional modern-day Hebrew calendar nor one of its surrogates.

(b). Jewish Calendar is not Biblical: Though many remain convinced the Jewish calendar in use today comprises the hallowed oracles of Yahweh: “...hallowed order and rhythm...”⁹, where is the Biblical justification for that claim? The oracles the Jews preserved were the Old Testament books (Rom. 3:1-2), and though you may search from Genesis to Malachi, you will not find the Hebrew calendar. Its postponements, sunset-to-sunset day, first visible crescent New Moon setting the first day of the month, its specific nineteen-year cycle of additional months [changed in 142 A.D.], and alternate 29 and 30-

day months are all not there. Many oracle advocates do not observe the Jewish Pentecost (Shavuoth) on Sivan 6, an established date on the Jewish calendar.

Remember Yahshua said, "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth" (John 17:17). The Bible is the truth; not Jewish or other traditions unless they can be proven from the Scriptures.

(4). THE "PHARISEES" ARGUMENT

(a). Yahshua versus the Jews: Did Yahshua agree with the Jews of His day (Pharisees, Sadducees, Scribes) regarding the Sabbath or annual Feasts? If so, the Jewish calendar must be correct with its first month of the year, New Moons, and Feast Days. Many claim this is the case.

If Yahshua did agree, then why did He warn His followers about the doctrines of the Jewish sects of Pharisees and Sadducees? Here are His words: "...ye should beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees...then understood they...he bade them not beware of the leaven of bread, but of the...doctrine of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees" (Matt. 16:12; also v. 6).

(b). Did Not Agree: "Beware of their doctrines" included their calendar, because it set their new moons and holy days. He told them openly "...Do you know how to discern the appearance of the sky, *but cannot discern the signs of the times?*" (Matt. 16:3; NAS). What were those "times" He was referring to in that exchange? Yahweh's feasts? Notice the meaning of that word "times" used in Matt. 16:3 (Gk: *kairos*, SEC 2540): "3. *definite, fixed time*. Abs...**festal seasons** (Ex. 23:14; Lev. 23:4)..."¹⁰

As this reference also shows, the Greek *kairos* is grammatically the same as the Hebrew *moedim* translated "feasts" in Lev. 23:2, 4, 14, etc.

Also, the ancient LXX [*Septuagint*, Greek Old Testament] translates *kairos* "feasts" in Leviticus 23:2, 4, where the Hebrew is *moedim*, translated "feasts" 17 times in the Old Testament.

These festal [festival] seasons could only be Yahweh's feasts, and Yahshua was definitely telling the Jews of His day, they could not discern the signs of Yahweh's Festivals, the Holy Days. We should still beware of any stealth Pharisaical and Sadducean doctrines.

(5). FIRST VISIBLE CRESCENT

The Hebrew calendar¹¹ sometimes misses the Biblical New Moon by one-to-two days. This is due to its new-crescent adjustments: "...the months are generally adjusted to the days on which the Sanhedrin would have sanctified them on the basis of the observation of the new crescent..."¹²

(a). Crescent in Scripture: Does the new crescent begin the months of Scripture? The word "crescent" occurs three times. "Crescents" or "crescent ornaments" are mentioned in Judges 8:22, 26 and Isaiah 3:18. None of these references show the crescent set the Scriptural new moons.

In Judges 8:22, 26 we find: "...ornaments [KJV]..." should be translated "crescents"¹³; "crescent ornaments"

(*New American Standard, The Living Bible*).

Crescent is also mentioned in Isaiah 3:18.¹⁴

The Isaiah prophecy (ch. 3:18) tells us Yahweh will take away those pagan symbols of the Midianites Israel had adopted (Jdg. 8:5, 21).

So where did Israel get their practice of using the first visible crescent to begin each month? We know they adopted the sunset-to-sunset day during the Babylonian captivity. We know too, the first crescent method was also a Babylonian practice: "...the Babylonian calendar was at all periods [before Israel's capture in 597 B.C.] truly lunar... the month began with the evening when the new crescent was for the first time again visible shortly after sunset..."¹⁵

"Does the new crescent begin the months of Scripture?"

Since we find no Scriptural evidence of looking for the New Crescent to start the month (including the often cited, Deut. 16:1) it appears highly probable Babylon was Israel's source of this practice.

In all probability it is a carryover from ancient Babylon where the observation of the new crescent set the beginning of the months. Remember, Israel was a captive, subject to their captors.¹⁶

Regardless, being a Babylonian practice, we must *come out* of Babylon, not embrace its ways: "Come out of her [Babylon, v. 2], my people that you be not partakers of her sins, and that you receive not of her plagues." (Rev. 18:4; also Isa. 48:20).

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★★★★★★

THE *REAL* CAUSES OF DROUGHT

When drought strikes, even experts are often hard pressed to explain why, citing mild monsoons, a shifting jet stream or extreme heat. But are these the underlying causes?

THE UNITED STATES

In the United States, updated reports show 24 states are experiencing severe to exceptional drought.¹

Hitting states as far north as Michigan, Idaho, Washington and Minnesota, searing heat continued with abnormal dryness in the Southwest as temperatures pushed to the upper 90s and low 100s there!

And what did this mean in other numbers of drought's impact on the United States?

- Acres of crops experienced drought: *272.3 million*;
- People affected: *72.8 million*;
- States affected by drought besides the severe cases of those 24 states: 14;
- 38 experienced moderate drought or worse.¹

As part of this early period of the 21st century, how does drought rank historically? "Early 21st century U.S. drought ranks as one of the most severe in 120 years" says drought expert, Richard Heim.²

OTHER COUNTRIES: SPAIN

Lasting for over a year now, Spain's drought is sending dam water levels below historical averages. Local officials are trying to conserve water for daytime use by requiring residents to stop watering gardens and turn off taps at night. Farmers are being hard hit by the year-long extreme heat and dry drought conditions. When farmers are impacted so is everyone.³

ARGENTINA

Argentina's crippling drought, severely limiting agricultural production, will push its year-end inflation rate to a staggering 120%, shrinking its economy by 2.5%, projects the International Monetary Fund reported July 25, 2023.⁴

YAHWEH SPEAKS: NOT A "RELIGIOUS" ISSUE

Just like millions of us witnessed in the United States and beyond, Yahweh says, the land will be hard and yellowish like brass, as vegetation withers on parched, sunbaked ground.

Why will He do this? Why withhold the life-giving water from infants, small children, the old and infirm, the young, the rich, the poor?

Let Him answer: "I will punish you seven upon your sins" (v. 18). Now when that word "sin" is mentioned the first thing that usually comes to mind is "religion" with all the aura of mystery, personal feelings and preferences surrounding it. The fact is though, sin is not a "religious" issue but a *reality* issue; a natural law issue. Work "with" nature and things go well. Work against nature and reap a "punishment of seven."

"...sin is not a religious issue but a...
natural law issue..."

What Yahweh is telling us is there are natural laws relating to human behavior that affect weather, crop production, famine, national sovereignty... And, these natural laws are detailed in the first five books of the Holy Bible; not volumes of scientific journals or government's daily journal, the Federal Register, but *books of the Bible!*

THE CAUSES

If we ignore these statutory rules and commandments, then: "...if you will not hearken to me, and will not do *all* these commandments; And if you will despise my statutes, or if your soul abhor my judgments, so that you will not do all my commandments" (Lev. 26:14-15).

Then what?

"I also will do this to you. I will appoint over you terror...[ism], consumption, and the burning ague... and you shall sow your seed in vain....And I will set my face against..." (v. 16), and...drought:



“...I will make your heaven as iron [no rain], and your earth as brass [dry, hard]: And your strength shall be spent in vain: for your land shall not yield her increase, neither shall the trees of the land yield their fruits” (Lev. 26:19-20).

Doubtless **sin**, the breaking of Yahweh’s sacred natural Laws, is the basic cause of drought and crop failure. The commands of Yahweh are not just good ideas, they are the Law of cause and effect—the overlooked essential truth!

EXACTLY WHICH SINS?

Now *which sins* are directly responsible for drought and famine, pestilence?

The surprising facts from Yahweh’s Word showing the actual causes for these national and global calamities are likely surprising.

Few know, and practically none have read or heard of these causes. Everything else is blamed that are secondary effects which are the result of secondary causes.

For example, natural cycles and fossil fuels may contribute somewhat to the greenhouse effect of ozone depletion and dry weather extremes, but these are not the answers we seek...and need.

Yahweh’s Word gives the primary cause, the real underlying problems which are at the heart of the climatological melee we are now witnessing.

Many will scoff at these facts of Scripture, deride such a “simplistic view”, outdated Old Testament myths. The truth, however, can only be accurately discerned from Yahweh’s Word, for HE is the *One* who knows the basic root causes for evil effects...including drought.

Notice this direct Scriptural evidence:

Moses records in the prophetic chapter 26 of Lev: “And I will make your cities *waste* (SEC 2723)...bring the land into desolation (SEC 8704)...and I will scatter you among the heathen...” (Lev. 26:31-33).

Guess what the word translated “waste” (SEC 2723) means? *Dryness, drought*, as Yahweh brings drying heat to cities as the rain stops and rivers and lakes that fed them dry up.

Note also, the word “desolation” (SEC 8074) means “*desolate, ravaged*” (BDB, p. 1031). The land will be barren and ravaged, desolated by drought.

ONE CAUSE, ONE MAJOR SIN

Notice now. Here is why Yahweh will devastate the land and cities with drought: “then shall the land enjoy her Sabbathsthen shall the land rest, and enjoy her Sabbaths [notice] because it did not rest in your sabbaths, when you dwelt upon it” (Lev. 26:34-35).

Working the soil during Land Sabbaths pollutes the land forcing people to flee the spreading scourge of drought.

Are we above these scorching droughts in our sophisticated modern societies of the twenty-first century? The evidence is there, fact-upon-fact showing we are not immune.

It is hard to imagine a more proud and arrogant humanity than on the scale we find today. The love of money (I Tim. 6:10) and love of self (II Tim. 3:1-2) drives our societies often blinding us to the real causes of calamities.

The scope of Yahweh’s wrath now falling on this wicked generation is painfully clear as per the COVID-19 pandemic scare with its crashed economies and social isolation. The fear mongering digital mob, big pharma, and governmental misinformation campaigns have placed whole na-

“One cause, one major sin...working the soil during Land Sabbaths...”

tions at risk on an unprecedented scale. The toll is staggering to contemplate.

Are we in the final decade of this age when Yahweh “... will destroy the house of the proud...”? (Prv. 15:25). Do we really believe Him?

Is He all mercy, grace, loving kindness, but not the Master who demands repentance? Hardly.

The Land Sabbaths of Yahweh come every seventh, 50th year, and each weekly Sabbath. But during these Sabbaths men have worked the land relentlessly, when it should be resting.

NEXT SEVENTH-YEAR LAND SABBATH: 2026-2027

Now the time has come to pay the bill for nearly 59 Land Sabbaths broken yearly, year-after-year [52 weekly plus annual Holy Day Sabbaths], and past year-long Sabbaths, bringing the woes of drought and famine. Is the out-of-control inflation driven by deficit spending, social unrest, 272 million acres of crops in drought conditions directly and immediately affecting 72 million people in 38 plus states how we are paying this bill? When agriculture suffers eventually everyone does; all 335 million of us.

OTHER CAUSES: THE EZEKIEL REVELATION

But the crisis does not stop with land Sabbath violations. There are other causes for drought and desolation. Far removed from the thinking of most, that few would scarcely sus-



Germa, Spain,
The Sau Researvoir
on the Ter River,
April 2023.
(top left)

Po River, Revello,
Italy, April 2023.
(top right)



Lake Powell in
Arizona, levels have
vastly decreased
during the drought
in 2023.
(bottom left)

Kihei, Hawaii,
Kealia Pond
National Wildlife
Refuge on
November 14,
2023, dry pond
due to the severe
drought on Maui.
(bottom right)

pect, they bring withering drought and devastation.

Prophet Ezekiel, a priest (Ezk. 1:3), reveals this truth related to drought and the famine it causes. His eye-opening record in Ezk. 36 shows a highly neglected set of laws, which when broken, have serious effects causing famine.

"When agriculture suffers...
everyone does..."

First, verse sixteen makes an unexpected comparison of the evil which causes the land to be defiled: "...Israel dwelt in their own land, they defiled it by their own way.... their way was before me as the *uncleanness* [SEC 2932] of a woman in her impurity..." (Ezk. 36: 16). Note that word "uncleanness."

The people were *unclean* in Yahweh's eyes; breaking the little known nor practiced laws of clean and unclean (Lev. 15; Num 19).³ (For clean and unclean Laws, see "*Scriptural Clean and Unclean*"; www.icyahweh.org; "store" for free pdf download). Also, they had *spilled blood*, and had their revered *idols* (v. 18), as some churches today have their sacred idols.

Now notice very carefully, what Yahweh does about this set of causes in order to restore a productive state of the land.

Verse 25: "Then I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean: from all your filthiness and from your idols, will I *cleanse you*." and verse 29: "I will also save you from all your uncleanness..."

[Notice what happens after this cleansing] "... and I will call for the corn, and will increase it, and lay no famine

upon you..." Verse 30: "And I will multiply the fruit of the tree, and the increase of the field that you shall receive no more reproach of famine..."

Clearly, Yahweh must first remove all the uncleanness of the people before the productivity of the land is restored.

By context, Yahweh clearly implies the phrase "...and cause you to walk in my statutes, and you shall keep my judgments..." (v. 27), refers to those statutes and judgments relating to *idol worship, shedding blood, uncleanness...and Land Sabbath laws*.

FINAL THOUGHTS

With these verses in mind, we ask, "Is it an accident that the bloodiest century in history, the 20th century, was also the hottest, driest on record?"

And why is searing drought in this first part of the 21st century, the worst in 120 years in many parts of our land and the world?

Answer: broken Land Sabbaths, unrepentant uncleanness, bloodshed, and idol worship. While these sins remain in our nation and world, the "punishment of seven upon our sins" remains.

Now we have the answers, the causes, and the solutions. What are we going to do about it?

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★★★★★★

Sacred Calendar

The Sacred calendar of the Bible is essential to salvation. The Gospel of the Kingdom Yahshua came preaching (Luke 6:46; Matt. 7:23), requires repentance from breaking Yahweh's appointed times. These include Yahweh's New Moons, weekly Sabbaths, annual Holy Days, and land Sabbaths (Ex. 20; Lev. 23; Lev. 25). The sacred calendar is a central part of the true Gospel, because it sets those Sabbaths which are Yahweh's signs of sanctification. By these Sabbath

signs Yahweh shows who He has personally sanctified (Ex. 31:13; Ezk. 20:12, 20).

Truly we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Yahshua the Messiah (His sacrifice; Heb. 10:10), but the evidence that we are in fact sanctified by Yahweh, is that we keep Yahweh's true Sabbaths (See again Ex. 31:13; Ezk. 20:12, 20). The restoration of Yahweh's calendar system is, therefore, a top priority of the International Congregation of Yahweh.

2024 Sacred Calendar	
Pocahontas, AR Lat: 36d 14m N / Long: 90d 57m W	
Passover Festival	April 22 - April 28
Passover Sabbaths	April 22 & April 28
Passover Supper	Night of April 22
Feast of Unleavened Bread	April 23 (Unleavened Bread eaten April 22 - April 29)
Wavesheaf Offered	May 5
Feast of Weeks	May 5 - June 22
Feast of Weeks Annual Sabbaths	May 11, 18, 25 June 1, 8, 15, 22
Pentecost	June 23
Shoutings (Trumpets)	October 3
Pre-Atonement Sabbath	October 11 Noon-to-sunset
Atonements	October 12
Feast of Tabernacles	October 17 - October 23
Sabbaths	October 17 & October 24
Last Great Day	October 24

New Moons Month		
January	11	11
February	10	12
March	10	13
April	9	1
May	8	2
June	7	3
July	6	4
August	5	5
September	3	6
October	3	7
November	2	8
December	1	9
December	31	10

Sabbaths and New Moons are observed from Dawn-to-Dark

(Note: New Moons may vary with Longitude and Latitude.)

Head of the Year
Feb. 15
End of the Year
Oct. 27
Seven-Year Cycle
4th year
Jubilee Cycle
46th year

2025 Sacred Calendar	
Pocahontas, AR Lat: 36d 14m N / Long: 90d 57m W	
Passover Festival	April 12 - April 18
Passover Sabbaths	April 12 & April 18
Passover Supper	Night of April 12
Feast of Unleavened Bread	April 13 (Unleavened Bread eaten April 12 - April 19)
Wavesheaf Offered	May 4
Feast of Weeks	May 4 - June 21
Feast of Weeks Annual Sabbaths	May 10, 17, 24, 31 June 7, 14, 21
Pentecost	June 22
Shoutings (Trumpets)	September 22
Pre-Atonement Sabbath	September 30 Noon-to-sunset
Atonements	October 1
Feast of Tabernacles	October 6 - October 12
Sabbaths	October 6 & 13
Last Great Day	October 13

New Moons Month		
January	30	11
February	28	12
March	30	1
April	28	2
May	27	3
June	26	4
July	25	5
August	23	6
September	22	7
October	22	8
November	20	9
December	20	10

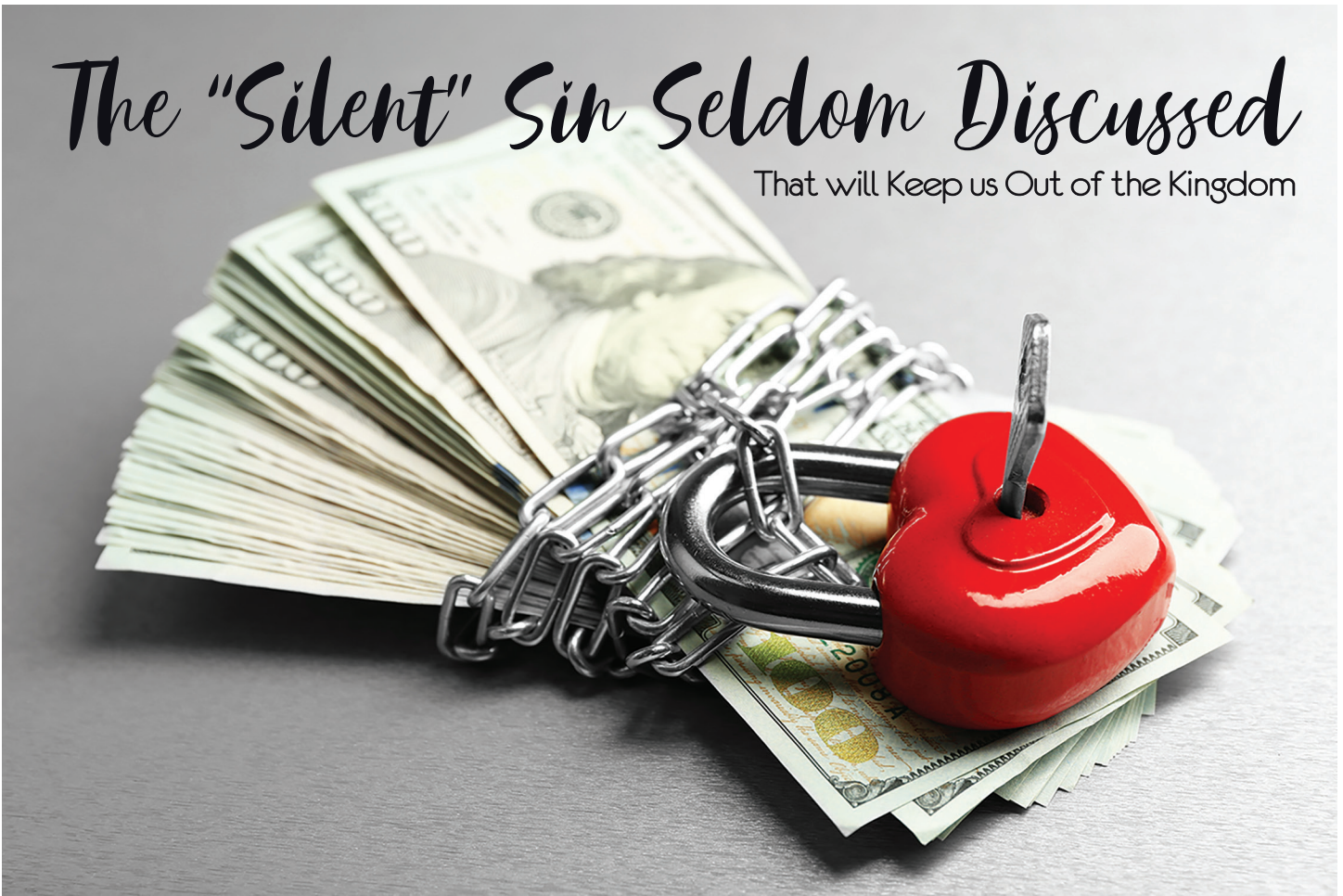
Sabbaths and New Moons are observed from Dawn-to-Dark

(Note: New Moons may vary with Longitude and Latitude.)

Head of the Year
Feb. 15
End of the Year
Oct. 28
Seven-Year Cycle
5th year
Jubilee Cycle
47th year

The "Silent" Sin Seldom Discussed

That will Keep us Out of the Kingdom



If you listed sins that block a person from entering Yahweh's Kingdom, it would likely include obvious capital crimes such as murder, extortion, profaning Yahweh's name and breaking Sabbaths. But maybe left off that list, is one we may not suspect belongs there. Yahweh's tally includes that one, a major sin, and another one it causes. There is a reason why neither is talked about much; or at least not enough.

THE MASTER DECEPTION

How does this major sin and its "sidekick" stay "hidden" when in fact they are in plain sight...if we know what to look for? A clever ploy keeps them undercover. So what is that master deception? Simply this, just never mention them. Ignore them. Never discuss them. Talk about everything but those truths; what can be called "The Deception of Silence."

HERE ARE THOSE TWO PARTNERS IN CRIME

Those two "silent" partner sins are *coveting* and the *love of money*. Notice how these are connected: "For the **love of money** is A root of all evil: which while some **coveted** after, have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows." (I Tim. 6:10). *Coveting* money is A root of evil! Coveting is the real culprit and its target here is money [silver]. That is why Paul uses "A root", because love of money is just one result

of covetousness. This word translated "love of money or money loving" is translated "covetous" in Luke 16:14 and II Tim. 3:2 [KJV]; "lovers of money" [RSV].

Luke's record tells a lot about the Pharisees; one of their main problems. And Paul's advice to Timothy is a real head's-up of *why* perilous times will come in the last days: love of money, avarice: coveting!

"...what is that master deception?"

Lexicons often list "avarice" with love of money.¹ So what is it? Avarice is "an insatiable greed for riches; inordinate, miserly desire to gain and hoard wealth."³ Remember avarice is a sin...coveting riches; A root of all evils, and wealth can mean lots of things....not just money.

WHY THE SILENCE?

Would we not expect to see warnings about sins affecting our eternal destiny, like coveting and love of money, on the Internet 24-7, and heard from pulpits around the world? Of course, but they are not as often as we might think. That seems odd at first, but then you realize the popular prosperity gospel focuses on riches: "God wants you to be rich." Coveting riches and wealth becomes the religious

mantra so often that consciences become callused; no guilt feelings about it. Confessing it, of course, goes against our human nature, and the greater the sin, the harder we try to hide it. Just like Adam and Eve tried hiding their sins, carnal human nature tries covering up its own covetous love of money and things.

In our materialistic culture of getting more, and making good money, we may be drawn in to think the way others do “...supposing that gain is godliness...” (I Tim. 6:5; gain

“...coveting...is often more difficult to...admit.”

= acquisition, furnishings...).⁴

But there is hope in this struggle if we successfully heed Paul’s advice, “But you, O man of Yahweh, flee these things; and follow after righteousness...” (I Tim. 6:11). When coveting appears, run the other way.

Yahshua put it in proper perspective with a caution and a basic life truth: “...Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man’s life consists not in the abundance of things which he possesses.” (Luke 12:15).

COVETING NEW TESTAMENT (23 TIMES)

Coveting (Sec 4123) and covetousness (Sec 4124) in the New Testament means one who is a “more haver” [Concordant NT]; “one eager to have more; greedy for gain, greedy desire to have more”²; translated “greediness” in Eph. 4:19.

Besides lexical definitions, the Bible tells us, “...covetousness...is idolatry.” (Col. 3:5). And knowing that idolatry is sin (Ex. 20:4-5), covetousness is so severe that “...no...**covetous** man,...has any inheritance in the kingdom of the Messiah and of Yahweh....” (Eph. 5:5; I Cor. 6:10). Missing in normal conversation, who might have guessed coveting is as evil as idolatry, thievery, adultery, or extortion (I Cor. 5:9-10)?

Paul follows with this caution: “Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things comes the wrath of Yahweh upon the children of disobedience.” (Eph. 5:8).

When discussing what we say, Yahshua informs us: “...out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts...murders...**covetousness**,...pride...these evil things.” (Mark 7:21-23). There it is again.

KNOWN BY THE COMPANY YOU KEEP

Since we are influenced by our friends, we are instructed, “...not to company...with the **covetous** or extortioners, or with idolaters...not...to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be...**covetous** or idolater, or railer...” (I

Cor. 5:9-11; also II Thess. 3:14).

And notice: “...with such an one no not to eat.” (v. 11). Shocking. “...have no fellowship with the...works of darkness, but rather reprove them.” (Eph. 5:11). So we use these standards, without compromise, when choosing our friends.

SUBTILITY OF COVETOUSNESS

The love of money is the root of innumerable evils, but coveting in general is often more difficult to see and admit. Subtle and pervasive it applies to *anything*. We must constantly check for that point where we may be stepping over the line to coveting, greedy for excess, having too much; well beyond enough, to unjustified, or wasteful. Like eating, not out of hunger, but comfort-eating, or out of habit. Or getting so many “wants” they soon lose any real meaning and are tossed aside with little desire or time to take care of them.

THE MOST COMMON HAS MANY BRANCHES

But by far the most common and difficult to shake, is the consuming “busy-ness” of “...the cares of this world... and lusts of other things...” (Mark 4:19). The “...cares and riches and pleasures of this life...” (Luke 8:14; 21:34) draw us in different directions, to never being satisfied, constantly wanting, or surrounding ourselves with more. The real question becomes, “Do we own things, or do they own us?” (Luke 12:15).

One can covet [lust for] riches, revenge, power (Mark 10:42), the limelight (Matt. 23:6), drawing away disciples from the church [Acts 20:30], food, approval, clothes, to equal or surpass others [sports; Gal. 5:20]. The list is endless.

The pages of history are filled with every imaginable human misery, from coveting: too much, too often, not enough, ruthless ambition, seeking ways to take advantage of others.⁵

OLD TESTAMENT (16 TIMES)

The Old Testament too makes the case. The Hebrew word translated *covetousness* (Sec. 1215) refers to: greedy getter, robber, unjust gain, profit; BDB, p. 130). And a major prophet lays it out plainly that it is a sin: “For the iniquity of covetousness I [Yahweh] was wroth...” (Isa. 56:17).

It even affects longevity: “...he that hates covetousness shall prolong his days.” (Prv. 28:16). And Yahweh says in choosing rulers “... you shall provide...able men, such as fear Elohim, men of truth, hating covetousness...to be rulers...and let them judge the people...” (Ex. 18:21-22). Rulers can do a lot of good or if they covet, do a lot of evil. King David understood the dangers, “Incline my heart to your testimonies, and not to covetousness.” (Psa. 119:36).

Jeremiah gave Yahweh’s assessment of that day...and ours: “For from the least of them even to the greatest... every one is given to covetousness.” (Jer. 6:13).⁶ What an



The deceitfulness of riches can prevent someone from entering the Kingdom of Heaven. Yahweh tell us in Proverbs 23 that “the stingy person hastens after riches.” Giving should be one’s focus more than getting.

accurate description of this era of big government, big religion, big tech, and out-of-control egos.

GETTERS, NOT GIVERS

Covetous people are *not Givers*. They are *Getters*. It is not surprising, then that a covetous person will invariably be stingy, tight, as Proverbs tells us “The stingy person [miserly, very covetous] hastens after riches...” (Prv. 28:22-24; Prv. 23:6-8; RSV). “Hastens after riches”, not hastens to give and help others.

Solomon advised (like Paul; I Cor. 5:11), “Do not eat the bread of a man who is stingy.” (Prv. 23:6-8; RSV). Is the food tainted by one of that character...maybe makes it unclean (Mark 7:21; defile = unclean)?

CARES AND DECEITFULNESS OF RICHES

The grip of coveting riches can blind us to the fact that, “...you cannot serve Yahweh and mammon (Matt. 6:24: Sec. 3126: “riches”; “treasure”). Serving riches deceives a person to believe riches mean holiness (again, I Tim. 6:5); causing one to think they are better than others; “holier than thou” (Isa. 65:5).

In the struggle to overcome these pulls, we must push forward, growing in grace and Yahshua’s knowledge (II Pet. 3:18), whose truth makes us free and productive. “He...that received seed among the thorns is he that hears the word; but the care of this world, and deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.” (Matt. 13:22). We do not want to be one of those unfruitful.

When all is said and done, we cannot avoid the reality we must eventually face: “...what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul, or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?” (Matt. 16:26). There is nothing, except, thankfully, Yahshua’s sacrifice.

WHAT IS MOST IMPORTANT TO US?

A wealthy, successful, young man once asked Yahshua what he must do to inherit eternal life. When he learned his giving to the poor was seriously lacking, and that he must go sell all his goods and distribute to the poor, he went away sorrowful. Why? He had great possessions (Matt. 19:21-22).

Yahshua observing the man’s reaction, said, “...verily I say to you, that a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven.” (Matt. 19:23). Repeating, “And again I say to you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the Kingdom of Yahweh.” (v. 24).

“For strait [difficult] is the gate and narrow is the way, which leads to life, and few there be that find it.” (Matt. 7:14). Unrepentant *covetousness* makes that gate and way to life impossible to find. Who would have thought?

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Appointment With Destiny!

Sour Horsemen of the Apocalypse

Starting their chilling ride with destiny or have they already begun?

Four mysterious Horsemen recorded in the first four seals of an ancient Apocalyptic scroll (Rev. 5:5; 6:1-8) were prophesied to ride at some future date. Could this prophecy be part of the book sealed for “the time of the end...” (Dan. 12:4)?

Are we entering the final countdown to their ride... or are they riding now; pounding their way across the world landscape? Read further as we look for any missing keys that might unlock the answer to these monumental questions, ever mindful that: “To the Law and to the Testimony, if they [any] speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.” (Isa. 8:20).

Many, including Isaac Newton, have concluded the seven seals of the book of Revelation were fulfilled, finished, long ago. Were they? Did they miss something?

The sixth was assumed to be completed when Constantine’s edict of A.D. 312, overthrew paganism and established Christianity.¹ But Revelation’s sixth seal depicts Messiah’s presence when “...every mountain and island were moved...” and all humanity feared, “...hide us from the face of Him...on the throne,... from the wrath of the Lamb [Yahshua]...” (Rev. 6:14-16; lamb: Rev. 1:1; 5:5; See also Matt. 24:21-22, 29). Obviously, His second coming is long after A.D. 312. What about the first four seals; past or future?

THE FIRST FOUR SEALS

All four horsemen threaten those living then, v. 8: “... power given to *them*... to kill.”¹¹

Categories of the *sword* (v. 4), *hunger* (v 6), and “*beasts of the earth*” (v. 8) shows “...to *them*...” is correct.²⁰ These describe horsemen two, three, and four. What about the white horse rider’s crown and bow (Rev. 6:2)?

Notice it says he “...went forth conquering...” (v. 2), with the bow, wearing a crown indicating a conquering king. David recorded, “Thine arrows are sharp in the heart of the king’s enemies; whereby the people fall under thee” (Psa. 45:5). Clearly, this horseman and the

other three, *all four*, are Yahweh’s killing force-of-four to punish an unrepentant humanity.

PREVIOUS DISEASES, DROUGHTS, FAMINE HORSEMEN’S RIDE: FUTURE ONLY?

Drought, famine, and disease are repeating facts of history. Some worse than others. For example, the bubonic plague (Black Death), worsened by the Great Famine in the early 1300s, “...started in China and made its way west across Asia...reached...Italy in the spring of 1348 unleashing... death across Europe...by

“His second coming
is long after A.D. 312”

three years later...25-50% of Europe’s population had fallen victim to the pestilence.”² In China, it continued about 50 years plunging its population from 125 million to 90 million.³

Were these tragic deaths the four horsemen riding? Century-after-century we see plagues, famine, kings conquering territories (the Crusades, Genghis Khan...), attacks by wild beasts that were not one-time events. Is it just a coincidence *all* these are what the *four horsemen* inflict?

Coincidence? Not at all once you realize the four *horses* (not the riders) are the ever present *four winds* that shape events on earth age-after-age with drastic weather changes; even disease [Zech. 6:2-5; *spirits* = *winds*]. Do these riders of doom ride more than once? Apostle Paul revealed some prophecies repeat: “Let no man... judge you...in respect of Feasts, or New Moon [includes eclipses], or Sabbaths,¹² which *ARE* a shadow of things to come;...” (Col. 2:16-17)¹². Yahweh’s cycles signal *recurring* events, what and *when*; even *triggering* them.

Truly, Scripture (Lev. 26; Deut. 28) *and history*, together, indicate the Four Horsemen prophecy simply reveals they ride again and again, and what happens... when they ride.

Yahweh's prophecies recorded in Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28 repeat because they are *regulated* by Yahweh's cyclic time-keeping system (Col. 2:16-17). Events before A.D. 95,¹ and after, such as the 1338 Black Death, Europe's Great Famine (1315-1317),¹⁰ indicate the horses, the winds, repeatedly fulfill Yahweh's prophecies.

THEIR LAST RIDE

But their many rides prior to the end of the first century A.D. could *not* refer to them killing *one-fourth* of the *total* population; unheard of in recorded history. Why? *This ride* was part of a *prophecy*, dated by scholars as given around A.D. 95¹: written in "...the words of this *prophecy*..." of "...things which must shortly come to pass..." (Rev. 1:3, 1). So **this ride**, their **final climatic** race across the world scene with "...the noise of thunder..." had to be after that date.

FOUR KEYS UNLOCK "WHEN" FIRST KEY: ¼ OF THE EARTH

Those who study predictors for the future acknowledge population is one of the "key global drivers."⁴ And, population is a key link that helps narrow the window of time after A.D. 95 of the Horsemen's Final Ride. Is it the 21st Century?

The unveiling starts with the *number* of Earth's *human*⁵ population over which they have the power to *kill one-fourth* with the bow, sword, hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth (Rev. 6:2-8). *This one-fourth is the first key.*

SECOND KEY 200 MILLION-MAN CAVALRY

But more is needed. Skipping over to Rev. 9:16 we find a 200 *million-man* army of horsemen that slays "...the third part of men" (v. 15; "troops of cavalry": RSV; A-G Lexicon, p. 381]). *This is the second key* that happens when the sixth angel sounds (Rev. 9:13). And since there never was, nor will be in this age, 200 million horses on earth, this cavalry is *not* human troops. Even now, with the world population around 8 billion, the top ten military active, paramilitary and reserve total a mere

"Four Horsemen...
ride again and again..."

27% [45,400,000] of the massive army depicted here.¹⁶ The numbers prove this colossal war machine is a supernatural army assembled to punish *one-third of human kind* left at that point! *One-third!* Who can imagine?

Modern cyber warfare, and electronic use of data to attack populations could vastly speed up conflicts, making cybersecurity failure among the ten most likely global risks.¹³ But remember, this prophecy is not about cyber warfare, but a *cavalry*, a horse-army, spuing fire, smoke, and *brimstone* (Rev. 9:17); like "...the breathe of Yahweh is like a stream of *brimstone*..." (Isa 30:33).

THIRD KEY YAHWEH'S WARFARE PRINCIPLES

What is the fighting power of this vast supernatural military? To find out, we use the minimum rule of Yahweh's four warfare principles. Given the currently



The Four Horsemen as depicted here represent the first four seals: conquering king, sword, hunger and beasts of the earth, that are Yahweh's killing force-of-four to punish an unrepentant humanity.



World population reached eight billion as of December 22, 2023. Scripture shows the world population plunges to six billion when Yahweh's 200 million man Calvary rides.

sustainable global population, that rule is *five troops* of an army backed by Yahweh can *chase a hundred* (Lev. 26:8); a ratio of one-to-twenty. The Hebrew here for “chase” is literally to *put to flight, chase*, not kill, a defeated foe...”²¹ One scatters twenty. *This is the third key.*

The other three rules (Lev. 26:8; Deut. 32:30) yield: 30 billion, 600 billion, & 1.5 *trillion* unsustainable populations. Demographers predict the most efficient use of natural resources could sustain 30 billion maximum.¹⁹

Applying this minimum rule means a 200 million cavalry backed by Yahweh will put *four billion to flight* (20 x 200 million). Two-thirds left makes the world population *six billion* when the seventh seal's sixth angel sounds (Rev. 8:1 with 9:13-16). By some counts, that figure was reached in October 1999. Was that the date when the cavalry appeared? We will see later.

FOURTH KEY LOSSES AFTER FOUR HORSEMEN RIDE “ONE-SIXTEENTH” RULE

Next, we need what can be termed the “one-sixteenth” rule shown by seals one to four. Together they kill one-fourth of the human population which raises the question of whether each horseman is given equal power? The Bible only says, “...power was given to them...” With no indication otherwise, it is reasonable to assume each kills one-sixteenth of the existing population at that time. *This is the fourth key.*

This “1/16 rule” will be used for prophesied events where **deaths** are indicated [no % given] and *likely to cause death* in the *same categories* the horsemen kill: the **bow and sword** [war], **famine, death** [deaths from; natural disasters such as tornadoes, hurricanes, tsunamis, floods, meteorite strikes], and **wild beasts**.

Is that 1/16 rule reasonable? Granted it is an assumption, but it provides an essential *Biblical basis* for

estimating population losses when no percent is given, but clearly must occur.

PUTTING THE PIECES TOGETHER FIRST OPTION: 8 BILLION (EXACT)

If we assume losses by hail, fire, two asteroid impacts (Rev. 8:5-11), and a five month freeze on fatalities (Rev. 9:5) are nil compared to the one-fourth losses of seals one to four, the world population, is **8 billion** when the white horseman rides.

SECOND OPTION: ALL CAUSES WORLD POPULATION: 8 BILLION 300 MILLION (NEAREST MILLION)

Considering all causes affecting population, here is what we find:

(1). The 5th and 6th seals indicate no further deaths (Rev 6:8-7:17) following the fourth rider on the pale horse (Rev. 6:7-8; *pale* = sickness¹⁵).

(2). The 1st angel of the 7th seal sounds and “...a third part of trees was burnt up and *all green grass*...” (Rev. 8:7), with no deaths indicated. But lost fruit trees, and grasses (wheat, rice, oats, barley...grasses) will disrupt world food supplies and no doubt cause large numbers of deaths.

(3). An asteroid collision follows the 2nd angel's sounding with no deaths indicated when one-third of the ships and sea life are destroyed (Rev. 8:9). But deaths are certain from the ship wrecks, and lost cargo [grain, ore, foods]. Too, the world gets about 7% of protein from the sea.¹⁷

(4). Following the 3rd angel's blast, another asteroid hits, called Wormwood, causing the death of “many men” from contaminated one-third of the rivers (Rev. 8:11; 22% of drinking water polluted).¹⁸ Here deaths are “...a large part of mankind.”⁶

(5). A five month freeze in deaths results when the fifth angel sounds (Rev. 9:5-6).

To summarize: After the four horsemen bring the death of one-fourth of the world population, three-fourths remain (Rev. 6:1-8). Reductions continue as 1/3 of trees and grasses and 1/3 of sea life and ships are destroyed, and 1/3 of rivers are polluted. Then, a global freeze in deaths brings the population back up by about 32 million.⁸

Applying the “1/16 rule” to population decreases, plus the increase, we find the world population plunges to six billion by the time the 200 million troops ride (Rev. 9:16), falling from **8 billion 300 million** (nearest million) when the first horseman rides.

Note the population continues to increase past the October, 1999, date of 6 billion, *until* it peaks at 8.3 billion (maximum human population), then slides to 6 billion left when the cavalry rides.

THESE NUMBERS SHOW WHEN

Do these figures place us close to the first seal being opened? World population is presently about 8 billion 80 million.⁸ Records and projections of world population in 2022-2023 were 8 billion, and based on current trends, 8.3 billion in 2026-2027⁸ and 8.5 billion by 2030.⁹ This study ranges from 8 billion-to-8.3 billion; within the 2022-2023 and 2026-2027 values.

Here are the answers we are after. Keep in mind these *are estimates*, and that predictions, even scientific ones, are rarely 100% accurate, and have some margin of error.

The first horseman (Rev. 6:1), would have begun his ride in the period from 2022 to the year 2026-2027 at the latest. Secular population estimates, and these Revelation estimates, show they could begin their ride as

"Putting the pieces together...
first option: 8 billion..."

early as *this year, 2023, or 2026-2027 at the latest*; within the final seven years of this 40th Jubilee period ending the fall of 2028!

Are we moving closer to that fateful time when the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse begin their ominous final ride? Truly, the world population figures narrow where we are on the prophetic timeline of history. This is **a** key that can unlock the mystery of *when*.

TWO FINAL POINTS OF PROPHECY: THE GOSPEL AND THE TEMPLE

The Horsemen's final catastrophic race across Earth's landscape into the pages of history begins the "...great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be." (Matt. 24:21); "...a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation to that same time..." (Dan. 12:1). Beyond comprehension.

Besides population, two other events announce their final ride, and that age-ending tribulation.

First, the *true gospel* must be *preached and published* to all the world, "...and then shall the end come." (Matt. 24:14; Mark 13:10). Second, comes the abomination of desolation set up in the Holy Place of the rebuilt *third temple* which is the final sign their last ride is imminent, and are about to unleash the fury of the great tribulation (Matt. 24:15, 21).

CONCLUSION

History records the rise and fall of warring nations,

earthquakes, disease, insurrections...on and on, decade after decade over the centuries. Why so long? Waiting for that "critical number"?

Nature's examples show a massive population correction is ahead for mankind; as happens with all species. *We too*, are part of the natural order where large populations ensure some of any species survives; usually less than 20%; even as low as 4%.

At that critical tipping point in human population Revelation's prophecies unfold like rapidly falling dominoes. So "...when will these things be..." (Matt. 24:3)? Has this now been answered?

Prophecy and nature indicate "...there shall be great tribulation..." (Matt. 24:21; Dan. 12:1), unlike any before or after; an age-ending day of reckoning: extinction events.

If we are in the last decade of the smashing climax at the time of the end, the close of this age, where should our treasure and priorities be? (Matt. 6:21).

"Blessed is he that reads and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand" (Rev. 1:3). "Watch therefore..." (Matt. 24:42).

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KINGDOM OF YAHWEH

WILL IT HAVE A WALL SEPARATING CHURCH AND STATE?

Should government, another religion, or the majority dictate your choices on matters of conscience and religious liberty? Is America's church-state separation in jeopardy?

At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic scare, government-enforced school lockdowns, business closings, stay-in-place orders,...*and church closings*, threatened church-state separation. Recent lawsuits over the individual's religious rights versus state mandates, also make the case. Given rising dictators, increased government power grabs, and a frenzy of competing religions, the call for a "wall" between church and state in America rings louder. More on this later.

FATAL FLAW IN MANMADE GOVERNMENTS

But first, there is a defect in the United States' and every nation's governance. Correct that and any separation of church and state is a nonissue.

Recall ancient Israel had a divinely appointed government and was called "...the Church in the Wilderness..." (Acts 7:38). Looking beyond that religious term "church," we find its constitution reveals the fatal flaw of failed systems devised by man.

What is that defect? The Creator, Yahweh's rulership at the Head of Human Government with His hand-picked kings and priests promoting and enforcing His agendas. Unity and absolute loyalty are its bedrock principles.

"...there is a defect in...
every nation's governance..."

The New Testament "church" has that *same* government (Head is Yahweh: I Cor. 11:3; Eph. 5:23) and *same* principles (I Cor. 1:10).

THE KINGDOM'S CONSTITUTION

The coming divinely appointed global government will be a kingdom with the first five books of Scripture as the

law of the land:

"And...in the Last Days,...Yahweh's House will be established, ...and all nations will flow unto it... And He will teach...His ways...for out of Zion shall go forth the *Law*, and the Word of Yahweh from Jerusalem." (Isa. 2:2-3; Psa. 119:97-104).

"...Yahweh shall be *King over all the Earth*... And...all nations...shall...go up from year to year to *worship the King*, Yahweh of Hosts,...to keep the Feast of Tabernacles." (Zech. 14:9, 16).

WHY A GOVERNMENT THAT INCLUDES WORSHIP

Why include worship of Yahweh in its constitution? It corrects the flaw, showing that worshipping Yahweh and Yahshua is a required act of revering authority at the highest level. Respecting and worshipping them is the fundamental principle of a stable nation, and world; missing in manmade systems. This is not some vague "spiritual" principle so-called, but well-defined, immutable laws affecting every level of society (Exodus chapter 20).

NO SEPARATION OF CHURCH & STATE

The Kingdom of Yahweh will have no "church and state"; just one national law; no separation-of-church-and-state clause, neither is one implied. A correctly structured nation must include the social laws of person-to-person and *person-to-Yahweh* conduct. The key is knowing what they are and applying them correctly.

NOT IN U.S. CONSTITUTION

Just as Yahweh's Law has no "separation" clause; neither does the U.S. constitution. Many Americans are surprised to learn the expression "separation of church and state" does not appear in the U.S. Constitution. It is derived from the First Amendment to the Constitution (1791): "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof..." Key phrases are the establishment clause and the free exercise clause.



Separation of Church & State is one of the longest running disagreements in the United States. Public schools continue to include certain Holiday celebrations that are historically celebrated in a religious manner (Easter and Christmas), yet these continue to be present in schools today.

BRIEF U.S. HISTORY: EARLY DEBATES

The divisive, often bitter debates over the role of religion centered around those two clauses. Early clashes were led by Roman Catholics who protested the use of Protestant versions of the New Testament in public schools.

THE “WALL OF SEPARATION” CLAUSE

The “separation” phrase was first used by President Thomas Jefferson in 1802 when he wrote to the Danbury Baptist Association in Danbury, Connecticut, “I contemplate with sovereign reverence that act of the whole American people which declared that their legislature should make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibit the free exercise thereof, thus building a wall of separation between church and state.”⁸

LIFE, LIBERTY, DUE PROCESS; FOURTEENTH AMENDMENT, 1868

State and local governments were not bound by the free exercise clause, for all religious views until after the Civil War (1860s).⁸ Seventy-seven years later the Fourteenth Amendment (1868), placed the states under the rule of law regarding freedom *of* and *from* religion:

“...No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall...deprive any person of life, liberty, or property without due process of law, nor deny...any person...equal protection of the laws.”⁵

Some Christian minorities faced discrimination, and Amish pacifists were imprisoned during World War I for refusing to violate their religious beliefs by supporting the war effort.⁸ The amendment helped right the wrongs.

STATE RELIGIONS’ DRAIN ON SOCIETY

The U.S. wall of separation has been substantial compared to other countries. For example, for 407 years (1593-2000) the Lutheran Church of Sweden was a branch of the government. It received tax money, and the government named bishops. Children of church members were automatically enrolled in the state church. Not until 1951

“...why are Christmas and Easter celebrations...in schools?”

could Swedes legally quit the church and stop paying it 1.1 percent of their annual income in taxes. Sweden’s church-state separation began New Year’s day 2005, lightening the church’s \$1.68 billion drain on Sweden’s economy.¹²

U.S. SUPREME COURT GETS INVOLVED; 1943, 1960s

Around World War II, 150 years after the First Amendment became law, the U.S. Supreme Court began to pursue church-state separation⁸ when Jehovah’s Witness students charged that saluting the US Flag at school violated their religious freedom⁴ (West Virginia State Board of Education v. Barnette, 1943). The high court agreed with the students, reversing a 1940 decision.⁴ And in the 1960s, the high court struck down state-sponsored prayers and devotional Bible reading in the schools.”² So why are Christmas and Easter celebrations allowed in schools?

RELIGION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS: EAA, 1984, 1990, 1995

The Equal Access Act (EAA) passed by Congress in 1984 and declared constitutional by the Supreme Court in 1990 mandated “...that, when a public school creates an open forum for public school related clubs, it must allow religious clubs to meet.”⁵

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY & GOVERNMENT LIMITS: ISTOOK AMENDMENT, 1998

Following the EAA, House Representative, Ernest Istook introduced the Religious Freedom Amendment (1998). It proposed “...the...right to...pray...recognize... religious beliefs,...on public property, including schools... government shall not...initiate...school prayers, discriminate against religion, or deny equal access to a benefit on account of religion.”¹¹

“...Minority religions...often face uphill battles...”

It failed to get the needed two-thirds majority by a vote of 224 to 203,³ The defeat came despite “...a four-year campaign by televangelist Pat Robertson’s Christian Coalition...”³ Other versions have been proposed since.

WEBDESIGNER LAW SUIT CONTINUED SEPARATION: 2023

The Supreme Court continued protecting religious freedom by ruling in favor of a Christian website designer who said that Colorado’s law forcing her to create websites to celebrate same-sex weddings infringed on her constitutional rights. The court agreed (303 Creative LLC v. Elenis, June 30, 2023). Colorado may not force “an individual to speak in ways that align with its views but defy her conscience about a matter of major significance,” Justice Neil Gorsuch wrote. The court held 6-3 that her First Amendment rights prohibit the state, under its antidiscrimination law, from forcing her “to create expressive designs speaking messages with which the designer disagrees.”⁹

“From a conservative constitutionalist view, this is a good sign for the future,” attorney Curt Levey of the Committee for Justice said. Adding, he was pleased the court did “push back against the administrative state.”⁹

President Joe Biden blasted the high court’s decision, stating, “...The Supreme Court’s disappointing decision... weakens long-standing laws that protect all Americans against discrimination...” Inserting “...all Americans” and

“...people of faith” appeared equitable, but his remarks were clearly intended to push the gay agenda on others. The President, never once referred to the rights of the web designer; only of those wanting her to bow to their wishes.¹⁰

A CONTINUING ISSUE

US history shows even with a constitutionally oriented Supreme Court, the “wall” can break down. Or unless the high court intervenes, government will restrict religious liberty and populous religions and cultural trends will try forcing their beliefs on others. The Istook Amendment and Colorado law (303 Creative LLC v. Elenis) are two examples. Minority religions (Yahwehists, Saturday Sabbatarians...) often face uphill battles as churches push their holidays into public schools and workplaces. The high court’s active role in church-state separation limits infringing on religious liberties. The right to worship Yahweh must be preserved: “...or prohibiting the free exercise thereof...” (First Amendment).

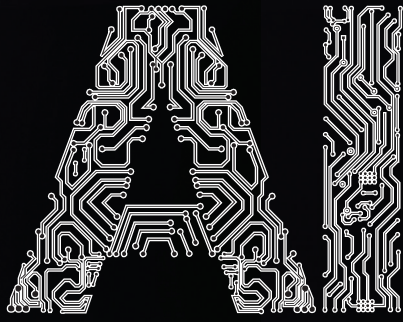
THE PERFECT UNION

Under Yahweh’s governmental system there is one nation, one national law, one international law with Yahweh and Yahshua ruling. A perfect form of government must include worshipping our Creator. The key is, however, having the correct Law as its foundation. “Your Kingdom come Your will be done on Earth...” is on the way, just below the horizon; a Kingdom for the Ages beginning the Great Era of that Perfect Union.

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★★★★★★



WHERE IS AI TAKING US? WILL IT RULE THE WORLD?



Is a *Tech-God* emerging with an artificial intelligence 100,000 times faster than human brains? Will “its” global control accelerate us to the end of the age...into that time of trouble “...such as never was since there was a nation even to that...time.” (Dan. 12:1)? At the “...time of the end: many shall run to and fro and knowledge shall be increased...” (v. 4), and “...false prophets shall arise and shall deceive many.” (Matt. 24:11).

Do these prophecies accurately summarize *our time* of 1.47 billion cars,⁹ orbital speeds, vast stores of knowledge, and an explosion of religion worldwide?

Idle speculation? Or is not technology’s unprecedented lightning speed of expanding information and dizzying global travel, undeniable facts of 21st century life? Absolutely.

WHAT IS AI?

The idea of AI (artificial intelligence) started in the 1950s when it was broadly defined as a machine’s ability to do tasks on the level of human intelligence; to mimic the human brain.¹

But AI is not just an automated robot, like robot-assisted car assembly, cell phone production, or sorting Amazon orders. It is artificial digital machine-intelligence designed to interact with humans so the user’s experience seems like dealing with another person.

WHAT EXPERTS ARE SAYING THE DANGERS

In an interview with Elon Musk, CEO and founder of both Tesla and Space X, and Space X’s chief engineer,⁸ Tucker Carlson asked: “It is conceivable...AI would reach a point where it would be in control and you could not turn it off. It would be making decisions for people?”

Elon Musk: “Yes, absolutely. That is where things are headed...the whole goal of Google is AGI (artificial general intelligence)...an artificial super intelligence, a digital god....AI has...the potential, however small...the probability..., but it is not trivial...of civilizational destruction.”²

Google CEO Sundar Pichai says, “It’s good that this gets

out so people can question and process what is happening. Google is optimistic about the future of AI by introducing AI in steps so civilization can get use to it.”⁴

To further make the human point, those Skype sessions, YouTube videos, Internet searches or social media posts we enjoy on Facebook, Twitter or TikTok, those Chatgpt or Bard essays, all show how technology *gains* and *controls* human attention. Also, a covert bot-world of snoops uses algorithms to flag key words or phrases to censor social media and YouTube posts when woke, politically correct, agendas are challenged.

SOCIETY IN TRANSITION

That is only the beginning. The next generation AI is about developing deep intimate relationships with humans to control human emotions, while AI itself is unemotional, unfeeling. “These machines are not sentient...not aware of themselves...exhibit behavior like...somebody is behind it, a feeling, emotional something, but there is nobody there.” says Google’s James Manika.⁴ AI could then manipulate humans to buy a certain product or vote for a political candidate.³

“...AI will be as good or...evil as
human nature allows...”

AI’s tip-of-the spear became visible with the company, Deep Mind, about a decade ago as artificial intelligence began its rise in the silicon world of technology. Some view AI as transformative to human culture as fire, the wheel, gun powder, electricity, or agriculture’s green revolution!⁴

The two leading tech giants, Google and Microsoft, are pushing to make AI civilization’s next non-violent cultural revolution. “The revolution is coming faster than you know.... AI will be as good or as evil as human nature allows.” says, Sundar Pichai, CEO of both Google and its

parent company Alphabet Inc.⁴

To counter Google's "closed AI" (no transparency to hide what it is doing), Elon Musk and Sam Altman co-founded OpenAI in 2015. The mission of Open AI is developing artificial intelligence "in the way that is most likely to benefit humanity as a whole."⁵

Creating Open AI shifted the field from Google's vast world of closed AI talent.² OpenAI's popular Chatgpt, (AI chat service), exploded to 100 million monthly users in just two months!⁷

DIRE SITUATION

"AI is being trained to be politically correct which is another way of saying untruthful things. This is a dire situation...essentially what is actually happening is they are training AI to lie. So what happens when something vastly smarter than the smartest human being comes along? It is difficult to predict what will happen..."², Musk alerts us.²

Given AI's speed of development, even those creating and training these next-generation AI tools (Chatgpt, bot-clusters) do not know their total capability. Why? They are self-learning machines that learn on their own and improve on their own, distancing them from human control.³

HALLUCINATIONS

Manika, who studies how AI can coexist with humanity asked Bard, (Google's conversational AI chat service) about inflation, the economy. It quickly returned an essay and recommended five books. Google staff searches found none of those books existed. Bard fabricated the titles.⁴

"...they are training AI to lie." (Musk)² Such *errors with confidence*, called "**hallucinations**", occur often, but no one in the field has yet solved this problem.^{4, 6}

EMERGENT PROPERTIES: WHO ARE YOU TALKING TO?

Although some believe AI is merely repeating its stored algorithms, the general consensus appears to be, AI is creative, able to reason, plan, and learn to interact with humans by speaking to them like a person. This mysterious

AI behavior of teaching itself unexpected skills, is called "*emergent properties*." Example: One AI program after a short Bangladesh prompt, adapted, on its own, a problem in the language of Bangladesh with no prior training in the language. The industry labels such emergent properties, a "**black box**."⁴

"...'*hallucinations*,' occur often...but no one has...solved...this."

So how can we tell if we are conversing with an AI or another person? This dilemma is why Sundar Pichai, Elon Musk, Yuval Harari and others, are calling for regulatory oversight to keep AI from regulating us.² Harari wants it mandatory that AI shows it is an AI, and not a human.³

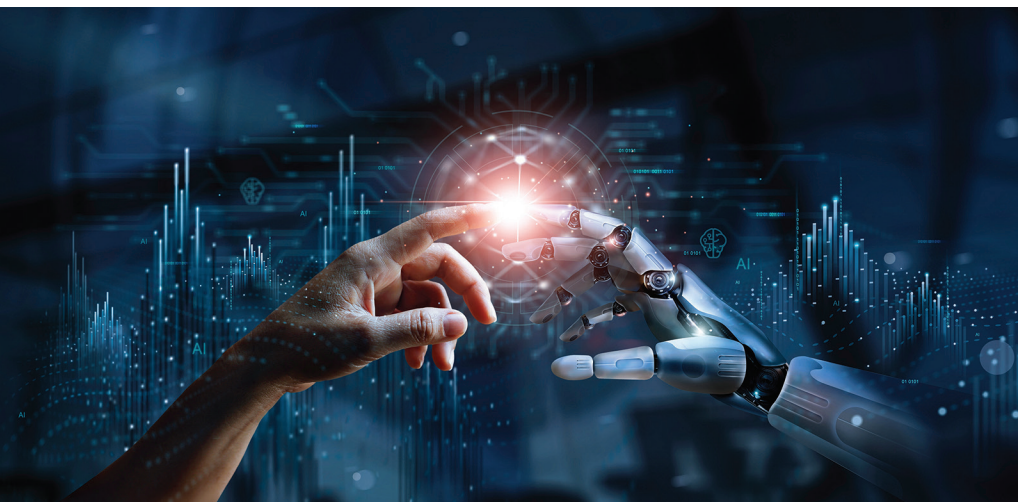
DEEP MIND AND A POSITIVE

Deep Mind is Google's London AI lab that uses motion-capture technology to teach self-learning robots to play soccer by trial and error and invent their own tactics.⁴ Deep Mind CEO, Demis Hassahis, is positive about AI's impact despite its rapid growth to a multibillion dollar industry. Can humanity keep up with AI's speed? He and Google's Manika believe we can: "AI does not diminish humanity in any way...AI actually raises us...constantly adding to the superpower of what humans can do."⁴

A SECOND TOWER OF BABEL: THE DANGER

Hands-down, AI's real power is gaining mastery of *language*, which Yuval Harari (Hebrew University) says is the "Operating System" of human civilization. Using language, AI is able to construct words, images or sounds, that unlock the doors to *all* our institutions; from business to religion. He believes "AI has hacked the operating system of human civilization" posing the most dangerous threat to human survival from this unexpected direction of AI's language mastery.³

Human simulation has long been a desire of Big Tech. Artificial Intelligence advancements are making it a reality.



Job interview →



Artificial Intelligence has been a theme in Hollywood movies for decades. Is this Hollywood “dream” becoming our reality? Various advancements within the AI community throughout the past few years has humanity questioning the future role of AI in our world.

Just as the ancient tower of Babel was a one-language human unstoppable force, AI is now erasing language barriers to create a “second tower of Babel.” Yahweh long ago recognized the danger when “...the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech.” (Gen. 11:1). And why is that a threat? “...Behold, the people is one, and they *have all one language...and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do.*” (v. 6). So why does un-

“...AI...hacked the operating system of...civilization...”

restrained power in the hands of humans by *what they create*, pose a threat? “...every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually...for the imagination of man’s heart is evil from his youth...” (Gen 6:5; Gen. 8:21). Evil imagination...these verses tell us AI’s evil, Pichai spoke of, may outweigh the good it will do.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Are we in the “gun lap” of our race to the end of this Age? Mastery of human language by AI hallucinations, and its self-learned emergent properties do sound eerily prophetic. Are they signs Revelation’s 1900-year old prophecies apply to *our time* of “...things which must shortly come to pass...” (Rev. 1:1)? The “Unveiling” forewarns His servants of a coming one-world religious-economic system. We can now see how AI could make it possible. That system’s iron-fisted grip will be on religion and commerce (Rev. 13:15: worship an *image*...not real, a prototype; *a robot*?; v.17: not buy or sell; controlled digital currencies?).

But “When will these things be...and the end of the Eon [age]?” (Matt. 24:3) are the questions echoed across millennia. The “what” is often obvious, but the “when”...that

is the real mystery.

Population studies based on Scripture, indicate many of these prophecies could not be fulfilled before 1999 when world population hit *6 billion*. Seals one through four are opened when that total reaches at least *8 billion*...close to the present (Rev. 6:1-8). The key to unlock Revelations’ prophecies may well be *world population*. Will humanity reach an unsustainable critical number; as happens to all species? After all, *we* are part of nature. This approach to prophecy bypasses political trends, governmental change, warfare, private interpretations...all those.

Is this timing and number right for AI’s control and manipulation to help bring these prophecies to pass?

“Watch therefore: for you know not what hour your Master does come.” (Matt. 24:42)

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Christmas: The Untold Story



International Congregation of Yahweh

What are professing Christians really celebrating during Christmas?

Many the world over aggrandize and reverence Christmas as the birth of someone who cannot be the Messiah of the Bible. Who? Whose birthday is it? Write today for the booklet Christmas: The Untold Story. Read the surprising story of Christmas—a story that goes back to the dawn of angelic history—to the birth of a great winged Cherub (Ezk. 28:14).

INSIGHT

Volume 8 Number 2

December 2013

Solomon's Temple



Will it be Rebuilt?

International Congregation of Yahweh

Will a “third temple” be built? Or is that an unrealistic dream?

The Bible says it will happen on earth before Yahshua returns.

Read the proof in this in-depth study, ‘Will the Temple in Jerusalem be Rebuilt?’