



# THE VOICE of ELIJAH

Restoring the hearts of the fathers to the children

## He Describes Our Generation Fairly Well

What is it, then, that Micah says in his prophecy? "Thus saith the Lord concerning the prophets that make my people err, that bite with their teeth, and cry to him, Peace; and if it was not put into their mouth, they prepared war against him. Therefore night shall be unto you, that ye shall not have a vision; and it shall be dark unto you, that ye shall not divine; and the sun shall not go down over the prophets, and the day shall be dark over them. And the seers shall be ashamed, and the diviners confounded."

These things we have recounted beforehand, in order that ye may know the pain that is to be in the last times, and the perturbation, and the manner of life on the part of all men toward each other, and their envy, and hate, and strife, and the negligence of the shepherds toward the sheep, and the unruly disposition of the people toward the priests.

Wherefore all shall walk after their own will. And the children will lay hands on their parents. The wife will give up her own husband to death, and the husband will bring his own wife to judgment like a criminal. Masters will lord it over their servants savagely, and servants will assume an unruly demeanour toward their masters. None will reverence the grey hairs of the elderly, and none will have pity upon the comeliness of the youthful.

The temples of God will be like houses, and there will be overturnings of the churches everywhere. The Scriptures will be despised, and everywhere they will sing the songs of the adversary. Fornications, and adulteries, and perjuries will fill the land; sorceries, and incantations, and divinations will follow after these with all force and zeal.

And, on the whole, from among those who profess to be Christians will rise up then false prophets, false apostles, impostors, mischief-makers, evil-doers, liars against each other, adulterers, fornicators, robbers, grasping, perjured, mendacious, hating each other. The shepherds will be like wolves; the priests will embrace falsehood; the monks will lust after the

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## *A Note From the Editor*

*The greatest test that True Believers will ever face is how to respond appropriately to the Truth here at the End. It is going to be an ongoing test, one that they will confront daily. The consequences for failure are dire, yet most will never even know they are being tested.*

**The Voice of Elijah®**, October 2001, p. 28

That quote jumped off the page at me this morning and prompted me to locate other snippets related to testing that have been published in **The Voice of Elijah®** newsletter and **The Voice of Elijah® Update**. I am sharing them with you in hopes that they jump off the page at you and speak to your heart as they do to mine.

*... you can expect God to test you. He will require you to show Him by what you do every day that you believe what you have heard and that you are willing to live according to your knowledge of the Truth.*

**The Voice of Elijah® Update**, March 1993, p. 6

*... God will test you repeatedly to determine whether you will succumb to rationalizing (as we often do) and deny that you know the right thing to do. That tendency is treacherous. You don't need anyone to tell you what is right or wrong. Scripture plainly states God expects you to obey His laws and the laws imposed by human government (Rom. 13:1-10). Furthermore, one ministry of the Spirit of the Living God within you is to prompt you to obey. Jesus stated that clearly: (John 16:7-11).*

**The Voice of Elijah® Update**, March 1993, pp. 6-7

*I can guarantee True Believers but one thing. If you will submit to God's testing/correction/discipline and obediently accept it as an opportunity to demonstrate your faith, you will almost immediately begin to enjoy the incredible peace that can only come from a thoroughly satisfying relationship with the Lord of all Creation.*

**The Voice of Elijah® Update**, March 1993, p. 9

*Are friends and family more important to you than your relationship with God? God knows, and if they are, He will undoubtedly test you in that area to point out to you your flaw. You can be sure of but one thing. If you are a True Believer, God's testing will never exceed your faith. If you aren't a True Believer, it already has.*

**The Voice of Elijah® Update**, March 1993, p. 12

*... you can expect to be tested in any area of your life where you seek to withhold something from God.*

**The Voice of Elijah® Update**, March 1993, p. 12

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*Nobody can live your life for you—telling you to go here and do this, or go there and do that. How could God test you if they did that? What glory would He gain from your personal triumph over this world? It's your responsibility to do what's right. He doesn't expect you to live according to what someone else believes. He expects you to follow the leading of His Holy Spirit because you know, understand, and believe the Truth.*

**The Voice of Elijah® Update**, May 1993, p. 11

*We are, and will be, held responsible for what we are. We give in and go along with the "winds" because we want to give in to their enticement. It's that simple. And God allows the "winds" to blow their lies at us because it's all part of the testing process I explained for you in the March issue of **The Update**. In a nutshell, that's how the "winds" help God winnow His harvest.*

**The Voice of Elijah® Update**, June 1993, p. 6

*God seeks to work in your life day in and day out, molding and shaping you to His liking, teaching you how to live a holy life through His ongoing discipline. If you accept discipline, you will eventually become what God desires. If you reject it, you will discover too late that your sinful defects have been "fired" in the "kiln" of His testing, making you nothing more than a vessel destined for destruction.*

**The Voice of Elijah® Update**, March 1994, p. 8

*There are lots of things down here that can entice a person into "turning aside from The Way." That's how God meant for it to be. He is going to use those things to determine whether you want what He has to offer more than you want to seek the vanity of this life. As I have already explained, He is going to test you in order to determine what you actually want. (See "Quail Is Fool's Food," **The Voice of Elijah® Update**, March 1993.) Why would He give you the next life when you have chosen to revel in this one?*

**The Voice of Elijah® Update**, September 1994, p. 6

*In His mercy, God has tested each one of us individually by offering us a pardon. If we refuse to accept His offer*

*of salvation, we have a bit of a problem. But that is only because the wrath of God continues to be focused directly on us: (Deuteronomy 7:9–10).*

**The Voice of Elijah® Update**, September 1995, pp. 17–18

*It is not enough to be born again. One must endure the Lord's testing by constantly feeding on His Word.*

**The Voice of Elijah® Update**, September 2000, p. 7

*Be forewarned: If you choose to continue reading what I have written here, you will provide God the perfect opportunity to test your "heart" and thereby determine whether you really do have "the love of the truth" that God requires.*

**The Voice of Elijah®**, April 2003, p. 3

A word to the wise is sufficient—truer now than it has ever been. In light of all of the above, consider this:

*Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have [its] perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.*

(James 1:2–4)

*In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, that the proof of your faith, [being] more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ; and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls.*

(1 Peter 1:6–9)

In Him,

*Marcia Harper*

# Them There Nasties Ain't Ordinary Grasshoppers, They're Locusts

While rummaging around in the Prophets recently, I came across a bit of information that is becoming more and more relevant with each passing day. It has to do with the fifth of the seven trumpets that the messengers of God are going to sound now that the seven seals have been opened. Here is “The Way” John describes the upcoming event:

<sup>1</sup>[And] [The] [fifth] [Messenger] [sounded a trumpet], [and] [I saw] [{the} Star] [that had fallen] [to] [The] [Earth] [out] [of] [Heaven], [and] [The] [Key] [to] [The] [Cistern] [of] [The] [Abyss] [was given] [to him].  
<sup>2</sup>[And] [he opened] [The] [Cistern] [of] [The] [Abyss], [and] [Smoke] [came up] [out] [of] [The] [Cistern] [like] [Smoke] [of a] [large] [Furnace], [and] [The] [Sun] [and] [The] [Air] [was darkened] [because] [of] [The] [Smoke] [of] [The] [Cistern].  
<sup>3</sup>[And] [Locusts] [came out] [of] [The] [Smoke] [into] [The] [Earth]; [and] [an Authority] [was given] [to them], [like] [The] [Scorpions] [of] [The] [Earth] [have] [an Authority].  
<sup>4</sup>[And] [it was said] [to them] [that] [they could] [not] [mistreat] [The] [Grass] [of] [The] [Earth] [nor] [anything] [green] [nor] [any] [Tree] [except] [The] [Men] [who] [do] [not] [have] [The] [Seal] [of] [The] [{Living} God] [on] [their] [Foreheads].  
<sup>5</sup>[And] [{the authority} was given] [to them] [so that] [they could] [not] [kill] [them], [but] [so that] [they would be tormented] [five] [Months]; [and] [their] [Torment] {is} [like] [{the} Torment] [of a Scorpion] [when] [it strikes] [a Man].  
<sup>6</sup>[And] [in] [Those] [Days], [Men] [will seek] [Death]; [and] [they will] [definitely not] [find] [it], [and] [they will desire] [to die], [and] [Death] [will flee] [from] [them].

<sup>7</sup>[And] [The] [Likenesses] [of] [The] [Locusts] {were} [just like] [Horses] [prepared] [for] [War], [and] [on]

[their] [Heads] {were things} [like] [Crowns] [just like] [Gold], [and] [their] [Faces] {were} [like] [Men's] [Faces].  
<sup>8</sup>[And] [they had] [Hair] [like] [Women's] [Hair], [and] [their] [Teeth] {were} [like] [Lions' {teeth}].  
<sup>9</sup>[And] [they had] [Breastplates] [like] [Breastplates] [of iron], [and] [The] [Sound] [of their] [Wings] {was} [like] [{the} Sound] [of Chariots]—[of a Lot] [of Horses] [running] [into] [War].  
<sup>10</sup>[And] [they have] [Tails] [and] [Stingers] [just like] [Scorpions], [and] [their] [Authority] [to mistreat] [Men] [for five] [Months] {is} [in] [their] [Tails].  
<sup>11</sup>[They have] [a King] [over] [them]—[The] [Messenger] [of] [The] [Abyss]. [In Hebrew] [he has] [{the} Name] [Abaddon\*], [and] [in] [The] [Greek Language\*] [he has] [{the} Name] [Apollyon\*].  
(Revelation 9:1–11) —my interim translation

Let me give you a bit of background information first. The foregoing account is preceded by the following description of what is going to happen after each of the first four messengers of the Lord sound their trumpets—right after the seventh seal is removed from the Hebrew Scriptures:

<sup>1</sup>[And] [when] [He opened] [The] [Seal], [The] [Seventh], [there was] [Silence] [in] [Heaven] [about] [Half an Hour\*].  
<sup>2</sup>[And] [I saw] [The] [seven] [Messengers] [who] [were standing] [before] [The] [{Living} God], [and] [seven] [Trumpets] [were given] [to them].

<sup>3</sup>[And] [another] [Messenger] [who held] [a Censer] [made of gold] [came] [and] [stood] [on] [The] [Sacrificial Altar], [and] [a lot of] [Incense Offerings] [was given] [to him], [so that] [he could put] [The] [Prayers] [of all] [The] [Holy Ones] [on] [The] [Altar] [that was] [made of gold] [that was] [before] [The] [Throne].  
<sup>4</sup>[And] [The] [Smoke] [of] [The] [Incense Offerings] [of] [The] [Prayers] [of] [The]



[Holy Ones] [went up] [out] [of The] [Messenger's] [Hand] [before] [The] [{Living} God]. <sup>5</sup>[And] [The] [Messenger] [took] [The] [Censer] [and] [filled [it] up] [with] [The] [Fire] [of The] [Sacrificial Altar], [and] [threw {it}] [onto] [The] [Earth]; [and] [Rolling Thunder] [and] [Voices] [and] [Flashes of Lightning] [and] [an Earthquake] [occurred]. <sup>6</sup>[And] [The] [seven] [Messengers] [who] [had] [The] [seven] [Trumpets] [prepared] [themselves], [so that] [they could sound a trumpet].

<sup>7</sup>[And] [The] [First] [sounded a trumpet], [and] [there was] [Hail] [and] [Fire] [mingled] [with] [Blood], [and] [they were thrown] [onto] [The] [Earth], [and] [the [third] {part}] [of The] [Earth] [was burned up], [and] [the [third] {part}] [of The] [Trees] [was burned up], [and] [all] [green] [Grass] [was burned up].

<sup>8</sup>[And] [The] [second] [Messenger] [sounded a trumpet], [and] [{something} like] [a [large] Mountain] [that was burning] [with Fire] [was thrown] [into] [The] [Sea], [and] [the [third] {part}] [of The] [Sea] [became] [Blood], <sup>9</sup>[and] [the [third] {part}] [of The] [Creatures] [that were] [in] [The] [Sea]—[those that] [have] [a Soul]—[died], [and] [the [third] {part}] [of The] [Boats] [were thoroughly corrupted].

<sup>10</sup>[And] [The] [third] [Messenger] [sounded a trumpet], [and] [a [large] Star] [that is burning] [like] [a Lantern] [fell] [out] [of] [Heaven], [and] [he fell] [on] [the [third] {part}] [of The] [Rivers] [and] [on] [The] [Springs] [of The] [Waters]. <sup>11</sup>[And] [The] [Name] [of The] [Star] [is called] "[Wormwood]"; [and] [the [third] {part}] [of The] [Waters] [became] [like] [Wormwood], [and] [a Lot] [of Men] [died] [because] [of The] [Waters] [because] [they became bitter].

<sup>12</sup>[And] [The] [fourth] [Messenger] [sounded a trumpet], [and] [the [third] {part}] [of The] [Sun] [and] [the [third] {part}] [of The] [Moon] [and] [the [third] {part}] [of The] [Stars] [were stricken\*], [so that] [the [third] {part}] [of them] [would be darkened] [and] [The] [Day] [would not] be seen] [for the] [third {part}] [of her], [and] [The] [Night] [likewise].

<sup>13</sup>[And] [I saw], [and] [I heard], [one] [Vulture] [that was flying] [in] [Midheaven], [saying] [in a [loud] Voice], "[Woe], [Woe], [Woe] [to those who] [are dwelling] [on] [The] [Earth], [because] [of The Rest of] [The] [Sounds] [of The] [Trumpet] [of The] [three] [Messengers] [who] [are going to] [sound a trumpet]!"

(Revelation 8:1–13) —my interim translation

The "star" that John describes falling to Earth after the third trumpet sounds in Revelation 8:10 is the same "star" that opens the Gates to the Pits of Hell in Revelation 9:1–2 and releases some sort of scourge that is *parabolically* depicted as a swarm of "locusts" coming up out of what is normally translated as the "bottomless pit." In Revelation 9:11, that "star" is described as a king who is also the messenger in charge of what goes on in the Abyss:

[They have] [a King] [over] [them]—[The] [Messenger] [of The] [Abyss]. [In Hebrew] [he has] [{the} Name] [Abaddon\*], [and] [in] [The] [Greek Language\*] [he has] [{the} Name] [Apollyon\*].

(Revelation 9:11) —my interim translation

Don't be confused by all this; the messenger of the Abyss who is *parabolically* described as a "star" that is going to "fall" out of Heaven is none other than Satan. Jesus tells us plainly that, at some point in time, Satan is going to "fall" "out of Heaven":

<sup>17</sup>[So] [the] [seventy]-[two] [returned] [with] [Joy], [saying], "[Your Majesty], [even] [The] [Demons] [are submissive] [to us] [in] [Your] [Name]!" <sup>18</sup>[So] [He told] [them], "[I was observing] [when [Satan] fell] [like] [a Flash of Lightning] [out] [of] [Heaven]."

(Luke 10:17–18) —my interim translation

Jesus "saw" the event that He describes in that verse before He became incarnate. That is only because the dimension in which the *Living Word* of God resides is timeless; the actual event is yet to come for those of us who are passing through time. John *parabolically* describes Satan's "fall" this way:

<sup>1</sup>[And] [a [tremendous] Sign] [was seen] [in] [Heaven]—[a Woman] [who had been wrapped in] [The] [Sun], [and] [The] [Moon] [underneath] [Her] [Feet], [and] [a Crown] [of twelve] [Stars] [on] [Her] [Head], <sup>2</sup>[and] [who has {one}] [in] [Tummy], [and] [she is shouting] [while in labor] [and] [being tormented] [to give birth]. <sup>3</sup>[And] [another] [Sign] [was seen] [in] [Heaven], [and] [guess what!] [A [most important], [fiery red] Sea Serpent] [who has] [seven] [Heads] [and] [ten] [Horns], [and] [seven] [Diadems] [on] [his] [Heads]. <sup>4</sup>[And] [his] [Tail] [was hauling in] [the [third] {part}] [of The] [Stars] [of] [Heaven], [and] [he threw] [them] [to]

[The] [Earth]. [And] [The] [Sea Serpent] [was standing] [before] [The] [Woman] [who] [was about to] [give birth], [so that] [when] [she gave birth] [he could devour] [Her] [Child]. <sup>5</sup>[And] [she gave birth to] [a Son], [a Male] [Who] [is going to] [shepherd] [all] [The] [Gentiles] [with] [a Staff] [of iron]; [and] [Her] [Child] [was snatched up] [to] [The] [{Living} God] [and] [to] [His] [Throne]. <sup>6</sup>[And] [The] [Woman] [fled] [into] [the] [Desert], [where] [She has] [a Place] [that has been prepared] [there] [by] [The] [{Living} God], [so that] [He may provide] [Her] food [there] [one thousand] [two hundred] [sixty] [Days]. <sup>7</sup>[And] [there was] [War] [in] [Heaven], [Michael] [and] [his] [Messengers] [waging war] [with] [The] [Sea Serpent]. [So] [The] [Sea Serpent] [and] [his] [Messengers] [waged war], <sup>8</sup>[and] [they did not] have the ability], [neither] [was] [a Place] found [for them] [in] [Heaven] [any longer]. <sup>9</sup>[And] [The] [Sea Serpent]—[The] [Most Important One], [The] [Snake], [The] [Ancient One], [the one that] [is called] [a False Accuser] [and] [Satan], [the one who] [is going to lead] [The] [entire] [Civilized World] astray—[was thrown down]. [He was thrown down] [to] [The] [Earth], [and] [his] [Messengers] [were thrown down] [with] [him]. <sup>10</sup>[And] [I heard] [a loud] Voice [in] [Heaven], [saying]:

“[At this time], [The] [Salvation] [and] [Supernatural Power] [and] [Kingdom] [of our] [God] [and] [The] [Authority] [of His] [Anointed One] [have come], [because] [The] [Accuser\*] [of our] [Brothers]—[the one who] [makes accusations against] [them] [Day] [and] [Night] [before] [our] [God]—[has been put to bed]. <sup>11</sup>[And] [they] [triumphed over] [him] [because of] [The] [Blood] [of The] [Little Lamb] [and] [because of] [The] [Word] [of their] [Testimony], [and] [they did not] love [their] [Soul] [up to the time] [of Death]. <sup>12</sup>[For] [This Reason] [celebrate], [you] [Heavens] [and] [those who] [are camping out] [in] [them]. [Woe to] [The] [Earth] [and] [The] [Sea] [because] [The] [False Accuser]—[who has] [tremendous] [Rage], [aware] [that] [he has] [just a little] [Time]—[has come down] [to] [you].”

(Revelation 12:1–12) —my interim translation

That is a fairly straightforward description of what is going to happen here on Earth after Satan is cast out of Heaven. But take another look at “The Way” John describes those same events. Just keep in mind the fact that he is speaking *parabolically*:

<sup>10</sup>[And] [The] [third] [Messenger] [sounded a trumpet], [and] [a large] Star [that is burning] [like] [a Lantern] [fell] [out] [of] [Heaven]; [and] [he fell] [on] [the] [third] {part} [of The] [Rivers] [and] [on] [The] [Springs] [of The] [Waters]. <sup>11</sup>[And] [The] [Name] [of The] [Star] [is called] “[Wormwood].” [And] [the] [third] {part} [of The] [Waters] [became] [like] [Wormwood], [and] [a Lot] [of Men] [died] [because] [of The] [Waters] [because] [they became bitter].

<sup>12</sup>[And] [The] [fourth] [Messenger] [sounded a trumpet], [and] [the] [third {part}] [of The] [Sun] [and] [the] [third {part}] [of The] [Moon] [and] [the] [third {part}] [of The] [Stars] [were stricken\*], [so that] [the] [third {part}] [of them] [would be darkened], [and] [The] [Day] [would not] be seen [for the] [third {part}] [of her], [and] [The] [Night] [likewise]. (Revelation 8:10–12) —my interim translation

My point is, right after his messengers are cast out of Heaven, Satan is going to do what has heretofore been unthinkable; he is going to open the “bottomless pit” and unleash every malevolent force that exists because he knows “he has just a little time.” That is what John describes *parabolically* this way:

<sup>1</sup>[And] [The] [fifth] [Messenger] [sounded a trumpet], [and] [I saw] [{the} Star] [that had fallen] [to] [The] [Earth] [out] [of] [Heaven], [and] [The] [Key] [to The] [Cistern] [of The] [Abyss] [was given] [to him]. <sup>2</sup>[And] [he opened] [The] [Cistern] [of The] [Abyss], [and] [Smoke] [came up] [out] [of The] [Cistern], [like] [Smoke] [of a large] Furnace, [and] [The] [Sun] [and] [The] [Air] [was darkened] [because] [of The] [Smoke] [of The] [Cistern]. <sup>3</sup>[And] [Locusts] [came out] [of] [The] [Smoke] [into] [The] [Earth]; [and] [an Authority] [was given] [to them], [like] [The] [Scorpions] [of The] [Earth] [have] [an Authority]. <sup>4</sup>[And] [it was said] [to them] [that] [they could not] mistreat [The] [Grass] [of The] [Earth] [nor] [anything] [green] [nor] [any] [Tree] [except] [The] [Men] [who] [do not] have [The] [Seal] [of The] [{Living} God] [on] [their] [Foreheads].

(Revelation 9:1–4) —my interim translation

Now that I have explained those things, I will show you where you can find an even more detailed *parabolic* description of the events that are going to occur after the fifth messenger sounds his trumpet. The Prophet Joel tells us things will begin to go extremely

haywire for everyone but those the *Living Word of God* has sealed with the “Seal” with which He “seals” every True Believer. Paul says that “Seal” is the One:

<sup>7</sup>(1) [in] [Whom] [we have] [Complete Liberation] [via] [His] [Blood]—[The] [Forgiveness] [of our] [Transgressions], [in accordance with] [The] [Wealth] [of His] [Favor]—<sup>8</sup>[which] [produces] [for] [us] an excess [in] [all] [Wisdom] [and] [Common Sense], <sup>9</sup>[after making known] [to us] [The] [Mystery] [of His] [Will], [in accordance with] [The] [Thing That Is Pleasing to] [Him]—[what] [He intended] [in] [Him] <sup>10</sup>[as] [Responsibility for the Management] [of The] [Fullness] [of The] [Times]—[so that] [Every Last Thing]—[the things that are] [in] [The] [Heavens] [and] [the things that are] [on] [The] [Earth]—would be summarized [in] [The] [Anointed One]; [in] [Him], <sup>11</sup>(2) [in] [Whom] [we also] have been designated as **heirs\***, [after being decided on beforehand] [in accordance with] [the] Plan [of the One Who] [is working in] [Every Last Thing] [in accordance with] [The] [Decision] [of His] [Will], <sup>12</sup>[so] [that] [we]—[those who] [have hoped beforehand\*] [in] [The] [Anointed One]—[would be] [for] [Lavish Praise] [of His] [Glory]; <sup>13</sup>(3) [in] [Whom] [you] [also] {were designated as heirs}, [after hearing] [The] [Word] [of The] [Truth]—[The] [Word of the Gospel] [of your] [Salvation]; (4) [in] [Whom], [after believing {the word of the gospel}], [you were also] sealed by [The] [Spirit] [of The] [Promise], [the Spirit] that is [holy], <sup>14</sup>[Which] [is] [an Initial Payment] [of our] [Inheritance], [for] [a Complete Liberation] [of The] [Acquisition]—[for] [Lavish Praise] [of His] [Glory].

(Ephesians 1:7–14) —my interim translation

If you are not sure you have that unique “Seal” of approval from the *Living Word of God*, trust me, you don't. If you did, you would know it. But if you are confident you have that “Seal,” and you don't know about *the promise, the inheritance of the promise, and the fulfillment of the promise*, you might want to consider the fact that there are things stated in the Scriptures that you need to know but don't. Just a thought.

So now that I have given the religious know-it-alls a good reason to bow out gracefully, I am going to show you what you need to know about those “locusts” that are soon to come up out of the Pits of Hell. But first, I must remind you that, when you read the Scriptures, you need to keep in mind the fact that “a little bit is

here,” and “a little bit is there.” That *means* everything you need to know is not stated in consecutive order. It is all there, but you have to jump around the text a bit as you read. If you don't know what one text is *talking about*, you will find what you need to know about that text stated in another place in the Scriptures.

The Scriptures are a bit like Wikipedia; everything is there, so when you don't know what something is, you just click on a hyperlink to go find out. The hyperlinks in the text of the Scriptures are the words and phrases that the writers use. That is why I am “standardizing” my translation of the Scriptures for you. That is, I am doing my best to translate the same words and phrases the same way every time so that you can see where all the hyperlinks are. As for the case before us now, I am going to show you where some of the hyperlinks in Revelation 9:1–11 take you. But first, take another look at that text with those hyperlinks in small caps and bolded:

<sup>1</sup>[And] [The] [fifth] [Messenger] [sounded a trumpet], [and] [I saw] [the] Star [that had fallen] [to] [The] [Earth] [out] [of] [Heaven], [and] [The] [Key] [to The] [Cistern] [of The] [Abyss] [was given] [to him]. <sup>2</sup>[And] [he opened] [The] [Cistern] [of The] [Abyss]; [and] [SMOKE] [CAME UP] [OUT] [OF THE] [CISTERN], [LIKE] [SMOKE] [OF A] [LARGE] [FURNACE]; [and] [THE] [SUN] [AND] [THE] [AIR] [WAS DARKENED] [BECAUSE] [OF THE] [SMOKE] [OF THE] [CISTERN]. <sup>3</sup>[AND] [LOCUSTS] [CAME OUT] [OF] [THE] [SMOKE] [INTO] [THE] [EARTH]; [and] [an Authority] [was given] [to them], [like] [The] [Scorpions] [of The] [Earth] [have] [an Authority]. <sup>4</sup>[And] [it was said] [to them] [that] [they could] [not] mistreat [The] [Grass] [of The] [Earth] [nor] [anything] [green] [nor] [any] [Tree] [except] [The] [Men] [who] [do] [not] have [The] [Seal] [of The] [Living} God] [on] [their] [Foreheads]. <sup>5</sup>[And] [the authority} was given] [to them] [so that] [they could] [not] kill [them], [but] [so that] [they would be tormented] [five] [Months]; [and] [their] [Torment] {is} [like] [the} Torment] [of a Scorpion] [when] [it strikes] [a Man]. <sup>6</sup>[And] [in] [Those] [Days], [Men] [will seek] [Death]; [and] [they will] [definitely not] find [it], [and] [they will desire] [to die], [and] [Death] [will flee] [from] [them].

<sup>7</sup>[AND] [THE] [LIKENESSES] [OF THE] [LOCUSTS] {were} [JUST LIKE] [HORSES] [THAT HAVE BEEN PREPARED] [FOR] [WAR], [and] [on] [their] [Heads] {were things} [like] [Crowns] [just like] [Gold], [and] [their] [Faces] {were} [like] [Men's] [Faces]. <sup>8</sup>[And] [they had] [Hair]



[like] [Women's] [Hair], [and] [THEIR] [TEETH] [WERE] [LIKE] [LIONS' {teeth}]. <sup>9</sup>[And] [they had] [Breastplates] [like] [Breastplates] [of iron], [and] [THE] [SOUND] [OF THEIR] [WINGS] {was} [LIKE] [{the} SOUND] [OF CHARIOTS]—[OF A LOT] [OF HORSES] [RUNNING] [INTO] [WAR]. <sup>10</sup>[And] [they have] [Tails] [and] [Stingers] [just like] [Scorpions], [and] [their] [Authority] [to mistreat] [Men] [for five] [Months] {is} [in] [their] [Tails]. <sup>11</sup>[They have] [a King] [over] [them]—[The] [Messenger] [of The] [Abyss]. [In Hebrew] [he has] [{the} Name] [Abaddon\*], [and] [in] [The] [Greek Language\*] [he has] [{the} Name] [Apollyon\*].

(Revelation 9:1–11)—my interim translation

Every last one of the hyperlinks that I placed in small caps and bolded take you to the Book of Joel. So now I am going to give you my translation of the Book of Joel with the verses to which those hyperlinks take you also in small caps and bolded.

## Joel, Chapter 1

<sup>1</sup>[{The} Word] [{of} His Majesty] [that] [came] [to] [Joel], [Son] [{of} Pethuel]:

<sup>2</sup>[Listen to] [this], [you Elders],  
[And give ear], [all] [Inhabitants of] [The Earth].  
[Has this] {ever} [happened] [in your Days]  
[Or even] [in {the} Days of] [your Fathers]?  
<sup>3</sup>[Recount {everything}] [about it] [to your Sons],  
[And your Sons] [to their Sons],  
[And their Sons] [to [another] Generation].

<sup>4</sup>[WHAT [THE SOLITARY LOCUST] LEAVES],  
[THE SWARMING LOCUST] [WILL CONSUME];  
[AND WHAT [THE SWARMING LOCUST] LEAVES],  
[THE NYMPH LOCUST] [WILL CONSUME];  
[AND WHAT [THE NYMPH LOCUST] LEAVES],  
[THE NEWLY HATCHED LOCUST] [WILL CONSUME].

<sup>5</sup>[Wake up], [Drunks], [and weep];  
[And [all {of you}] [who are drinking] [Wine], wail],  
[On account of] [{the} New Wine],  
[Because] [it will be cut off] [from your Mouth].

<sup>6</sup>[BECAUSE] [A NATION] [IS GOING TO COME UP]  
[AGAINST] [MY LAND]—  
[NUMEROUS], [AND WITHOUT ANY] [NUMBER];  
[HIS TEETH] {are} [{the} TEETH OF] [A LIONESS],  
[AND [HE HAS] {the} FANGS OF] [A LIONESS WITH CUBS].  
<sup>7</sup>[He will turn] [My Vine] [into Something Devastated]  
[And My Fig Tree] [into a Stick].

[He will strip Her] [completely] [and throw {her} away];  
[Her Tendrils] [will become white].

<sup>8</sup>[Squall\*] [like a Virgin] [girded with] [Sackcloth]  
[For] [{the} Owner] [{of} her Youth].

<sup>9</sup>[{The} Cereal Offering] [and {the} Drink Offering]  
[Will be cut off] [from [His Majesty's] House].  
[The Priests]—[His Majesty's] [Ministers]—  
[will mourn].

<sup>10</sup>[{The} Field] [will be despoiled],  
[{The} Ground] [will mourn];  
[Because] [{the} Grain] [will be despoiled];  
[{The} New Wine] [will be dried up];  
[{The} Fresh Olive Oil] [will languish].

<sup>11</sup>[Be ashamed], [O Farmers],  
[Wail], [O Vinedressers],  
[On account of] [{the} Wheat]  
[and on account of] [{the} Barley];  
[Because] [{the} Harvest] [{of the} Field]  
[will go to Hell].

<sup>12</sup>[The Vine] [will be dried up]  
[And The Fig Tree] [will languish];  
[A Pomegranate Tree], [a Date Palm Tree] [too],  
[and an Apple Tree].

[All] [{the} Trees of] [The Field] [will dry up]  
[When] [Elation] [has been dried up]  
[From] [{the} Sons of] [Adam].

<sup>13</sup>[You Priests], [gird yourselves] [and lament];  
[{You} Ministers of] [{the} Altar] [wail]!  
[You Ministers of] [my God] [go in],  
[Spend the night] [in Sackcloth],  
[Because] [{the} Cereal Offering]  
[and {the} Drink Offering]  
[Will be withheld] [from [your God's] House].

<sup>14</sup>[Make a holy] [Fast],  
[Summon] [a Sacred Assembly];  
[{You} Elders] [round up]  
[All] [{the} Inhabitants of] [The Earth] {who are}  
[{In the} House] [{of} His Majesty], [your God],  
[So that they cry out] [to] [His Majesty].

<sup>15</sup>[Oh! No!] [For {the} Day]  
[When] [{the} Day] [{of} His Majesty] {is} [near],  
[And Devastation] [comes] [from Shaddai].

<sup>16</sup>[Will [Foodstuff] [not] be cut off]  
[right in front of] [our Eyes];  
[Joy] [and Happiness], [from [our God's] House]?  
<sup>17</sup>[Kernels\*] [will shrink\*]

[under] [their Lumps of Dirt\*];  
[Storehouses] [will be desolate];



[Barns] [will be broken down],  
 [Because] [Grain] [will be dried up].  
<sup>18</sup>[How] [Beasts] [will moan]!  
 [Herds of] [Cattle] [will mill about]  
 [Because] [there is not any] [Pasture];  
 [Even] [{the} Herds of] [The Flock] [will bear guilt].  
<sup>19</sup>[Your Majesty], [I will call out] [to You],  
 [When] [a Fire] [consumes]  
     [{the} Oases of] [a Wilderness];  
 [And a Flame] [sets all] [{the} Trees of] [The Field] afire].  
<sup>20</sup>[Even] [{the} Beasts of] [{the} Field]  
     [will long for You],  
 [When] [Channels of] [Water] [are dried up]  
 [And a Fire] [consumes] [{the} Oases of] [a Wilderness].  
 (Joel 1:1–20) —my interim translation

## Joel, Chapter 2

<sup>1</sup>[Blow] [a Trumpet] [in Zion]!  
 [Sound a **teruah**] [on [My holy] Mountain]!  
 [All] [{the} Inhabitants of] [The Earth]  
     [will be disturbed],  
 [When] [{the} Day] [{of} His Majesty] [comes],  
 [When] {it is} [near].  
<sup>2</sup>{IT IS} [A DAY] [{of} DARKNESS]  
     [AND NETHER GLOOM],  
 [A DAY] [{of} CLOUD] [AND DENSE FOG],  
 [LIKE DAWN] [SPREADING OUT]  
     [OVER] [THE MOUNTAINS].  
 [A PEOPLE] [AS [MANY] [AND NUMEROUS] AS HIM]  
 [HAS [NEVER] COME] [OUT OF] [THE ETERNAL BURNING],  
 [AND [IT WILL [NOT] HAPPEN AGAIN] AFTER HIM]  
 [AS LONG AS] [{the} YEARS OF] [GENERATION]  
     [AFTER GENERATION].  
<sup>3</sup>[A FIRE] [WILL CONSUME] [BEFORE HIM],  
 [AND [A FLAME] [WILL SET AFIRE] BEHIND HIM].  
 [THE EARTH] {will be}  
     [LIKE {the} GARDEN] [{of} EDEN] [BEFORE HIM]  
 [BUT {the} WILDERNESS] [{of} A DESOLATE AREA]  
     [BEHIND HIM],  
 [AND [IT [WILL] [NOT] HAVE] EVEN]  
     [ONE WHO TRIES TO ESCAPE].  
<sup>4</sup>[HIS APPEARANCE] {is} [LIKE {the} APPEARANCE]  
     [{of} HORSES];  
 [AND LIKE HORSEMEN], [THEY WILL RUN] [LIKE THAT].  
<sup>5</sup>[THEY WILL SKIP AROUND] [OVER]  
     [{the} TOPS OF] [THE MOUNTAINS]  
 [LIKE {the} SOUND] [{of} CHARIOTS],

[LIKE {the} SOUND] [{of} A FLAME]  
     [{of} FIRE] [CONSUMING] [STRAW],  
 [LIKE A [NUMEROUS] PEOPLE] [ARRANGED FOR] [BATTLE].  
<sup>6</sup>[Peoples] [will squirm] [before him];  
 [All] [Faces] [will gather] [a Pale Countenance].  
<sup>7</sup>[They will run] [like **Gibbors**];  
 [They will climb] [a Wall] [like Men of] [War];  
 [And [they will walk], each] [in his own Ways],  
 [And they will [not] swerve out of] [their Paths].  
<sup>8</sup>[But [no] one] [will push [his Brother] around];  
 [They will walk], [{every} **Gibbor**]  
     [on his own Highway];  
 [And when [they fall] on account of] [The Weapon],  
 [They will [not] break off].  
<sup>9</sup>[They will charge] [at {the} City];  
 [They will run] [on {the} Wall];  
 [They will climb up] [into Houses];  
 [They will come in] [through] [The Windows]  
     [like a Thief].  
<sup>10</sup>[{The} EARTH] [WILL BE DISTURBED] [BEFORE HIM];  
 [{The} SEA OF WATERS] [WILL QUAKE];  
 [THE SUN] [AND THE MOON] [WILL BECOME GLOOMY],  
 [AND {the} STARS] [WILL ROUND UP]  
     [THEIR ILLUMINATION].  
<sup>11</sup>[Then His Majesty] [will raise] [His Voice]  
 [In front of] [His Entourage];  
 [Because] [His Camp] {will be} [very] [many],  
 [Because] [the One Who acts on] [His Word]  
     {will be} [numerous];  
 [Because] [{the} Day] [{of} His Majesty]  
 {Will be} [great] [and [very] fearsome],  
 [So who] [can endure it]?  
<sup>12</sup>"[Yet even] [then]," [declares] [His Majesty],  
 "[You must return] [to Me] [with all] [your Heart],  
 [And with Fasting] [and with Weeping]  
     [and with Lamentation];  
<sup>13</sup>[And tear] [your Heart] [and [not] your Clothes]."  
 [So turn back] [to] [His Majesty], [your God]—  
 [Because] [He {is}] [gracious] [and compassionate],  
 [Slow] [to Anger], [with more than enough]  
     [Loving-kindness]—  
 [So that He may feel sorry]  
     [regarding] [His Bad Behavior].  
<sup>14</sup>[Who] [knows]?  
 [He might turn back] [and feel sorry],  
 [And He might leave] [a **Blessing**] [behind Him]—  
 [A Cereal Offering] [and a Drink Offering]—  
 [For His Majesty], [your God].

<sup>15</sup>[Blow] [a Trumpet] [in Zion],  
 [Make [a holy] Fast],  
 [Summon] [a Sacred Assembly].  
<sup>16</sup>[{You} Elders]! [Round up] [a People],  
 [Make [a Congregation] holy],  
 [Round up] [Infants]  
 [And those nursing] [{at the} Breasts].  
 [A Bridegroom] [will come out [of His Inner Room];  
 [And a Bride], out] [of her Bridal Tent Canopy].  
<sup>17</sup>[The Priests]—[The Ministers of] [His Majesty]—  
 [Will weep] [between] [The Porch] [and {the} Altar],  
 [And they will say]: “[Your Majesty],  
     [be concerned] [about] [Your People],  
 [And do [not] turn] [Your **Inheritance**]  
     [into a Disgrace]—  
 [Into a Parable]—[among them], [{the} Gentiles].  
 [Why] [should they say] [among {the} Peoples],  
 ‘[Where is] [their God]?’”  
<sup>18</sup>[So [His Majesty] will be zealous] [for His Land],  
 [And He will take pity] [on] [His People].  
<sup>19</sup>[Then [His Majesty] will respond],  
 [And He will say] [to His People]:  
 “[Guess what! I am] [going to send] [you] [The Grain]  
 [And The New Wine] [and The Fresh Olive Oil],  
 [And you will be satisfied] [with it],  
 [And I will [never] [again] make] [you]  
 [A Disgrace] [among {the} Gentiles].  
<sup>20</sup>[But I will make [The **Zaphonite\***] go far away]  
     [from you],  
 [And I will banish him] [into] [a [parched]  
     [and desolate] Land]—  
 [His Face] [into] [The [**Qadmonite**] Sea],  
 [And his Back End] [into] [The Sea] [behind].  
 [Then [his Stench] will ascend]—  
 [Even [his Foul Odor] will ascend]—  
 [Because] [he magnified himself] [by acting].”  
<sup>21</sup>[Ground], [You must [not] fear];  
 [Be happy] [and rejoice],  
 [Because] [His Majesty] [will magnify Himself]  
     [by acting].  
<sup>22</sup>[Beasts of] [My Field], [you must [not] fear],  
 [Because] [{the} Oases of] [{the} Wilderness]  
     [will sprout green grass].  
 [When] [a Tree] [bears] [its Fruit],  
 [A Fig Tree] [and a Vine] [will put forth]  
     [their Entourage].  
<sup>23</sup>[So, Sons of] [Zion], [be happy]  
 [And rejoice] [in His Majesty], [your God],

[Because] [He will give] [you] [The Teacher]  
     [for a Declaration of Not Guilty].  
 [And he will bring down] [Rainfall] [for you]—  
 [An Early Rain] [and a Latter Rain] [as earlier].  
<sup>24</sup>[Then [The Threshing Floors]  
     will be filled with] [Winnowed Grain],  
 [And [The Wine Vats] will overflow with]  
     [New Wine] [and Fresh Olive Oil].  
<sup>25</sup>“[**THEN I WILL SETTLE UP BY GIVING BACK**] [**TO YOU**]  
     [**THE YEARS**]  
 [THAT] [THE SWARMING LOCUST] [CONSUMED]—  
 [THE NYMPH LOCUST] [AND THE NEWLY HATCHED  
     LOCUST] [AND THE SOLITARY LOCUST],  
 [MY [GREAT] ENTOURAGE] [THAT] [I SENT] [AMONG YOU].  
<sup>26</sup>[Then you will [definitely] eat] [and be satisfied]  
 [And praise] [The] [Name] [{of} His Majesty],  
     [your God],  
 [Who] [has done] [Incomprehensible Things] [with you],  
 [So that [My People] will [not] be ashamed]  
     [for a Burning Eternity].  
<sup>27</sup>[Then you will know] [that] [I {am}] [within] [Israel],  
 [And I {am}] [His Majesty], [your God],  
 [And There is not] [anyone else];  
 [So [My People] will [not] be ashamed]  
     [for a Burning Eternity].  
<sup>28</sup>[And [after] [that] it will happen that]  
 [I pour out] [My Spirit] [on] [all] [Flesh];  
 [So that [your Sons] [and Daughters] prophesy],  
 [Your Elders] [dream] [Dreams],  
 [Your Chosen Sons] [see] [Visions].  
<sup>29</sup>[And even] [on] [The Male Slaves]  
     [and on] [The Female Slaves]  
 [I will pour out] [My Spirit] [in [those] Days].  
<sup>30</sup>[And I will put] [Harbingers] [in {the} Sea of Waters]  
     [and on {the} Earth]—  
 [Blood] [and Fire] [and Billows of] [Smoke].  
<sup>31</sup>[**THE SUN**] [WILL BE TURNED] [INTO DARKNESS]  
 [AND THE MOON] [INTO BLOOD]  
 [BEFORE] [THE GREAT] [AND FEARSOME] [DAY]  
     [{of} HIS MAJESTY] [COMES].  
<sup>32</sup>[And it will happen that] [everyone] [who] [calls]  
 [On {the} Name] [{of} His Majesty] [will escape],  
 [Because] [there will be] [a {female} Escapee]  
 [In Mount] [Zion] [and in Jerusalem]—  
 [Just as] [His Majesty] [said]—  
 [Even among {the} Survivors] [whom] [His Majesty]  
     [is going to call].”  
 (Joel 2:1–32) —my interim translation

## Joel, Chapter 3

<sup>1</sup>"[Because] [Guess what!] [In [those] Days]  
[and at [that] Time],  
[When] [I bring [Judah] [and Jerusalem]  
back from] [Captivity],  
<sup>2</sup>[Then I will gather] [all] [The Gentiles]  
[And I will bring them down] [into] [{the} Valley]  
[{of} His Majesty Will Judge].  
[And I will make a decision based on the truth]  
[with them] [there]  
[Concerning] [My People] [and My **Inheritance**]—  
[Israel]—  
[Whom] [they scattered] [among {the} Gentiles]  
[When they divided up] [My Land]  
<sup>3</sup>[And [cast] [a Lot] for] [My People]  
[And gave] [their Boy] [for a **Zonah**]  
[And [sold] their Girl] [for Wine] [so they could drink].

<sup>4</sup>[So {you}, too], [Tyre] [and Sidon] [and all] [{the}  
Districts of] [Philistia], [what] {are} [you] [to Me]? [Are  
[You] going to settle up [with Me] by giving {Me}] [What I  
Deserve]? [But if] [you] [are going to settle up] [with Me],  
[I will [swiftly] {and} [quickly] return] [What you  
Deserve] [on your Head], <sup>5</sup>[because] [you took] [My Silver]  
[and My Gold] [and brought] [the best of] [My Desirable  
Things] [into your Temples], <sup>6</sup>[and you sold] [{the} Sons of]  
[Judah] [and {the} Sons of] [Jerusalem] [to {the} Sons  
of] [The Greeks\*], [so that] [they took them far] [away from]  
[their Boundary]. <sup>7</sup>[Guess what! I am] [going to wake them  
up] [from] [The Place] [where] [you sold] [them], [and I will  
return] [What you Deserve] [on your Head]. <sup>8</sup>[Then I  
will sell] [your Sons] [and] [your Daughters] [into {the}  
Hand] [{of the} Sons of] [Judah], [and they will sell them]  
[to {the} Sabeans]—[to] [a Gentile] [far away],” [because]  
[His Majesty] [has spoken].

<sup>9</sup>[Proclaim] [this] [among {the} Gentiles]:  
[Make a holy] [War];  
[Wake up] [The **Gibbors**!]  
[All] [{the} Men of] [War]  
[Will approach!] [They will ascend!]  
<sup>10</sup>[Beat] [your Mattocks] [into Swords]  
[And your Pruning Knives] [into Spears];  
[The Weakling\*] [will say], “[I {am}] [a **Gibbor**]!”  
<sup>11</sup>[All] [The Gentiles] [from round about]  
[Will hasten\*] [and come] [and be gathered] [there].  
[Your Majesty], [bring down] [Your **Gibbors**].

<sup>12</sup>[The Gentiles] [will wake up] [and come up]  
[Into] [{the} Valley] [{of} His Majesty Will Judge],  
[Because] [I will sit] [there] [to judge]  
[All] [The Gentiles] [from round about].  
<sup>13</sup>[Send out] [a Sickle],  
[because] [{the} Harvest] [is ripe].  
[Come], [exercise authority],  
[because] [{the} Winepress] [is full];  
[The Wine Vats] [are overflowing],  
[Because] [their Bad Behavior]  
[is] [more than enough].  
<sup>14</sup>[Multitudes]—[Multitudes]!—  
[{Are} In {the} Valley] [{of} The Verdict]!  
[Because] [{the} Day] [{of} His Majesty] {is} [near]  
[In {the} Valley] [{of} The Verdict].  
<sup>15</sup>[THE SUN] [AND THE MOON] [WILL BECOME GLOOMY],  
[AND STARS] [WILL ROUND UP] [THEIR ILLUMINATION].  
<sup>16</sup>[Then His Majesty] [will roar] [from Zion]  
[And [He will raise] [His Voice] from Jerusalem],  
[And {the} Sea of Waters] [and {the} Earth] [will quake].  
[But His Majesty] {will be} [a Shelter] [for His People]  
[And a Place of Refuge] [for {the} Sons of] [Israel].  
<sup>17</sup>[Then you will know] [that] [I {am}] [His Majesty],  
[your God],  
[Who resides] [in Zion], [My holy] [Mountain].  
[Then [Jerusalem] will be] [holy],  
[And Strangers] [will [never] [again]  
pass] [through Her].  
<sup>18</sup>[And it will happen] [on [That] Day] [that]  
[The Mountains] [will drip] [New Wine],  
[And The Hills] [will flow with] [Milk],  
[And all] [{the} Channels of] [Judah]  
[will flow with] [Water];  
[And a Natural Spring] [will go out]  
[from [His Majesty's] House]  
[And water] [{the} Gully] [{of} The **Shittim**].  
<sup>19</sup>[Egypt] [will become] [a Desolate Area],  
[And Edom] [will become] [a [desolate] Wilderness],  
[Because of {the} Malice] [{of the} Sons of] [Judah],  
[In [whose] Land] [they spilled] [innocent] [Blood].  
<sup>20</sup>[But Judah] [will be inhabited]  
[for a Burning Eternity]  
[And Jerusalem]  
[for Generation] [after Generation].  
<sup>21</sup>[And I will acquit] [their Blood].  
[I, {Joel}, will [not] acquit], [but His Majesty]  
[Who resides] [in Zion] {will}.  
(Joel 3:1–21) —my interim translation



That is my translation of the three chapters of the Book of Joel. And here are the links to Revelation 9:

### 1. A TIME OF DARKNESS AND GLOOM

[And] [he opened] [The] [Cistern] [of The] [Abyss], [and] [Smoke] [came up] [out] [of The] [Cistern] [like] [Smoke] [of a [large] Furnace], [and] [The] [Sun] [and] [The] [Air] [was darkened] [because] [of The] [Smoke] [of The] [Cistern].

(Revelation 9:2) —my interim translation

{It is} [A Day] [{of} Darkness]  
[and Nether Gloom],

[A Day] [{of} Cloud] [and Dense Fog],  
[Like Dawn] [spreading out]  
[over] [The Mountains].

[A People] [as [many] [and numerous] as him]  
[Has [never] come] [out of] [The Eternal Burning],  
[And [it will [not] happen again] after him]  
[As long as] [{the} Years of] [Generation]  
[after Generation].

(Joel 2:2) —my interim translation

[{The} Earth] [will be disturbed] [before him];  
[{The} Sea of Waters] [will quake];  
[The Sun] [and The Moon] [will become gloomy],  
[And {the} Stars] [will round up]  
[their Illumination].

(Joel 2:10) —my interim translation

“[The Sun] [will be turned] [into Darkness]  
[And The Moon] [into Blood]  
[Before] [the great] [and fearsome] [Day]  
[{of} His Majesty] [comes].”

(Joel 2:31) —my interim translation

### 2. SATAN'S HENCHMEN ARE LIKE LOCUSTS

[And] [Locusts] [came out] [of] [The] [Smoke] [into]  
[The] [Earth]; [and] [an Authority] [was given] [to  
them], [like] [The] [Scorpions] [of The] [Earth] [have] [an  
Authority].

(Revelation 9:3) —my interim translation

[What [The Solitary Locust] Leaves],  
[The Swarming Locust] [will consume];  
[And what [The Swarming Locust] Leaves],  
[The Nymph Locust] [will consume];  
[And what [The Nymph Locust] Leaves],

[The Newly Hatched Locust] [will consume].  
(Joel 1:4) —my interim translation

“[Then I will settle up by giving back] [to you]  
[The Years]

[That] [The Swarming Locust] [consumed]—  
[The Nymph Locust]

[and The Newly Hatched Locust]  
[and the Solitary Locust],

[My [great] Entourage] [that] [I sent] [among you].”  
(Joel 2:25) —my interim translation

### 3. THE LOCUSTS LOOK LIKE WAR HORSES

[And] [The] [Likenesses] [of The] [Locusts] {was} [just  
like] [Horses] [that have been prepared] [for] [War];  
[and] [on] [their] [Heads] {were things} [like] [Crowns]  
[just like] [Gold], [and] [their] [Faces] {were} [like]  
[Men's] [Faces].

(Revelation 9:7) —my interim translation

[His Appearance] {is} [like {the} Appearance]  
[{of} Horses];

[And like Horsemen], [they will run] [like that].  
(Joel 2:4) —my interim translation

### 4. THE LOCUSTS HAVE LIONS' TEETH

[And] [they had] [Hair] [like] [Women's] [Hair], [and]  
[their] [Teeth] [were] [like] [Lions' {teeth}].

(Revelation 9:8) —my interim translation

[Because] [a Nation] [is going to come up]  
[against] [My Land]—

[Numerous], [and without any] [Number];  
[His Teeth] {are} [{the} Teeth of] [a Lioness],  
[And [he has] {the} Fangs of] [a Lioness With Cubs].

(Joel 1:6) —my interim translation

### 5. THE LOCUSTS RUNNING SOUNDS LIKE CHARIOTS

[And] [they had] [Breastplates] [like] [Breastplates] [of  
iron], [and] [The] [Sound] [of their] [Wings] {was}  
[like] [{the} Sound] [of Chariots]—[of a Lot] [of  
Horses] [running] [into] [War].

(Revelation 9:9) —my interim translation

[They will skip around] [over]  
[{the} Tops of] [The Mountains]  
[Like {the} Sound] [{of} Chariots],  
[Like {the} Sound] [{of} a Flame]

[{of} Fire] [consuming] [Straw],  
[Like a [numerous] People] [arranged for] [Battle].  
(Joel 2:5) —my interim translation

So there you have it. The Book of Joel explains what is going to happen when Satan opens up the Pits of Hell and allows all those “locusts” to swarm the Earth. But that is where the story gets extremely interesting. When physical locusts swarm, they strip the greenery of the Earth; yet Revelation 9:4 specifically states those things are off limits:

[And] [it was said] [to them] [that] [they could [not] mistreat] [The] [Grass] [of The] [Earth] [nor] [anything] [green] [nor] [any] [Tree] [except] [The] [Men] [who] [do [not] have] [The] [Seal] [of The] [{Living} God] [on] [their] [Foreheads].  
(Revelation 9:4) —my interim translation

That should have been your first clue that the “locusts” described in Revelation and Joel are not really locusts. If it wasn't, shame on you; you obviously need to learn to think a bit outside the box you are living in. The Truth is, both accounts are speaking *parabolically* in terms of “locusts” that come up out of the Pits of Hell to devastate the “plants” in God's “garden.” That is, they are describing the forces of Satan that have repeatedly stripped God's People of the Truth of *The Teaching*. And Joel says God is going to make up for all the years that born-again Believers have gone without an understanding of everything the Early Church knew about the message of the Hebrew Scriptures. That sorry circumstance is going to change:

<sup>23</sup>[So, Sons of] [Zion], [be happy]  
[And rejoice] [in His Majesty], [your God],  
[Because] [He will give] [you] [The Teacher]  
[for a Declaration of Not Guilty].  
[And he will bring down] [Rainfall] [for you]—  
[An Early Rain] [and a Latter Rain] [as earlier].  
<sup>24</sup>[Then [The Threshing Floors]  
will be filled with] [Winnowed Grain],  
[And [The Wine Vats] will overflow with]  
[New Wine] [and Fresh Olive Oil].  
<sup>25</sup>[Then I will settle up by giving back] [to you]  
[The Years]  
[That] [The Swarming Locust] [consumed]—  
[The Nymph Locust]

[and The Newly Hatched Locust]  
[and the Solitary Locust],  
[My [great] Entourage] [that] [I sent] [among you].  
<sup>26</sup>[Then you will [definitely] eat] [and be satisfied]  
[And praise] [The] [Name] [{of} His Majesty],  
[your God],  
[Who] [has done] [Incomprehensible Things]  
[with you];  
[So that [My People] will [not] be ashamed]  
[for a Burning Eternity].  
<sup>27</sup>[Then you will know] [that] [I {am}] [within] [Israel],  
[And I {am}] [His Majesty], [your God],  
[And There is not] [anyone else];  
[So [My People] will [not] be ashamed]  
[for a Burning Eternity].  
<sup>28</sup>[And [after] [that] it will happen that]  
[I pour out] [My Spirit] [on] [all] [Flesh],  
[So that [your Sons] [and Daughters] prophesy],  
[Your Elders] [dream] [Dreams],  
[Your Chosen Sons] [see] [Visions].  
<sup>29</sup>[And even] [on] [The Male Slaves]  
[and on] [The Female Slaves]  
[I will pour out] [My Spirit] [in [those] Days].  
<sup>30</sup>[And I will put] [Harbingers] [in {the} Sea of Waters]  
[and on {the} Earth]—  
[Blood] [and Fire] [and Billows of] [Smoke].  
<sup>31</sup>[The Sun] [will be turned] [into Darkness]  
[And The Moon] [into Blood]  
[Before] [the great] [and fearsome] [Day]  
[{of} His Majesty] [comes].  
<sup>32</sup>[And it will happen that] [everyone] [who] [calls]  
[On {the} Name] [{of} His Majesty] [will escape],  
[Because] [there will be] [a {female} Escapee]  
[In Mount] [Zion] [and in Jerusalem]—  
[Just as] [His Majesty] [said]—  
[Even among {the} Survivors] [whom] [His Majesty]  
[is going to call].”  
(Joel 2:23–32) —my interim translation

Before I forget, there is one other thing you need to know about the message of the Book of Joel. That bit of information can be gleaned from this verse:

[Send out] [a Sickle],  
[because] [{the} Harvest] [is ripe].  
[Come], [exercise authority],  
[because] [{the} Winepress] [is full];  
[The Wine Vats] [are overflowing],

[Because] [their Bad Behavior]  
 {is} [more than enough].  
 (Joel 3:13) —my interim translation

Here is where you can find that verse quoted in the Book of Revelation:

<sup>1</sup>[And] [I [also] saw], [guess what!] [The] [Little Lamb] [standing] [on] [The] [Mountain] [of Zion], [and] [with] [Him] [one hundred] [forty]-[four] [Thousand] [who have] [His] [Name] [and] [The] [Name] [of His] [Father], [which has been written] [on] [their] [Foreheads]. <sup>2</sup>[And] [I heard] [a Voice] [out] [of] [Heaven], [like] [{the} Sound] [of many] [Waters] [and] [like] [{the} Sound] [of loud] [Rolling Thunder], [and] [The] [Sound] [that] [I heard] {was} [like] [Harpists] [playing on the harp] [with] [their] [Harps]. <sup>3</sup>[And] [they are singing {something}] [as] [a [new] Song] [before] [The] [Throne] [and] [before] [The] [four] [Living Creatures] [and] [The] [Elders], [and] [nobody] [was able] [to learn] [The] [Song] [except] [The] [one hundred] [forty]-[four] [Thousand] [who] [had been bought] [from] [The] [Earth]. <sup>4</sup>[These Individuals] [are] [the ones who] [have [not] been soiled] [with] [Women], [for] [they are] [Virgins]. [These Individuals] {are} [those who] [are following] [The] [Little Lamb] [wherever] [it might be that] [He goes]. [These Individuals] [have been bought] [from] [Men] [{as} First Fruits] [for The] [{Living} God] [and] [The] [Little Lamb]. <sup>5</sup>[And] [a Lie] [was [not] found] [in] [their] [Mouths]; [they are] [without blemish]. <sup>6</sup>[And] [I saw] [another] [Messenger] [flying] [in] [Midheaven]—[one who has] [an [eternal] Word of the Gospel] [to proclaim as the word of the gospel] [to] [those who] [are sitting] [on] [The] [Earth], [even] [to] [every] [Nation] [and] [Tribe] [and] [Tongue] [and] [People], <sup>7</sup>[saying] [in] [a [loud] Voice], “[Be afraid of] [The] [{Living} God] [and] [give] [Him] [Glory], [because] [The] [Hour] [of His] [Sentencing] [has come]; [so] [bow down] [to the One Who] [made] [Heaven] [and] [Earth] [and] [a Sea] [and] [Springs] [of Waters].”

<sup>8</sup>[And] [another], [a second], [Messenger] [followed] {him}, [saying]: “[She has fallen]! [Babylon] [The] [Great]—[the one who] [has made [all] [The] [Gentiles] drink [some] [of The] [Wine] [of His] [Rage] {against} [her] [Sexual Promiscuity]—[has fallen]!” <sup>9</sup>[And] [another] [Messenger]—[a third {one}]—[followed] [them], [saying] [in] [a [loud] Voice]: “[If] [anyone] [worships] [The] [Beast] [and] [his] [Image] [and]

[accepts] [a Mark] [on] [his] [Forehead] [or] [on] [his] [Hand], <sup>10</sup>[he] [will [also] drink] [some] [of The] [Wine] [of The] [Rage] [of The] [{Living} God] [that] [has been mixed] [undiluted\*] [in] [The] [Cup] [of His] [Anger]; [and] [he will be tormented] [with] [Fire] [and] [Brimstone] [before] [holy] [Messengers] [and] [before] [The] [Little Lamb]. <sup>11</sup>[And] [The] [Smoke] [of their] [Torment] [is going to go up] [into] [{the} Ages] [of Ages to Come]; [and] [those who] [worship] [The] [Beast] [and] [his] [Image] [are [not] going to have] [Refreshment] [Day] [and] [Night]—[even] [anyone], [if] [he accepts] [The] [Mark] [of his] [Name]!” <sup>12</sup>[Here] [is] [The] [Perseverance] [of The] [Holy Ones]—[those who] [keep watch over] [The] [Commandments] [of The] [{Living} God] [and] [their] [Belief] [in Jesus].

<sup>13</sup>[And] [I heard] [a Voice] [out] [of] [Heaven], [saying], “[Write], [The] [Dead]—[those in] [His Majesty] [who] [die] [from] [this point on]—[are fortunate]!” “[Yes],” [says] [The] [Spirit], “[so that] [they may be refreshed] [from] [their] [Trouble], [for] [their] [Works] [follow] [with] [them].” <sup>14</sup>[And] [I saw]—[and] [guess what! There was] [a [white] Cloud], [and], [sitting] [on] [The] [Cloud], [One [just like] [a Son] [of a Man] Who had] [a Crown] [made of gold] [on] [His] [Head] [and] [a [keen] Sickle] [in] [His] [Hand]. <sup>15</sup>[And] [another] [Messenger] [came out] [of] [The] [Sanctuary], [shouting] [in] [a [loud] Voice] [to the One Who] [was sitting] [on] [The] [Cloud], “[Send] [Your] [Sickle] [and] [reap], [because] [The] [Hour] [to reap] [has come], [because] [The] [Harvest] [of The] [Earth] [has been shriveled up].” <sup>16</sup>[And] [the One Who] [was sitting] [on] [The] [Cloud] [threw] [His] [Sickle] [onto] [The] [Earth], [and] [The] [Earth] [was reaped].

<sup>17</sup>[And] [another] [Messenger] [came out] [of] [The] [Sanctuary] [that is] [in] [Heaven], [and] [he] [had] [a [keen] Sickle]. <sup>18</sup>[And] [another] [Messenger]—[the one who] [has] [Authority] [over] [The] [Fire]—[came out] [of] [The] [Sacrificial Altar] [and] [called out] [in a [loud] Voice] [to the one who] [has] [The] [Sickle] [that is] [keen], [saying], “[Send] [Your] [Sickle]—[the [keen] one]—[and] [pick] [The] [Clusters of Grapes\*] [of The] [Vine] [of The] [Earth], [because] [her] [Bunches of Grapes] [are ripe\*].” <sup>19</sup>[And] [The] [Messenger] [threw] [his] [Sickle] [into] [The] [Earth] [and] [picked] [The] [Vine] [of The] [Earth] [and] [threw {the grapes}] [into] [The] [Wine Press]—[The] [Large One]—[of The] [Rage] [of The] [{Living} God]. <sup>20</sup>[And] [The] [Wine Press] [was trampled] [on the outside] [of



*The* [*City*], [*and*] [*Blood*] [*came out*] [*of*] [*The*] [*Wine Press*] [*up to*] [*The*] [*Bits*] [*of The*] [*Horses*] [*for*] [*one thousand*] [*six hundred*] [*200-meter Units*].  
(Revelation 14:1–20) —my interim translation

My point in showing you that entire chapter is, John's quotation of Joel's command to "send the sickle" in Joel 3:13 tells us Joel has given us a chronological account of things that are going to happen here at the End of the Age, beginning with the release of all those "locusts" that are going to come out of the Pits of Hell when the fifth messenger sounds his trumpet.

We already know the seventh seal came off the Hebrew Scriptures a few years ago, but we are still waiting for the first messenger to sound his trumpet, so we have a ways to go before the things Joel says about the outpouring of the Holy Spirit occurs. Keep your powder dry, the best is yet to come for those who have the Lord's "Seal" of approval. They just don't know it—yet. But they will, soon enough.

Those who are lacking the Lord's "Seal" of approval also have things in store for them, so to be fair I have to mention those as well. To find out where they are described, all you have to do is follow the hyperlinks the Prophets put in the text. The following two passages from Joel and Zephaniah tell us where the link is:

<sup>1</sup>[*Blow*] [*a Trumpet*] [*in Zion*]!  
[*Sound a teruah*] [*on*] [*My holy*] [*Mountain*]!  
[*All*] [*{the}*] [*Inhabitants of*] [*The Earth*]  
[*will be disturbed*],  
[*When*] [*{the}*] [*Day*] [*{of}*] [*His Majesty*] [*comes*],  
[*When*] [*{it is}*] [*near*].  
<sup>2</sup>[*It is*] [*A Day*] [*{of}*] [*Darkness*]  
[*and Nether Gloom*],  
[*A Day*] [*{of}*] [*Cloud*] [*and Dense Fog*],  
[*Like Dawn*] [*spreading out*]  
[*over*] [*The Mountains*].  
[*A People*] [*as*] [*many*] [*and numerous*] [*as him*]  
[*Has*] [*never*] [*come*] [*out of*] [*The Eternal Burning*],  
[*And*] [*it will*] [*not*] [*happen again*] [*after him*]  
[*As long as*] [*{the}*] [*Years of*] [*Generation*]  
[*after Generation*].  
(Joel 2:1–2) —my interim translation

<sup>14</sup>[*{The}*] [*great*] [*Day*] [*{of}*] [*His Majesty*] [*{is}*] [*near*],  
[*Near*], [*and moving*] [*very*] [*quickly*];

[*The Sound*] [*{of}*] [*{the}*] [*Day*] [*{of}*] [*His Majesty*]  
[*is*] [*bitter*]!  
[*A Gibbor*] [*will sound a war-cry*] [*there*].  
<sup>15</sup>[*That*] [*Day*] [*{is}*] [*A Day*] [*{of}*] [*Unbounded Rage*],  
[*A Day*] [*{of}*] [*Distress*] [*and a Reason for Anxiety*],  
[*A Day*] [*{of}*] [*a Devastating Storm*]  
[*and Total Devastation*],  
[*A Day*] [*{of}*] [*Darkness*] [*and Nether Gloom*],  
[*A Day*] [*{of}*] [*Cloud*] [*and Dense Fog*],  
<sup>16</sup>[*A Day*] [*{of}*] [*Trumpet*] [*and Teruah*]  
[*Against*] [*The*] [*enclosed*] [*Cities*]  
[*And against*] [*The*] [*high*] [*Corners*].  
(Zephaniah 1:14–16) —my interim translation

It has probably already occurred to you that the "trumpet" mentioned in those two passages link both of them to the seven "trumpets" in Revelation 8–9. If it didn't, it does. So now that you know Joel and Zephaniah are *talking about* the same point in time, let's take a look at what lies in store for the know-it-alls who have no interest in what is actually happening here at the End of the Age. Zephaniah makes it fairly clear what God intends to do to them.

## Zephaniah, Chapter 1

<sup>1</sup>[*{The}*] [*Word*] [*{of}*] [*His Majesty*] [*that*] [*came*] [*to*]  
[*Zephaniah*] [*Son*] [*{of}*] [*Cushi*], [*Son*] [*{of}*] [*Gedaliah*],  
[*Son*] [*{of}*] [*Amariah*], [*Son*] [*{of}*] [*Hezekiah*], [*in*] [*{the}*]  
[*Days of*] [*Josiah*] [*Son*] [*{of}*] [*Amon*], [*King*] [*{of}*] [*Judah*]:  
  
<sup>2</sup>[*I will*] [*most definitely*] [*bring*] [*everything*]  
[*Above*] [*{the}*] [*Surface of*] [*The Ground*] [*to an end*], "  
[*Declares*] [*His Majesty*].  
<sup>3</sup>[*I will bring*] [*{the}*] [*Adam*] [*and*] [*{the}*] [*Beast*]  
[*to an end*];  
[*I will bring*] [*{the}*] [*Flyer*] [*{of}*] [*The Sea of Waters*]  
[*to an end*]  
[*As well as*] [*The Fish of*] [*The Sea*],  
[*Even*] [*The Stumbling-Blocks*] [*along with*]  
[*Those Who Are Guilty*];  
[*And I will cut off*] [*The Adam*]  
[*Above*] [*{the}*] [*Surface of*] [*The Ground*], "  
[*Declares*] [*His Majesty*].  
<sup>4</sup>[*But I will stretch out*] [*My Hand*] [*over*] [*Judah*]  
[*And over*] [*all*] [*{the}*] [*Inhabitants of*] [*Jerusalem*].  
[*Then I will cut off*] [*from*] [*this*] [*Place*]  
[*{The}*] [*Remnant*] [*{of}*] [*its Owner*]

[The Name] {of} [The Idolatrous Priests]  
 [along with] [The Priests].  
<sup>5</sup>[Both] [those who are prostrating themselves]  
 [on] [The Roofs]  
 [To {the} Army] [{of} The Sea of Waters],  
 [And] [those who are prostrating themselves],  
 [swearing an oath] [to His Majesty]  
 [But swearing an oath] [by their King],  
<sup>6</sup>[Both] [those who have pulled back]  
 [from following] [His Majesty],  
 [And {those} who] [have [not] sought] [His Majesty]  
 [Or have [not] diligently sought Him]."  
<sup>7</sup>[Keep quiet] [in the presence of] [My Master],  
 [His Majesty]!  
 [Because] [The Day] [{of} His Majesty] {is} [near],  
 [Because] [His Majesty] [will prepare]  
 [a Communal Sacrifice],  
 [He will make [those He invited {to the feast}] holy].  
<sup>8</sup>"[And it will be] [on {the} Day] [{of} His Majesty's]  
 [Communal Sacrifice]  
 [That I will levy] [against] [The Princes]—  
 [against] [{the} Sons of] [The King]—  
 [And against] [all] [who clothe themselves with]  
 [a [foreign] Garment].  
<sup>9</sup>[Then I will levy] [against] [all] [who leap]  
 [over] [The Threshold] [on [that] Day]—  
 [Those who fill [{the} House] [{of} their Master]  
 with] [Malice] [and Deceit].  
<sup>10</sup>[And [on [that] Day], " [declares] [His Majesty],  
 "There will be] [{the} Sound] [{of} an Outcry]  
 [from [The Fish] Gate],  
 [A Wailing] [from] [the second {gate}],  
 [And [great] Brokenness] [from The Hills].  
<sup>11</sup>[{The} Inhabitants of] [The Grinder\*] [will wail],  
 [Because] [all] [{the} People] [{of} Canaan]  
 [will be put to sleep].  
 [All] [{who are} laden with\*] [Silver] [will be cut off].  
<sup>12</sup>[And it will be [at [that] Time] that]  
 [I will search] [Jerusalem] [with Lamps],  
 [And I will levy] [against] [The Men]  
 [Who become solid] [on] [{the} Dregs],  
 [Who say] [in their Heart],  
 '[His Majesty] [will [not] do good things],  
 [And He will [not] do bad things]!'  
<sup>13</sup>[But [their Entourage] will become] [Loot];  
 [And their Houses], [a Desolate Area];  
 [So they may build] [Houses],  
 [But they will [not] dwell in {them}],

[And they will plant] [Vineyards],  
 [But they will [not] drink] [their Wine]."  
<sup>14</sup>[{The} [great] Day] [{of} His Majesty] {is} [near],  
 [Near], [and moving [very] quickly];  
 [The Sound] [{of} {the} Day] [{of} His Majesty]  
 {is} [bitter]!  
 [A Gibbor] [will sound a war-cry] [there].  
<sup>15</sup>[That] [Day] {is} [A Day] [{of} Unbounded Rage],  
 [A Day] [{of} Distress] [and a Reason for Anxiety],  
 [A Day] [{of} a Devastating Storm]  
 [and Total Devastation],  
 [A Day] [{of} Darkness] [and Nether Gloom],  
 [A Day] [{of} Cloud] [and Dense Fog],  
<sup>16</sup>[A Day] [{of} Trumpet] [and Teruah]  
 [Against] [The [enclosed] Cities]  
 [And against] [The [high] Corners].  
<sup>17</sup>[Then I will be hostile] [to {the} Adam]  
 [And they will walk] [like those who are blind],  
 [Because] [they sinned] [against His Majesty];  
 [So their Blood] [will be poured out] [like Dust]  
 [And their Bowels] [like Dung].  
<sup>18</sup>[Neither] [their Silver] [nor] [their Gold]  
 [Will be able] [to snatch them away]  
 [On {the} Day] [{of the} Unbounded Rage]  
 [{of} His Majesty],  
 [When [The [entire] Earth] [will be consumed]  
 by {the} Fire] [{of} His Jealousy];  
 [Because] [He will make] [a Complete End]—  
 [One that is [definitely] frightening]—  
 [{Of} all] [the Inhabitants of] [The Earth].  
 (Zephaniah 1:1–18) —my interim translation

## Zephaniah, Chapter 2

<sup>1</sup>[Gather yourselves together] [and be gathered together],  
 [The Nation] [will [not] be yearning for {anything}].  
<sup>2</sup>[Before] [{the} Statute] [engenders],  
 [{The} Day] [will pass away] [like Chaff].  
 [When] [The [burning] Anger] {of} [His Majesty]  
 [has [not yet] come] [upon you],  
 [When] [{the} Day] [{of} His Majesty's] [Anger]  
 [has [not yet] come] [upon you].  
<sup>3</sup>[All] [you Humble of] [The Earth]  
 [Who] [have put together]  
 [His Decision Based on the Truth],  
 [Seek] [His Majesty],  
 [Seek] [a Declaration of Not Guilty],  
 [Seek] [Humility]!

[Perhaps] [you will be hidden]  
 [On {the} Day] [{of} His Majesty's] [Anger].  
<sup>4</sup>[Because] [Gaza] [will be] [abandoned],  
 [And Ashkelon], [a Desolate Area];  
 [Ashdod] [will be driven away] [at Noon],  
 [And Ekron] [will be uprooted].  
<sup>5</sup>[Woe to] [The Inhabitants of] [{the} Region]  
 [{by} The Sea]—  
 [The Nation] [{of the} Cherethites!]  
 [{The} Word] [{of} His Majesty] {is} [against you],  
 [Canaan], [{the} Land] [{of the} Philistines];  
 [And I will send You to Hell]  
 [so that there is not any] [Inhabitant].  
<sup>6</sup>[Then {the} Region] [{by} The Sea]  
 [will be] [Habitats]—  
 [Dugouts\*]—[{for} Shepherds],  
 [with Walls] [{for} a Flock].  
<sup>7</sup>[So there will be] [a Region]  
 [For {the} Remnant] [{of the} House] [{of} Judah].  
 [They will be shepherded] [over to them];  
 [They will lie down] [in {the} Houses of] [Ashkelon]  
 [in {the} Evening],  
 [Because] [His Majesty], [their God], [will levy them]  
 [And bring them back from] [Captivity].  
<sup>8</sup>"[I have heard] [{the} Disgrace of] [Moab]  
 [And {the} Taunts of] [{the} Sons of] [Ammon],  
 [Who] [challenged] [My People]  
 [And vaunted themselves] [against] [their Boundary].  
<sup>9</sup>[Therefore], [I] [swear on My life],"  
 [Declares] [His [Supreme] Majesty], [God of] [Israel],  
 "[That] [Moab] [will be] [like Sodom],  
 [And {the} Sons of] [Ammon] [like Gomorrah]—  
 [A Holding\*] [{of} a Perennial Thistle]  
 [and a [Salt]-Pit\*],  
 [Even a Desolate Area] [as long as] [a Burning Eternity].  
 [The Remnant] [{of} My People] [will despoil them],  
 [And What is Left] [{of} My Nation]  
 [will **inherit** them]."  
<sup>10</sup>[They {will have}] [this] [instead of] [their Loftiness],  
 [Because] [they challenged] [and vaunted themselves]  
 [Against] [{the} People] [{of} His [Supreme] Majesty].  
<sup>11</sup>[His Majesty] [will be fearsome] [to them],  
 [Because] [He will starve]  
 [all] [{the} Gods of] [The Earth];  
 [Then [all] [{the} Coastal Lands of] [The Nations]  
 Will prostrate themselves] [to Him],  
 [Each One] [from his own Place].  
<sup>12</sup>[Even] [you], [Cushites],

[are going to be pierced by] [My Sword].  
<sup>13</sup>[Then He will stretch out] [His Hand] [over] [**Zaphon**],  
 [But send [Assyria] to Hell];  
 [And He will turn [Nineveh] into] [a Desolate Area]—  
 [Parched] [like {the} Wilderness].  
<sup>14</sup>[Then [Herds] will lie down] [in her Midst]—  
 [Every] [Living Being] [He has]—[His Nation];  
 [Both] [Pelican] [and] [Porcupine]  
 [Will spend the night] [in her Seedcases];  
 [A Voice] [will be singing] [in {the} Window];  
 [A Dry Heat] {will be} [on {the} Threshold],  
 [Because] [He will make {the} Cedar Wood\*] bare].  
<sup>15</sup>[This] {is} [The [jubilant] City],  
 [The one that is dwelling] [securely],  
 [The one that is saying] [in her Heart],  
 "[I {am}], [and there is not] [anyone else]."  
 [How] [did she become] [devastated]?  
 [A Place for [an Animal] to Lie Down]?  
 [Everyone] [who passes] [by her] [will whistle];  
 [He will move [his Hand] to and fro].  
 (Zephaniah 2:1–15) —my interim translation

## Zephaniah, Chapter 3

<sup>1</sup>[Woe to] [{the} one who is rebellious] [and defiled]—  
 [The [cheating] City]!  
<sup>2</sup>[She would [not] listen] [to a Voice];  
 [She would [not] accept] [Admonishment].  
 [She would [not] put her trust] [in His Majesty];  
 [She would [not] come near] [to] [her God].  
<sup>3</sup>[Her Officials] {are} [Lions] [roaring] [within her];  
 [Her Judges] {are} [Evening] [Wolves];  
 [They will [not] chew on {anything}] [until Morning].  
<sup>4</sup>[Her Prophets] {are} [insolent]—[Men of] [Treachery\*];  
 [Her Priests] [polluted] [a Holy Thing]—  
 [They mistreated] [{the} Teaching].  
<sup>5</sup>[His Majesty] {is} [One Who is Not Guilty]  
 [within her];  
 [He will [not] do] [Anything Deviant].  
 [Each and every Morning]  
 [He will turn] [His Decision Based on the Truth]  
 [into Light].  
 [It will [not] be missing],  
 [But a Deviant] [does [not] know] [Shame].  
<sup>6</sup>"[I will cut off] [Gentiles];  
 [Their Corners] [will be devastated].  
 [I will dry up] [their Streets],  
 [Without anyone] [passing through];



[Their Cities] [will be laid waste\*],  
 [Without] [Anyone]—  
 [Without any] [Inhabitant].  
 7[I said], 'You must [definitely] fear [Me],  
 [Accept] [Admonishment],  
 [So that [her Haven] will [not] be cut off]  
 [{By} all] [that] [I levy] [against her].'  
 [They [most definitely] got up early];  
 [They corrupted] [all] [their Deeds].  
 8[Therefore], [wait] [for Me], " [declares] [His Majesty],  
 "[For {the} Day] [when I rise up] [as a Witness].  
 [Because] [My Decision Based on the Truth]  
     {is} [to round up] [Gentiles],  
 [To gather] [Kingdoms],  
 [To pour out] [My Fury] [on them]—  
 [All] [My [burning] Anger],  
 [Because] [all] [The Earth] [will be consumed]  
 [By The Fire] [{of} My Jealousy].  
 9[Because] [at that time] [I will turn over]  
 [A [purified] Lip] [to] [Peoples]  
 [For [all of them] to call] [on {the} Name]  
     [{of} His Majesty],  
 [To be His slaves] [{with} one] [Shoulder].  
 10[From {the} Area Beyond] [{the} Rivers of] [Cush],  
 [The Daughter] [{of} My dispersed ones]  
 [Will bring] [My Fragrance]—[My Cereal Offering].  
 11[On [that] Day], [You will [not] be ashamed]  
 [Because of all] [Your Deeds]  
 [{By} which] [You transgressed] [against Me];  
 [Because] [at that time] [I will remove] [from within You]  
 [{Those who are} jubilant about] [Your Pride],  
 [And You will [no] [longer] continue] [to be exalted]  
 [In {the} Mountain] [{of} My Holiness].  
 12[But I will leave] [within You]  
 [A [humble] [and destitute] People]—  
 [And they will take refuge]  
     [in {the} Name] [{of} His Majesty].  
 13[The Remnant] [{of} Israel]  
 [Will [not] do] [Anything Deviant],  
 [And they will [not] speak] [a Lie],  
 [And a Tongue] [{speaking} a Misleading Belief]  
 [Will [not] be found] [in their Mouth];  
 [Because] [they will be shepherded] [and lie down],  
 [And there will be not be anything]  
     [that causes {them} to tremble]."  
 14[Shout joyfully], [Daughter] [{of} Zion!]  
 [Sound a **teruah**], [Israel!]  
 [Rejoice] [and be jubilant] [with all] [{Your} Heart],

[Daughter] [{of} Jerusalem!]  
 15[His Majesty] [will remove]  
     [{the} Judgments against You];  
 [Your Enemy] [will do an about face].  
 [The King] [{of} Israel]—[His Majesty]—  
     {will be} [within You];  
 [You will [never] [again] fear] [{any} Bad Thing].  
 16[On [that] Day], [He will say] [to Jerusalem]:  
 "[Do [not] fear], [Zion];  
 [Do [not] let [Your Hands] slack off].  
 17[His Majesty] {is} [Your God],  
 [A **Gibbor**] [Who saves] {is} [within You].  
 [He will be elated] [over You] [with Joy];  
 [He will say nothing] [in His Love];  
 [He will be happy] [over You] [with Joyful Shout].  
 18[I will round up] [those who are sorrowful]  
     [at {the} Appointed Time];  
 [They will come] [out of You].  
 [{The} Contingent] [against her] {is} [a Disgrace].  
 19[Guess what! [At [that] Time],  
 I {am}] [going to deal] [with] [all] [who humiliated You],  
 [But I will save] [the one who is limping],  
 [And I will gather] [the one who was banished].  
 [And I will turn them] [into Praise],  
 [And their Shame] [into a Name] [in all] [The Earth].  
 20[At [That] Time], [I will bring [you] in],  
 [Even at {the} Time] [when I gather] [you];  
 [Because] [I will turn [you] into] [a Name] [and Praise]  
 [Among all] [The Peoples of] [The Earth],  
 [When I bring you back from] [Captivity]  
     [before your Eyes],"  
 [Says] [His Majesty].  
 (Zephaniah 3:1–20) —my interim translation

That is not a very pleasant message to hear; but then again, those who want to know the Truth can handle it. Those who don't, won't. Time will tell which side of that spectrum you stand, or fall, on. What you need to keep in mind are the links that link the Book of Zephaniah to the Book of Revelation. I have already pointed out those that link the Book of Revelation to the Book of Joel and the Book of Joel to the Book of Zephaniah, so let me show you a couple that link the Book of Zephaniah to the Book of Revelation. Here is what Zephaniah says about "The Harlot" Babylon:

15[This] {is} [The [jubilant] City],  
 [The one that is dwelling] [securely],

[The one that is saying] [in her Heart],  
 “I {am}, [and there is not] [anyone else].”  
 [How] [did she become] [devastated]?  
 [A Place for [an Animal] to Lie Down]?  
 [Everyone] [who passes] [by her] [will whistle];  
 [He will move [his Hand] to and fro].  
<sup>1</sup>[Woe to] [{the} one who is rebellious] [and defiled]—  
 [The [cheating] City]!  
<sup>2</sup>[She would [not] listen] [to a Voice];  
 [She would [not] accept] [Admonishment].  
 [She would [not] put her trust] [in His Majesty];  
 [She would [not] come near] [to] [her God].  
 (Zephaniah 2:15–3:2) —my interim translation

In order to link those two verses to what John says about “The Harlot” Babylon, you have to follow a link that links Zephaniah to a verse in Isaiah. So here is what Isaiah says about “The Harlot” Babylon:

<sup>1</sup>“[Go down] [and sit down] [on] [{the} Dirt],  
 [Virgin] [Daughter] [of Babylon];  
 [Sit down] [on {the} Earth] [without any] [Throne],  
 [Daughter] [of Chaldeans],  
 [Because] [You will [not] continue to]  
     [have them call] [You]  
 [Delicate] [and delightful].  
<sup>2</sup>[Take] [a Pair of Millstones] [and grind] [Flour].  
 [Uncover] [Your Veil], [strip off] [{Your} Skirt],  
 [Uncover] [{Your} Thigh], [pass through] [{the} Rivers].  
<sup>3</sup>[Your Nakedness] [will be uncovered];  
 [Your Disgrace] [will also] be seen;  
 [I will take] [Vengeance],  
     [but I will [not] confront] [Adam].”  
<sup>4</sup>[His [Supreme] Majesty] [is going to redeem us];  
 [His Name] {is} [Israel’s] [Holy One].  
<sup>5</sup>“[Sit down] [in silence] [and go in] [to Darkness],  
 [Daughter] [of Chaldeans],  
 [Because] [You will [not] continue to]  
     [have them call] [You]  
 [A **Gebirah** of] [Kingdoms].  
<sup>6</sup>[I was filled with wrath] [against] [My People];  
 [I polluted] [My **Inheritance**],  
 [And I gave them] [into Your Hand].  
 [You did [not] afford] [them] [Compassion];  
 [You made [Your Yoke] [very] heavy]  
     [on] [an Old Person].  
<sup>7</sup>[And You said], ‘[I will be] [a **Gebirah**]  
     [for a Burning Eternity].’

[As long as] [You did [not]  
     take] [These Things] [to] [Your Heart],  
 [You did [not] remember] [its Outcome].  
<sup>8</sup>[So now], [listen to] [this], [voluptuous\* {one}]—  
 [The one who is dwelling] [securely],  
 [The one who is saying] [in her Heart],  
 ‘[I] {am}, [and there is no one] [besides me].  
 [I will [not] sit] {as} [a Widow],  
 [And I will [not] know] [Bereavement].’”  
 (Isaiah 47:1–8) —my interim translation

As you can see from the verbatim statement they hold in common, Zephaniah *parabolically* depicts Planet Earth as a “city” while Isaiah *parabolically* depicts it as a prostitute. John brings both of those images together by quoting the last half of Isaiah 47:8, the same verse that Zephaniah quoted:

<sup>4</sup>[And] [I heard] [another] [Voice] [out] [of] [Heaven]  
 [saying]: “[Come out] [of] [her], [My] [People], [so that]  
 [you may [not] have commonality with [her] in] [her]  
 [Sins] [so that] [you may [not] also] receive] [some] [of]  
 [her] [Lashes]; <sup>5</sup>[Because] [her] [Sins] [have attached them-  
 selves to {her}] [up to] [Heaven], [and] [The] [{Living}  
 God] [has remembered] [her] [Immoral Acts]. <sup>6</sup>[Pay [her]  
 back] [even] [as much as] [she] [paid], [and] [double\*] [the  
 {ingredients}] [twice as much] [in accordance with] [her]  
 [Works]; [in] [The] [Cup] [that] [she mixed], [mix] [twice  
 as much] [for her]. <sup>7</sup>[As much as] [she glorified] [herself]  
 [and] [lived sensually], [give] [her] [so much] [Torment]  
 [and] [Mourning]; [BECAUSE] [SHE SAYS] [IN] [HER]  
 [HEART] [THAT] ‘[I AM SITTING] [{as} A QUEEN]!’ [AND]  
 ‘[I AM] [NOT] [A WIDOW]!’ [AND] ‘[I WILL DEFINITELY  
 NOT] SEE [MOURNING].’ <sup>8</sup>[For] [This Reason] [her]  
 [Lashes] [will come] [on] [one] [Day]—[Death] [and]  
 [Mourning] [and] [Famine]—[and] [she will be burned up]  
 [in] [a Fire], [because] [His Majesty], [The] [{Living}  
 God]—[the One Who] [judged] [her]—{is} [mighty].  
<sup>9</sup>[And] [The] [Kings] [of The] [Earth]—[those who] [were  
 sexually promiscuous] [and] [lived sensually] [with]  
 [her]—[will weep] [and] [will cut themselves] [over] [her]  
 [when] [they see] [The] [Smoke] [of her] [Burning],  
<sup>10</sup>[standing] [at a distance away] [from {her}] [because of]  
 [The] [Fear] [of her] [Torment], [saying], ‘[Woe], [Woe to]  
 [The] [City]—[The] [Great One], [Babylon], [The] [City]  
 [that is] [mighty]—[Because] [Your] [Sentence] [has come]  
 [in one] [Hour].’”  
 (Revelation 18:4–10) —my interim translation

Here is a second link that links Zephaniah to the Book of Revelation:

"[Therefore], [wait] [for Me]," [declares] [His Majesty],  
 "[For {the} Day] [when I rise up] [as a Witness].  
**[Because] [My Decision Based on the Truth]**  
**{is} [to round up] [Gentiles],**  
**[To gather] [Kingdoms],**  
**[To pour out] [My Fury] [on them]—**  
**[All] [My burning] Anger,**  
 [Because] [all] [The Earth] [will be consumed]  
 [By The Fire] [{of} My Jealousy]."  
 (Zephaniah 3:8) —my interim translation

<sup>1</sup>[And] [I heard] [a [loud] Voice] [out] [of The] [Sanctuary], [telling] [The] [seven] [Messengers], **"[Go on] [and] [pour out] [The] [seven] [Bowls] [of The] [Rage] [of The] [{Living} God] [into] [The] [Earth]."**

<sup>2</sup>[And] [The] [First {Messenger}] [went] [and] [poured out] [his] [Bowl] [into] [The] [Earth], [and] [it became] [an [awful] [and] [nasty] Sore] [on] [The] [Men] [who] [have] [The] [Mark] [of The] [Beast] [and] [those who] [bow down] [to] [his] [Image].

<sup>3</sup>[And] [The] [Second {Messenger}] [poured out] [his] [Bowl] [into] [The] [Sea], [and] [it became] {something} [like] [{the} Blood] [of a Dead Man], [and] [every] [Soul] [with Life] [that is] [in] [The] [Sea] [died].

<sup>4</sup>[And] [The] [Third {Messenger}] [poured out] [his] [Bowl] [into] [The] [Rivers] [and] [The] [Springs] [of The] [Waters], [and] [it became] [Blood]. <sup>5</sup>[And] [I heard] [The] [Messenger] [of The] [Waters] [saying], "[You—the One Who] [is] [and] [the One Who] [was], [The] [Devout One]—are] [right] [because] [You decided] [These Things], <sup>6</sup>[because] [they poured out] [Blood] [of Holy Ones] [and] [Prophets]; [and] [You have given] [them] [Blood] [to drink]. [They are] [worthy]."  
<sup>7</sup>[And] [I heard] {the messenger} [of The] [Sacrificial Altar] [saying], "[Yes], [Your Majesty]—[The] [{Living} God], [The] [Almighty]—[Your] [Sentences] {are} [true] [and] [right]."

<sup>8</sup>[And] [The] [Fourth {Messenger}] [poured out] [his] [Bowl] [on] [The] [Sun], [and] [he] [was given] {the ability} [to scorch] [Men] [with] [Fire]. <sup>9</sup>[And] [Men] [were scorched] [with an [intense] Scorching Heat]; [and] [they made false religious claims about] [The] [Name] [of The] [{Living} God], [the One Who] [has] [The] [Authority] [over] [These] [Lashes]; [and] [they did [not] apologize] [to give] [Him] [Glory].

<sup>10</sup>[And] [The] [Fifth {Messenger}] [poured out] [his] [Bowl] [on] [The] [Throne] [of The] [Beast], [and] [his] [Kingdom] [was] [darkened], [and] [they chewed on\*] [their] [Tongues] [because] [of The] [Pain]. <sup>11</sup>[And] [they made false religious claims about] [The] [{Living} God] [of] [Heaven] [because] [of] [their] [Pain] [and] [because] [of] [their] [Sores], [and] [they did [not] apologize] [for] [their] [Works].

<sup>12</sup>[And] [The] [Sixth {Messenger}] [poured out] [his] [Bowl] [on] [The] [River] [that is] [tremendous]—[The] [Euphrates]—[and] [his] [Water] [dried up], [so that] [The] [Way] [of The] [Kings] [who are] [from] [Sun's] [Sunrise] [could be prepared]. <sup>13</sup>[And] [I saw] [three] [unclean] [Spirits] [like] [Frogs\*] [out] [of The] [Mouth] [of The] [Sea Serpent] [and] [out] [of The] [Mouth] [of The] [Beast] [and] [out] [of The] [Mouth] [of The] [False Prophet]; <sup>14</sup>[for] [they are] [Spirits] [of Demons] [that are doing] [Signs] [that] [is going to go out] [over] [The] [Kings] [of The] [entire] [Civilized World], [to gather] [them] [for] [The] [War] [of The] [Day] [of The] [{Living} God], [The] [Almighty]—[The] [Most Important Day]. <sup>15</sup>"[Guess what!] [I am going to come] [like] [a Thief]! [The one who] [stays awake] [and] [keeps watch over] [his] [Overgarments], [so that] [he does [not] walk around] [naked] [and] [they see] [his] [Unseemly Behavior] [is fortunate]."  
<sup>16</sup>[And] [they gathered] [them] [to] [The] [Place] [that] [in Hebrew] [is called], "[Mountain of Megiddo\*]."

<sup>17</sup>[And] [The] [Seventh {Messenger}] [poured] [his] [Bowl] [out] [on] [The] [Air], [and] [a [loud] Voice] [came out] [of] [The] [Sanctuary]—[from] [The] [Throne]—[saying], "[It has come]!" <sup>18</sup>[And] [there were] [Flashes of Lightning] [and] [Voices] [and] [Rolling Thunder]; [and] [a [tremendous] Earthquake] [occurred], [of such a sort as] [had [not] occurred] [ever since] [a Man] [came to be] [on] [The] [Earth]—[so tremendous] [an Earthquake], [so] [tremendous]!" <sup>19</sup>[And] [The] [City]—[The] [Great One]—[came to be] [in] [three] [Parts], [and] [The] [Cities] [of The] [Gentiles] [fell]. [And] [Babylon] [The] [Great] [was recalled] [before] [The] [{Living} God]—[to give] [her] [The] [Cup] [of The] [Wine] [of The] [Rage] [of His] [Anger]. <sup>20</sup>[And] [every] [Island] [fled], [and] [a Mountain] [was [not] found]. <sup>21</sup>[And] [tremendous] [Hail]—[about] [seventy-five pounds\*]—[comes down] [out] [of] [Heaven] [onto] [Men]. [And] [Men] [made false religious claims about] [The] [{Living} God] [because] [of The] [Lash] [of The] [Hail], [because] [its] [Lash] [is] [extremely] [tremendous].

(Revelation 16:1–21) —my interim translation ■





**T**he Voice of Elijah® publishes articles based on the findings of The Elijah Project, a private research group headed by Larry D. Harper. In this column we seek answers to general-interest questions concerning the findings, purpose, and philosophy of this project.

**Editor:** One of our subscribers wrote telling us he has a few questions on which he needs clarification:

(1) In "The History of the Church" by Eusebius, pg. 156, concerning the Quartodeciman controversy (the 14ers) "those who kept the 14th day of the month as the beginning of the paschal festival, in accordance with the gospel, not deviating in the least but following the rule of the Faith. Least of all I too, Polycrates (paraphrasing mine) have always kept the day when the people put away the leaven." Does this statement indicate that this custom was important to the authentic Church (those in Asia) to be distinguished from others (pretenders)? Polycarp went to Rome during Anicetus's time but as it's recorded in pg. 157 of the same text "Anicetus could not persuade Polycarp not to keep the day since he had always kept it with John the disciple of our Lord & the other apostles with whom he had been familiar." However, Polycarp never persuaded Anicetus to keep the day the Asian Churches kept and visa versa which is how the controversy was settled at the time. Was this just a convenient way to settle the issue without really settling the issue?

(2) Will the keeping of the 14th day of the month (the above mentioned issue) play any role in the end times for the elect? In your book "The Mystery of Scripture," pg. 122, under the Ritual for the Feast of the Unleavened Bread

you reference Exodus 13:9–10 where it states: "And it shall serve to you as a sign on your hand & as a reminder on your forehead, that the Law of the Lord may be in your mouth ... etc. etc." In Revelation those who have the mark of the beast on their right hand or forehead will be able to buy & sell. Is there some similarity to be made here between the keeping of the 14th day of the month & the mark of the beast? Or am I reading too much into this similarity? Also in Revelation the Elect will be those who keep the commandments (& I believe statutes) of God. What commandments or laws/statutes would they be? Some believe like H.W. Armstrong did (& his people still do) that the keeping of the Sabbath would be the identifying sign of the Elect? Which it wouldn't be since the Sabbath day of rest is a future event not to be kept every seventh day as you've stated before (& I agree with)?

(3) Since we're on the subject of holidays (of a sort) what are your thoughts on Christmas & Hanukkah?

(4) And lastly, while reading "The Advent of Christ & [sic: and] Antichrist" both Irenæus and Hippolytus referenced the Book of Maccabees. Jude 14 is mentioned referencing the Book of Enoch. There is a reference to 2 Esdras as well as the Book of Baruch. All of the aforementioned books are listed as apocryphal; some, like I & II Maccabees, are part of the Catholic bible as well as the book of Tobit. In your scholarly opinion are any of these books credible? If so, are there any more that should be considered credible in your opinion? Allegedly the Jews believe II Maccabees & Tobit to be non scriptural. That of course doesn't mean they are right, since they've been wrong before about other matters. What are your thoughts?

**Elijah:** Here is my answer to the first question:

My understanding of the Quartodeciman controversy is, it originated in the differences that existed between the Jewish and Gentile wings of the Church. The Christian Jews commemorated the Crucifixion, death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ each year on the fourteenth day of the first month of the year, at the same time that non-Christian Jews observed Passover. The Gentile wing of the Church, on the other hand, celebrated the Resurrection of Jesus on a Sunday at about the same time as Passover.

If you were not aware that there were differences between the Jews and Gentiles in the Early Church, let

me be the first to inform you. There were. The basic differences between the Jewish and Gentile Believers in the Apostolic Church are plainly delineated in the letter that the Jewish Apostles sent to the Gentile church at Antioch in the hands of Paul and Barnabas:

<sup>1</sup>[And] [some], [after coming down] [from] [Judea], [were teaching] [The] [Brothers] [that] "[if] [you are [not] circumcised] [in The] [Custom] [of Moses], [you are [not] able] [to be saved]." <sup>2</sup>[But] [when [an Uprising] [and] [not] [just a little] [Discussion] [with] [them] [by Paul] [and] [Barnabas] ensued], [they designated] [some] [of them]—[Paul] [and] [Barnabas] [and] [some] [Others]—[to go up] [to] [Jerusalem] [to] [The] [Apostles] [and] [Elders] [about] [This] [Issue]. <sup>3</sup>[Therefore], [some] [who were sent on their way] [by] [The] [Summoned Assembly] [were passing through] [both] [Phoenicia] [and] [Samaria], [describing at length and in detail] [The] [Conversion\*] [of The] [Gentiles] [and] [causing] [intense] [Joy] [in all] [The] [Brothers]. <sup>4</sup>[So] [when {they} arrived] [at] [Jerusalem], [they were accepted as legitimate] [by] [The] [Summoned Assembly] [and] [The] [Apostles] [and] [The] [Elders]; [and then] [they divulged] [as many things as] [The] [{Living} God] [had done] [for] [them]. <sup>5</sup>[But] [some] [of those] [from] [The] [Sect] [of The] [Pharisees] [who had believed {the word of the gospel}] [stood up], [saying] [that] "[one has to] [circumcise] [them] [and then] [instruct {them}] [to keep watch over] [The] [Law] [of Moses]!"

<sup>6</sup>[Both] [The] [Apostles] [and] [The] [Elders] [were gathered] [to see] [about] [This] [Matter]. <sup>7</sup>[Then] [after [a Lot] [of Discussion] had occurred], [Peter], [after rising], [said] [to] [them]: "[Men], [Brothers], [you] [are cognizant of the fact] [that] [from] [earlier] [Days] [among] [you], [The] [{Living} God] [chose] [that] [The] [Gentiles] would hear [The] [Word] [of The] [Gospel] [via] [my] [Mouth] [and] [believe {it}]. <sup>8</sup>[And] [The] [{Living} God], [The One Who Knows the Heart], [has provided testimony] [for them], [after giving [The] [Spirit] [that is] [holy] {to them}] [just as] [he did] [to us] [also]. <sup>9</sup>[And] [He did [not] make {any} distinction] [between] [both] [them] [and] [us], [after cleansing] [their] [Hearts] [by The] [Belief]. <sup>10</sup>[Now], [therefore], [why] [are you testing] [The] [{Living} God]—[to place] [on] [The] [Neck] [of The] [Disciples] [a Yoke of Slavery] [which] [neither] [our] [Fathers] [nor] [we] [have the ability] [to carry]? <sup>11</sup>[But] [we believe {the word of the gospel}] [to be saved] [via] [The] [Favor] [of His

Majesty], [Jesus], [even [in] [the same way] [as] Those Individuals]."

<sup>12</sup>[So] [The] [whole] [Multitude] [was silent], [and] [they were listening to] [Barnabas] [and] [Paul], [who were describing at length] [as many] [Signs] [and] [Wonders] [as] [The] [{Living} God] [had done] [among] [The] [Gentiles] [via] [them]. <sup>13</sup>[Then], [after] [they] [were silent], [James] [responded], [saying]: "[Men]—[Brothers]—[listen to] [me]. <sup>14</sup>[Simeon] [has described {it} at length]; [The] [{Living} God] [came to see] [just as] [at first], [to take] [from] [Gentiles] [a People] [for [His] Name]. <sup>15</sup>[And] [in This], [The] [Words] [of The] [Prophets] [agree together], [just as] [it has been written]:

<sup>16</sup>[AFTER] [THESE THINGS], [I will return];

[AND] [I WILL REBUILD] [THE] [TENT] [OF DAVID]

[THAT] [HAS FALLEN],

[AND] [I WILL REBUILD] [THE THINGS] [SHE HAS]

[THAT] [HAVE BEEN DEMOLISHED];

[AND] [I WILL SET] [HER] STRAIGHT AGAIN],

<sup>17</sup>[SO THAT] [IT MIGHT BE THAT] [THE] [REMAINDER\*]

[OF MEN] [MAY SEEK] [HIS MAJESTY],

[EVEN] [ALL] [THE] [GENTILES] [OVER] [WHOM] [MY]

[NAME] [HAS BEEN CALLED] [OVER] [THEM],

[SAYS] [HIS MAJESTY], [WHO HAS BEEN MAKING]

[THESE THINGS] <sup>18</sup>[KNOWN] [FROM] [PAST AGES].

<sup>19</sup>[Wherefore] [I] [decide] [not] [to hassle\*] [those] [from] [The] [Gentiles] [who] [are turning back] [to] [The] [{Living} God], <sup>20</sup>[but] [to send] [them] a letter [that] [they] should stay far away from] [The] [Contamination\*] [of Idols] [and] [Sexual Promiscuity] [and] [The] [Meat of a Strangled Animal] [and] [Blood]. <sup>21</sup>[For] [from] [earlier] [Generations], [Moses] [has] [those who] [preach] [him] [in each and every] [City], [being read] [in] [The] [Synagogues] [each and] [every] [Sabbath]."

<sup>22</sup>[It] [then] seemed] [to The] [Apostles] [and] [The] [Elders], [together with] [The] [entire] [Summoned Assembly], [that, [after choosing] [Men] [from] [them], {they} should send {them}] [to] [Antioch] [along with] [Paul] [and] [Barnabas]—[Judas], [the one who] [is called] [Barsabbas], [and] [Silas], [Men] [who were esteemed] [among] [The] [Brothers]—<sup>23</sup>[after writing] [via] [their] [Hand]:

"[The] [Apostles] [and] [The] [older] [Brothers], [to The] [Brothers] [throughout] [Antioch] [and] [Syria] [and] [Cilicia] [who are] [from] [Gentiles], [rejoice]. <sup>24</sup>[Since] [we have heard] [that] [some] [of] [us]—[to

[whom] we did [not] give a strict order]—[have, [after going out], disturbed] [you] [with Words] [that are tearing up\*] [your] [Souls]. <sup>25</sup>[After coming to be] [in complete agreement], [it seemed] [to us], [that, [after choosing] [Men], {we} should send {them}}] [to] [you] [along with] [our] [Beloved Brothers] [Barnabas] [and] [Paul], <sup>26</sup>[Men] [who have handed over] [their] [Souls] [for the sake] [of The] [Name] [of our] [Master] [Jesus], [The Anointed One]. <sup>27</sup>[Therefore], [we have sent] [Judas] [and] [Silas] [and] [them] [who are reporting] [the [same] things] [via] [a {spoken} Word]. <sup>28</sup>[For] [it seemed] [to The] [Spirit] [that is] [holy] [and] [to us] [that {we} should [not] place [any greater] [Burden] on] [you] [than] [These] [essential\*] [Things]: <sup>29</sup>[to stay far away from] [Meats Sacrificed to Idols] [and] [Blood] [and] [Meat of a Strangled Animal] [and] [Sexual Promiscuity]; [from] [which], [carefully keeping] [yourselves], [you will be doing] [well]. [Farewell\*]."

(Acts 15:1–29) —my interim translation

In the relatively minor disagreement that erupted between Polycarp and Anicetus, bishop of Rome, Polycarp held to the Jewish tradition, and Anicetus held to the Gentile tradition. A few decades later, Polycrates argued for the Jewish tradition, while Victor, the bishop of Rome, tried to excommunicate him for it. The Truth is, by that time, both men were firmly ensconced in a legalistic debate that has no value, then or now. Who but a fool would care when the event is celebrated? The important thing is, Jesus Christ died so that all who believe *the promise* could become *heirs of the promise*. The Apostle Paul has already given us his view regarding the knuckleheads who engage in such vapid arguments:

<sup>1</sup>[So], [I am saying {this}], [For] [as long [a Span of Time] as] [The] [Heir] [is] [a Toddler], (1) [he [who is] [Owner] [of everything] does [not] matter {any} more than] [a Slave], <sup>2</sup>[but] (2) [he is] [under] [Supervisors] [and] [Managers] [up to] [The] [Appointed Time\*] [of The] [Father].

<sup>3</sup>[So] [also] [we], [when] [we were] [Toddlers], [were] [enslaved] [by] [The] [Elementary Beliefs] [of The] [World]. <sup>4</sup>[But] [when] [The] [Fullness] [of The] [Span of Time] [came], [The] [{Living} God] [sent out] [His] [Son]—(1) [Who came] [from] [a Woman], (2) [Who came] [subject to] [Law]—<sup>5</sup>(a) [so that] [He could buy back] [those who are] [subject to] [Law], (b) [so that] [we

could get back] [The] [Adoption]. <sup>6</sup>[So] [because] [you are] [Sons], [The] [{Living} God] [sent] [The] [Spirit] [of His] [Son] out] [into] [our] [Hearts], [shouting], "[Abba! Father]!" <sup>7</sup>[So then] [You are] [no longer] [a Slave], [but] [a Son]; [but] [if] [a Son], [also] [**an Heir**]—[of] [God].

<sup>8</sup>[But] [on the one hand] [then], [when {you} did [not] know] [God], [you were slaves] [to The Things] [that are] [by Nature] [not] [Gods]; <sup>9</sup>[and on the other] [now], [after knowing] [God]—[but] [rather], [after being known] [by] [God]—[how] [can you turn back] [again] [to] [The] [weak] [and] [poor] [Elementary Beliefs] [from up above], [to [which] [you want] to be slaves] [again]? <sup>10</sup>[You are carefully watching] (1) [Days] [and] (2) [Months] [and] (3) [Times] [and] (4) [Annual Religious Cycles].

(Galatians 4:1–10) —my interim translation

The best advice Paul ever gave regarding things that are completely immaterial to the Truth of *The Teaching* is this:

[But] [refuse to accept] [their] [stupid] [and] [uneducated\*] [Discussions], [being aware] [that] [they engender] [Quarrels].

(2 Timothy 2:23) —my interim translation

The Truth is, a Jew who has been religiously observing the Jewish calendar of religious holidays prior to his conversion has a valid reason to continue to observe them after being born again. But if you were a Gentile before you were born again, which is the most likely scenario, get over it; the issue was settled at the Council of Nicaea in A.D. 325, when it was decided the Quartodecimans were a threat to Church unity. From that point on, the celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ was to be on Sunday, no ifs, ands, or buts about it; and Emperor Constantine added his heft to the Council's decision by persecuting those Jewish Christians who disagreed. While that overbearing action doesn't say much for the freedom for which Christ died, neither does the insistence that everybody should observe a holiday exactly the same way. I have yet to understand how that has any bearing at all on an accurate understanding of the Truth.

Nowadays, the idiots among us think everyone should walk, talk, think, and act the same way they do. Little do the dim-witted Gentiles who want to go back to observing Jewish traditions know, the Apostle Paul



has already told them to go to Hell. Actually, I just said that to get your full attention; Paul merely said that's where they are going if they continue on in legalism:

<sup>1</sup>[The Anointed One] [freed] [us] [into His] [Freedom]; [stand] [therefore], [and] [not] [be ensnared] [again] [by a Yoke] [of Slavery].

<sup>2</sup>[Take a look!] [I], [Paul], [tell] [you] [that] [if] [you are circumcised {by them}], [The Anointed One] [will] [not] [provide] [you] {any} benefit {at all}].

<sup>3</sup>[So], [I testify] [again] [to every] [Man] [who is circumcised {by them}], [that] [he is] [obligated] [to act in accordance with] [The] [entire] [Law]. <sup>4</sup>[You] [who] [are being exonerated] [by] [Law] [have been discharged] [from] [The Anointed One]; [you have fallen away from] [The] [Favor]: <sup>5</sup>(1) [For] [we]—[in Spirit], [on the basis] [of Belief]—[are eagerly looking forward to] [a Hope] [of a Declaration of Not Guilty]. <sup>6</sup>(2) [For] [in] [The Anointed One], [Jesus], [neither] [Circumcision] [nor] [Uncircumcision] [is capable of] [anything]; [but] [a Belief] [that is working in {us}] [through] [Love] {is}].

<sup>7</sup>[You were running] [exceptionally well]; [who] [hindered] [you], [so that {you} are] [not] [persuaded by] [The] [Truth]? <sup>8</sup>[The] [Persuasion\*] {is} [not] [from] [the One Who] [is inviting] [you]. <sup>9</sup>[A Small Amount of] [Leaven] [leavens] [The] [entire] [Lump]. <sup>10</sup>[I] [have confidence] [in] [you] [in] [His Majesty] [that] [you will have your minds set on] [nothing] [else], [but] [the one who] [is disturbing] [you] [will carry] [his] [Judgment]—[whomever] [it may be that] [he is]. <sup>11</sup>[But] [I], [Brothers], [if] [I am] [still] [preaching] [Circumcision], [why] [am I] [still] [being pursued]? [Then] [The] [Cause of Offense] [of The] [Cross] [would have been abrogated].

<sup>12</sup>[So] [I really wish] [those who] [are causing] [you] [problems] [would cut themselves away from {you}]!

<sup>13</sup>[For] [you] [were invited] [into] [Freedom], [Brothers]; [only] [not] [The] [Freedom] [for] [an Opportunity] [for The] [Flesh], [but] [be slaves] [to one another] [through] [His] [Love]. <sup>14</sup>[For] [The] [whole] [Law] [is fully complete] [in] [one] [Word], [in] [the {commandment}]: "[YOU WILL LOVE] [YOUR] [NEIGHBOR] [AS MUCH AS] [YOURSELF]."

<sup>15</sup>[But] [if] [you bite\*] [and] [devour] [one another], [look out, so that] [you are] [not] [consumed] [by] [one another].

<sup>16</sup>[But] [I say], "[Walk] [in Spirit], [and] [you will] [definitely not] [complete] [a Desire] [of Flesh]." <sup>17</sup>[For] [The] [Flesh] [desires {things}] [against] [The] [Spirit], [then] [The] [Spirit] [against] [The] [Flesh]; [for] [These {two}] [are opposed] [to one another], [so that] [whatever]

[it may be that] [you want to do], [you do] [not] [do] [These Things]. <sup>18</sup>[So], [if] [you are being led] [by Spirit], [you are] [not] [subject to] [Law].

(Galatians 5:1-18) —my interim translation

Here is your subscriber's second question, followed by my response:

(2) Will the keeping of the 14th day of the month (the above mentioned issue) play any role in the end times for the elect? In your book "The Mystery of Scripture," pg. 122, under the Ritual for the Feast of the Unleavened Bread you reference Exodus 13:9-10 where it states: "And it shall serve to you as a sign on your hand & as a reminder on your forehead, that the Law of the Lord may be in your mouth ... etc. etc." In Revelation those who have the mark of the beast on their right hand or forehead will be able to buy & sell. Is there some similarity to be made here between the keeping of the 14th day of the month & the mark of the beast? Or am I reading too much into this similarity? Also in Revelation the Elect will be those who keep the commandments (& I believe statutes) of God. What commandments or laws/statutes would they be? Some believe like H.W. Armstrong did (& his people still do) that the keeping of the Sabbath would be the identifying sign of the Elect? Which it wouldn't be since the Sabbath day of rest is a future event not to be kept every seventh day as you've stated before (& I agree with)?

To understand my answer to this question, one first needs to know that the phrase "keep the commandments" is a Hebrew idiom. And just like all the other Hebrew idioms I have defined over the past twenty-five years, it has a very specific meaning with some very specific parabolic imagery attached to it. The Truth is, the idiom means something like "protect The Teaching"; and the parabolic imagery that goes with it is that of the Levites standing guard around the Tabernacle to ensure that no one could pose a threat to the commandments that were etched on the two tablets that lay inside the coffin of the Living Word of God.

If one does not have insight into those two components of the phrase "keep the commandments," he is undoubtedly revealing his ignorance every time he uses the phrase. I translate the phrase as "keep watch over the commandments" simply because that has the sense of guarding, as it does in the two places in

the Book of Revelation where it occurs. Here is the first occurrence of the phrase:

<sup>13</sup>[And] [when] [The] [Sea Serpent] [saw] [that] [he had been thrown] [to] [The] [Earth], [he pursued] [The] [Woman] [Who] [gave birth to] [The] [Male]. <sup>14</sup>[And] [The] [two] [Wings] [of The] [Vulture]—[The] [Most Important One]—[were given] [to The] [Woman], [so that] [she could fly] [into] [The] [Desert], [to] [Her] [Place], [where] [She is provided food] [there] [for a Time] [and] [Times] [and] [half] [a Time], [away from] [The] [Snake's] [Presence]. <sup>15</sup>[And] [The] [Snake] [cast] [Water] [out] [of] [his] [Mouth] [like] [a River] [behind] [The] [Woman], [so that] [he might cause [her] to be] [carried away by a river\*]. <sup>16</sup>[And] [The] [Earth] [helped] [The] [Woman], [and] [The] [Earth] [opened] [her] [Mouth] [and] [swallowed up] [The] [River] [that] [The] [Sea Serpent] [cast] [out] [of] [his] [Mouth]. <sup>17</sup>[And] [The] [Sea Serpent] [became angry] [with] [The] [Woman], [and] [he went away] [to make] [War] [with] [The] [Rest of] [Her] [Seed]—[those who] [are keeping watch over] [The] [Commandments] [of The] [Living} God] [and] [holding on to] [The] [Testimony] [of Jesus].  
(Revelation 12:13–17) —my interim translation

That passage is describing events that are going to occur right before the End of the Age. At that time, those who know the Truth and firmly believe it will be called upon to protect it by keeping it alive *within themselves* until the Second Coming of Jesus Christ; and they will do so in spite of the best efforts of the Antichrist to eradicate the Truth of *The Teaching*. Not a pleasant thought, but one that is absolutely necessary to consider if one intends to make it through the span of time commonly called “the Tribulation.”

The juxtaposition of “the commandments” with “the testimony” in the last verse of the passage above is interesting. “The commandments” is a reference to the Ten Commandments that were written on the two stone tablets placed inside the coffin of the Lord; but under the terms of the New Covenant, an eleventh commandment was added to those ten:

“[I am giving] [you] [a [new] Commandment]—[that] [you should love] [one another] [just as] [I loved] [you]—[so that] [you] [would [also] love] [one another].”  
(John 13:34) —my interim translation

As I explain in *The Mystery of Scripture, Volume 1*, the Ten Commandments were called “the testimonies.” Since “the commandments” are *parabolically* written on the “heart” of the Believer under the New Covenant instead of on stone tablets, every True Believer has “the testimony” of the eleventh commandment, as well as “the testimony” of the other Ten Commandments, within himself. But “the testimony” of the eleventh commandment and its relationship to the other ten is what John had in mind when he wrote this:

<sup>1</sup>[Everyone] [who] [believes] [that] [Jesus] [is] [The] [Anointed One] [has been engendered] [as} part] [of The] [Living} God], [and] [everyone] [who] [loves] [the One Who] [engendered] [also] [loves] [the one who] [has been engendered] [as} part] [of Him]. <sup>2</sup>[By] [This] [we know] [that] [we love] [The] [Children] [of The] [Living} God]—[when] [we love] [The] [Living} God] [and] [act in accordance with] [His] [Commandments]. <sup>3</sup>[For] [This] [is] [The] [Love] [of The] [Living} God]—[that] [we keep watch over] [His] [Commandments]; [and] [His] [Commandments] [are] [not] [hefty], <sup>4</sup>[because] [everything] [that] [has been engendered] [by] [The] [Living} God] [triumphs over] [The] [World].

[And] [This] [is] [The] [Triumph\*] [that] [has triumphed over] [The] [World]—[our] [Belief]. <sup>5</sup>[But] [Who] [is] [the one who] [triumphs over] [The] [World], [except] [the one who] [believes] [that] [Jesus] [is] [The] [Son] [of The] [Living} God]? <sup>6</sup>[This] [is] [the One who] [came] [through] [Water] [and] [Blood], [Jesus], [The Anointed One], [not] [only] [in] [The] [Water], [but] [in] [The] [Water] [and] [in] [The] [Blood]. [And] [The] [Spirit] [is] [the One Who] [is providing testimony] [that] [The] [Spirit] [is] [The] [Truth]. <sup>7</sup>[Because] [those Who] [are providing testimony] [are] [three]: <sup>8</sup>[The] [Spirit] [and] [The] [Water] [and] [The] [Blood]; [and] [the] [three] [are] [in] [the] [One].

<sup>9</sup>[If] [we accept] [The] [Testimony] [of Men], [The] [Testimony] [of The] [Living} God] [is] [more important], [because] [This] [is] [The] [Testimony] [of The] [Living} God]: [That] [He has provided testimony] [about] [His] [Son]. <sup>10</sup>[The one who] [believes] [in] [The] [Son] [of The] [Living} God] [has] [The] [Testimony] [in] [himself]; [the one who] [does [not] believe] [The] [Living} God] [has made [Him] out to be] [a Liar], [because] [He has [not] believed] [in] [The] [Testimony] [that] [The] [Living} God] [has

*provided as testimony* [about] [His] [Son]. <sup>11</sup>[And] [This] [is] [The] [Testimony]—[that] [The] [Living] God [gave] [us] [eternal] [Life], [and] [This] [Life] [is] [in] [His] [Son]. <sup>12</sup>[The one who] [has] [The] [Son] [has] [The] [Life]; [the one who] [does [not] have] [The] [Son] [of The] [Living] God [does [not] have] [The] [Life].

<sup>13</sup>[I have written] [These Things] [to you]—[to those who] [believe] [in] [The] [Name] [of The] [Son] [of The] [Living] God—[so that] [you would be aware] [that] [you have] [eternal] [Life].

(1 John 5:1–13) —my interim translation

Let me show the other place where the phrase commonly translated “keep the commandments” occurs in the Book of Revelation:

<sup>1</sup>[And] [I [also] saw], [guess what!] [The] [Little Lamb] [standing] [on] [The] [Mountain] [of Zion], [and] [with] [Him] [one hundred] [forty]-[four] [Thousand] [who have] [His] [Name] [and] [The] [Name] [of His] [Father], [which has been written] [on] [their] [Foreheads]. <sup>2</sup>[And] [I heard] [a Voice] [out] [of] [Heaven], [like] [the] Sound [of many] [Waters] [and] [like] [the] Sound [of loud] [Rolling Thunder]; [and] [The] [Sound] [that] [I heard] {was} [like] [Harpists] [playing on the harp] [with] [their] [Harps]. <sup>3</sup>[And] [they are singing {something}] [as] [a [new] Song] [before] [The] [Throne] [and] [before] [The] [four] [Living Creatures] [and] [The] [Elders], [and] [nobody] [was able] [to learn] [The] [Song] [except] [The] [one hundred] [forty]-[four] [Thousand] [who] [had been bought] [from] [The] [Earth]. <sup>4</sup>[These Individuals] [are] [the ones who] [have [not] been soiled] [with] [Women], [for] [they are] [Virgins]. [These Individuals] {are} [those who] [are following] [The] [Little Lamb] [wherever] [it might be that] [He goes]. [These Individuals] [have been bought] [from] [Men] [as] First Fruits [for The] [Living] God [and] [The] [Little Lamb]. <sup>5</sup>[And] [a Lie] [was [not] found] [in] [their] [Mouths]; [they are] [without blemish]. <sup>6</sup>[And] [I saw] [another] [Messenger] [flying] [in] [Midheaven]—[one who has] [an [eternal] Word of the Gospel] [to proclaim as the word of the gospel] [to] [those who] [are sitting] [on] [The] [Earth], [even] [to] [every] [Nation] [and] [Tribe] [and] [Tongue] [and] [People], <sup>7</sup>[saying] [in] [a [loud] Voice], “[Be afraid of] [The] [Living] God [and] [give] [Him] [Glory], [because] [The] [Hour] [of His] [Sentencing] [has come]; [so] [bow down] [to the One

Who] [made] [Heaven] [and] [Earth] [and] [a Sea] [and] [Springs] [of Waters].”

<sup>8</sup>[And] [another], [a second], [Messenger] [followed {him}], [saying]: “[She has fallen]! [Babylon] [The] [Great]—[the one who] [has made [all] [The] [Gentiles] drink] [some] [of The] [Wine] [of His] [Rage] {against} [her] [Sexual Promiscuity]—[has fallen]!” <sup>9</sup>[And] [another] [Messenger]—[a third {one}]—[followed] [them], [saying] [in] [a [loud] Voice]: “[If] [anyone] [worships] [The] [Beast] [and] [his] [Image] [and] [accepts] [a Mark] [on] [his] [Forehead] [or] [on] [his] [Hand], <sup>10</sup>[he] [will] [also] drink] [some] [of The] [Wine] [of The] [Rage] [of The] [Living] God [that] [has been mixed] [undiluted\*] [in] [The] [Cup] [of His] [Anger], [and] [he will be tormented] [with] [Fire] [and] [Brimstone] [before] [holy] [Messengers] [and] [before] [The] [Little Lamb]. <sup>11</sup>[And] [The] [Smoke] [of their] [Torment] [is going to go up] [into] [the] Ages [of Ages to Come]; [and] [those who] [worship] [The] [Beast] [and] [his] [Image] [are [not] going to have] [Refreshment] [Day] [and] [Night]—[even] [anyone], [if] [he accepts] [The] [Mark] [of his] [Name]!” <sup>12</sup>[Here] [is] [The] [Perseverance] [of The] [Holy Ones]—[those who] [keep watch over] [The] [Commandments] [of The] [Living] God [and] [their] [Belief] [in Jesus].

<sup>13</sup>[And] [I heard] [a Voice] [out] [of] [Heaven], [saying], “[Write], [The] [Dead]—[those in] [His Majesty] who [die] [from] [this point on]—[are fortunate]!” “[Yes],” [says] [The] [Spirit], “[so that] [they may be refreshed] [from] [their] [Trouble], [for] [their] [Works] [follow] [with] [them].” <sup>14</sup>[And] [I saw]—[and] [guess what! There was] [a [white] Cloud], [and] [sitting] [on] [The] [Cloud], [One [just like] [a Son] [of a Man] Who had] [a Crown] [made of gold] [on] [His] [Head] [and] [a [keen] Sickle] [in] [His] [Hand]. <sup>15</sup>[And] [another] [Messenger] [came out] [of] [The] [Sanctuary], [shouting] [in] [a [loud] Voice] [to the One Who] [was sitting] [on] [The] [Cloud], “[Send] [Your] [Sickle] [and] [reap], [because] [The] [Hour] [to reap] [has come], [because] [The] [Harvest] [of The] [Earth] [has been shriveled up].”

<sup>16</sup>[And] [the One Who] [was sitting] [on] [The] [Cloud] [threw] [His] [Sickle] [onto] [The] [Earth], [and] [The] [Earth] [was reaped].

<sup>17</sup>[And] [another] [Messenger] [came out] [of] [The] [Sanctuary] [that is] [in] [Heaven], [and] [he] [had] [a [keen] Sickle]. <sup>18</sup>[And] [another] [Messenger]—[the one who] [has] [Authority] [over] [The] [Fire]—[came out] [of] [The] [Sacrificial Altar] [and] [called out] [in] [a [loud]



Voice [to the one who] [has] [The] [Sickle] [that is] [keen], [saying], "[Send] [Your] [Sickle]—[the [keen] one]—[and] [pick] [The] [Clusters of Grapes\*] [of The] [Vine] [of The] [Earth], [because] [her] [Bunches of Grapes] [are ripe\*]." <sup>19</sup>[And] [The] [Messenger] [threw] [his] [Sickle] [into] [The] [Earth] [and] [picked] [The] [Vine] [of The] [Earth] [and] [threw {the grapes}] [into] [The] [Wine Press]—[The] [Large One]—[of The] [Rage] [of The] [Living} God]. <sup>20</sup>[And] [The] [Wine Press] [was trampled] [on the outside] [of The] [City], [and] [Blood] [came out] [of] [The] [Wine Press] [up to] [The] [Bits] [of The] [Horses] [for] [one thousand] [six hundred] [200-meter Units].  
(Revelation 14:1–20) —my interim translation

The point I am making is this: The Hebrew idiom commonly translated "keep the commandments" has never had anything to do with a legalistic "do this, don't do that" mentality—as far as God is concerned. It has always had to do with belief in the Truth. Under the terms of the Old Covenant, the sons of Israel were expected to demonstrate their belief in *The Teaching of Moses* by participating in the *parabolic pantomimes* God established through Moses. But God expects those who *inherit the promise* under the terms of the New "Testament" to protect the Truth of *The Teaching* that has been written on their "heart" by ensuring it is not contaminated with lies that contradict what they have been taught by someone legitimately called to teach.

So now that I have responded to your subscriber's second question, let's move on to the third:

(3) *Since we're on the subject of holidays (of a sort) what are your thoughts on Christmas & Hanukkah?*

My response to this question is essentially the same as my response to the first. But I'll let the Apostle Paul sum it up for me, since he has a far better response:

[But] [refuse to accept] [their] [stupid] [and] [uneducated\*] [Discussions], [being aware] [that] [they engender] [Quarrels].  
(2 Timothy 2:23) —my interim translation

The fourth question has a bit more relevance in that it relates to the inspiration of Scripture:

(4) *And lastly, while reading "The Advent of Christ & [sic: and] Antichrist" both Irenæus and Hippolytus*

*referenced the Book of Maccabees. Jude 14 is mentioned referencing the Book of Enoch. There is a reference to 2 Esdras as well as the Book of Baruch. All of the aforementioned books are listed as apocryphal; some, like I & II Maccabees, are part of the Catholic bible as well as the book of Tobit. In your scholarly opinion are any of these books credible? If so, are there any more that should be considered credible in your opinion? Allegedly the Jews believe II Maccabees & Tobit to be non scriptural. That of course doesn't mean they are right, since they've been wrong before about other matters. What are your thoughts?*

First of all, let's get one thing straight: A writer's quotation of a written work says nothing at all about whether the writer thinks the work he is quoting is divinely inspired. It merely *means* he believes that what the writer has written is true. So all this drivel by "scholars" as to what should or should not be part of the Old Testament or New Testament canon based on quotations found in other works is just that: drivel. The Truth is, one is able to get all that one needs to understand what God has done to *fulfill the promise* He made to Adam and Eve from the books that the Jews accept as part of the Old Testament and the books that Protestants believe are part of the New Testament.

In essence what I would say is this, if one finds evidence in other works that indicates a writer knew about *the promise, the inheritance of the promise, and the fulfillment of the promise* in the life, death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ, that writer clearly knew what he was *talking about*, so one can lend a bit more credence to what he says about other things. The real problem resides in whether or not God expects one to do what one tends to do in such cases—speculate.

*Editor: After requesting additional copies of our Free Offer materials to distribute (7 Simple Steps to Salvation, In the Image and Likeness of God, The Passover Parable, The Old Testament Gospel of Jesus Christ), a man who has read and studied VOE materials for a couple years now and just finished re-reading all the past issues of the newsletters wrote to tell us he has a couple of questions. He wrote the following:*

*I recently abdicated my role as a "facilitator" of our mid-week bible study group (6 yrs.). The more I've learned the details of the Truth as Mr. Harper presents it, the more*

I found myself trying to share those details during our discussions in the group. I think everyone has a copy of “7 Simple Steps” as well as other publications and I have shared my CDs (“Inheritance” and “Way, Truth, Life”) with two whom I am closer friends with, and they are thankful for the opportunity to have heard this Teaching.

But although I have made clear seemingly every week that I am not a teacher, don’t want to be one, I find myself going back to this Teaching and trying to communicate some of these details in our discussions. So I’ve quit leading our group.... My question is: Where do we draw the line in our sharing with each other so that we are not guilty of “teaching”?

One more question: I’ve used a Greek and Hebrew key study bible for 10 or 12 years and tried to study with an interlinear text for a while and I really would like to learn more of the original language, especially Hebrew. As I’m trying to learn, each letter has such a wide range of meaning and significance that I wonder who I can trust even for those kinds of translations/interpretations.

Some of the Jewish teachers I have read seem sort of bogus. The excerpts in the newsletters and updates from Mr. Harper have been great. Can you recommend a Christ centered teacher/author for the Greek and Hebrew languages? I’d love to someday be able to “see” the Ten Words.

**Elijah:** Concerning the activity we call “teaching,” I would simply say this: Teaching is nothing more than explaining something to someone. So if anyone tries to “explain” to others the things that they learn from me, they are teaching them the same things I have been called to teach. I have plainly stated God did not call me to prepare others to teach what I teach, so anyone who does that has absolutely no authority to do so. As far as “sharing” the Truth of what I teach with others is concerned, what I would say about that ill-advised activity is exactly what Jesus said about those who can “see” a little bit of *The Teaching* trying to teach someone who is able to “see” even less:

<sup>3</sup>“[So] [why] [are You looking at] [The] [Splinter] [that is] [in] [Your] [Brother’s] [Eye], [but] [You are not] taking a close look at [The] [Timber] [in] [Your] [Eye]? <sup>4</sup>[Or] [how] [can You tell] [Your] [Brother], [Let] [me take] [The] [Splinter] out [of] [Your] [Eye],’ [and] [guess what!] [The] [Timber] {is} [in] [Your] [Eye]! <sup>5</sup>[Hypocrite]! [Take] [The] [Timber] out [of] [Your] [Eye] [first], [and] [You will] [then] see clearly [to take] [The] [Splinter] out

[of] [Your] [Brother’s] [Eye].”

(Matthew 7:3–5) —my interim translation

The Truth is, if those to whom someone is “explaining” the things I teach are not interested enough to go directly to the source, they aren’t looking for the Truth in the first place. So they fall under the category of the “dogs” and “pigs” that Jesus mentions in this passage:

<sup>6</sup>“[Do] [not] give [what is] [holy] [to The] [Dogs] [nor] [throw] [your] [Pearls] [in front] [of The] [Pigs], [so that not once] [will they trample on] [them] [with] [their] [Feet] [and]—[after turning around]—[rip] [you] apart. <sup>7</sup>[Request {what is holy}], [and] [it will be given] [to you]; [seek {it}], [and] [you will find {it}]; [knock], [and] [it will be opened] [for you]. <sup>8</sup>[For] [everyone] [who] [requests {it}] [is going to receive {it}], [and] [the one who] [seeks {it}] [is going to find {it}], [and] [it will be opened] [for the one who] [knocks]. <sup>9</sup>[Or] [what] [Man] [of] [you] [is there] [who], [should] [his] [Son] request [a Loaf of Bread], [he will] [not] hand [him] [a Stone]? <sup>10</sup>[Or] [should he] [also] request [a Fish], [he will] [not] hand [him] [a Snake]. <sup>11</sup>[Therefore], [if] [you] [who are] [nasty] [know how] [to give] [good] [Presents] [to] [your] [Children], [how much] [more] [will] [your] [Father]—[the One Who is] [in] [The] [Heavens]—give [Good Things] [to those who] [request {them}] of [Him].”

(Matthew 7:6–11) —my interim translation

Look at it logically: If everybody can go directly to the source of the things that someone is trying to “explain” to them, why do they need that person to “share” any of those things with them? And if someone is not interested enough to go looking for more Truth after reading the free booklets VOE distributes, why would anyone think their “explanation” will have any greater impact on them? Those who are looking for the Truth can find it in the booklets we distribute; and when they find it, they invariably come looking for even more. So no one needs to run the risk of incurring the wrath of God by distorting the Truth.

As far as studying Biblical Hebrew is concerned, I am sure there are video courses one can take; but I have no one to recommend. I would only say this: What Jesus said in the following passage applies just as well to those who run off the rails and get into reading arcane meaning into individual letters:

<sup>23</sup>"[Woe to] [you] [Scribes] [and] [Pharisees]—[Hypocrites]! [Because] [you give a tenth] [of The] [Mint] [and] [The] [Dill\*] [and] [The] [Cummin\*], [and] [let go of] [the] [heftier] {parts} [of The] [Law]—[The] [Sentencing] [and] [The] [Mercy] [and] [The] [Belief]. [But] [one has to] [act in accordance with] [These Things] [and] [not] [let go of] Those Things]. <sup>24</sup>[Blind] [Guides] [who] [filter out\*] [The] [Gnat\*], [yet] [swallow up] [The] [Camel]!"

(Matthew 23:23–24) —my interim translation

The point Jesus was making when He said that is, some "teachers" focus on microscopically minuscule things just because they can't "see" the big picture. That applies equally as well to those who claim they can "see" esoteric meaning in this or that Hebrew letter. The Truth is, once you know the Old Testament is nothing more than a history of *the promise* that talks about *what was promised* and *the fulfillment of the promise*, it becomes a whole lot easier to understand. The only problem with that is, as Isaiah puts it in the following passage, "a little bit" of that heretofore sealed-up message "is here" and "a little bit is there." My calling is to put it all together in an easy-to-understand form, which is what I will eventually do. In the meantime, here is the issue each and every one faces:

<sup>9</sup>[To [whom] would He teach] [Knowledge]?  
[And to [whom] would He provide an understanding of]  
[a Message]?

[Those who have been weaned] [from Milk]!  
[{Those} too mature] [for Breasts]!

<sup>10</sup>[Because]:

"[A Command] {refers} [to a Command];  
[A Command] {refers} [to a Command].

[A Line] {refers} [to a Line];

[A Line] {refers} [to a Line].

[A Little Bit] {is} [here];

[A Little Bit] {is} [there]."

<sup>11</sup>[Because]:

[He will speak] [to] [This] [People]  
[With a [sneering] Lip] [and in [another] Tongue],

<sup>12</sup>[What] [He said] [to them]:

"[This] {is} [The Resting Place]!

[You must give rest] [to {the} weary].

[And this] {is} [The Tranquility\*]!"

[But he was [not] willing] [to listen].

<sup>13</sup>[So [The Word] [{of} His Majesty] [to them] will be]:

"[A Command] {refers} [to a Command];

[A Command] {refers} [to a Command].

[A Line] {refers} [to a Line];

[A Line] {refers} [to a Line].

[A Little Bit] [here];

[A Little Bit] [there]."

[In order that] [they walk] [and stumble] [backwards]

[And are broken] [and trapped] [and captured].

<sup>14</sup>[Therefore], [listen to] [The Word] [{of} His Majesty],

[You [Scoffing] Mortal Men]

[Who have control over] [This] [People]

[Who] {is} [in Jerusalem]:

<sup>15</sup>[Because] [you have said]:

"[We have cut] [a Legal Agreement] [with] [Death].

[And [we have made] [a Vision] with] [The Sea of El].

[When] [an [overflowing] Breaker] [passes over],

[it will [not] come to us],

[Because] [we have turned [a Lie] into] [our Shelter]

[And [we have hidden ourselves] in a Falsehood]!"

<sup>16</sup>[Therefore], [this is what] [My Master], [His Majesty],

[has said]:

"[Look! I am] [going to lay] [a Stone] [in Zion]—

[a [tested\*] Stone]!

[A [precious] Corner]

[{of} a [solidly founded] Foundation]!

[The one who believes] [will [not]

make {it} move quickly].

<sup>17</sup>[I will turn] [a Decision Based on the Truth]

[into a Line],

[And a Declaration of Not Guilty] [into a Level].

[Then Hail] [will sweep away\*]

[{the} Shelter] [{of} a Lie],

[And Waters] [will overflow] [a Hiding Place].

<sup>18</sup>[Then [Your Legal Agreement] [with] [Death]

will be covered up].

[And Your Vision] [with] [The Sea of El]

[will [not] stand].

[When] [an [overflowing] Breaker] [passes over],

[Then you will become] [What Is Trampled] [by Him].

<sup>19</sup>[Whenever] [He passes over], [He will take] [you].

[He will pass over] [each and every Morning],

[During {the} Day] [and during {the} Night],

[To provide an understanding of] [a Message]

{that is} [nothing but] [Sheer Terror]!"

(Isaiah 28:9–19) —my interim translation

**Editor:** One of our Monthly Contributors has asked you to explain, and give some examples on, the numerous



*“proof texts” (the Greatest Hits if you will) you have heard used over the years from Pretenders and to show just how dangerous doing that is. He told us:*

*“I know in many of the ‘Name it Claim it Teachings’ one finds today, Deuteronomy Chapter 28, especially on the ‘Blessing’ side (bank account, business being blessed; that wife or husband you have been looking for; cure for cancer and all the ailments; etc.), is used extensively for proof (do this and be blessed). Obviously non-believers and pretenders have been blessed in these areas and they could give a hoot about The Truth! That goes beyond one text but may be a good example to cover for me and other readers. Please show the ‘Lie Side’ vs ‘The Truth’ side if you may. Please give as numerous examples if possible.*

*My reason for asking is to build upon what I have been taught by you so far and to expose more lies that maybe I have not realized and you have. Thank you so much for all you do. You have been an answer to my prayers and many, many cry outs to God for finding the Truth. I was crying out to understand the Truth of the End of the Age and have been blessed with so, so much more. Thanks for the warnings on how to deal with what happens to a person when they truly start to understand The Truth of the Living Word of God. I have had a battle on many fronts but I now truly know and realize what the ‘Armor of God’ is for, as well as seeing Satan as the Father of Lies that he is. I had no clue before studying under you.”*

**Elijah:** I find it extremely difficult to listen to those puffed-up, pedantic penguins who, as Paul says, are “peddling” the Truth for their own benefit rather than to benefit others. So I don’t really know what they are saying. Paul and the other Apostles did what they did because they were called to the task, not like most today who arbitrarily choose to mount the pulpit without any call whatsoever; I am fairly sure some do it because they are too lazy to do anything else:

<sup>14</sup>[But] [Thanks] [to The] [{Living} God] [Who] [always] [makes [us] victorious] [in] [The] [Anointed One] [and] [is going to make [The] [Aroma] [of His] [Knowledge] well-known] [in] [every] [Place] [via] [us].  
<sup>15</sup>[Because] [we are] [a Fragrance] [of The Anointed One] [for The] [{Living} God] [among] [those who] [are being saved] [and] [among] [those who] [are being done away with]; <sup>16</sup>[to the one], [an Aroma] [from] [Death] [to]

[Death], [to the other], [an Aroma] [from] [Life] [to] [Life]. [Who is] [even] [worthy of consideration] [for] [These Things]? <sup>17</sup>[For] [we are] [not] [like] [The] [Many] [who are peddling\*] [The] [Word] [of The] [{Living} God]; [we are speaking {the word of the living God}] [in] [The Anointed One], [but] [as] [from] [Sincerity]—[but] [as] [from] [God]—[right in front] [of God].

(2 Corinthians 2:14–17) —my interim translation

This question mentions the stupidity inherent in giving money to some preacher who tells you that you will get back more in return. The principle on which that lie is built is sound. Jesus did say this:

<sup>1</sup>“[Do [not] judge], [so that] [you are [not] judged].  
<sup>2</sup>[For] [by] [whatever] [Judgment] [you judge], [you will be judged]; [and] [in] [whatever] [Measure] [you measure {something} out], [it will be measured out] [for you].”  
(Matthew 7:1–2) —my interim translation

Luke’s version of that statement is even more compelling:

<sup>37</sup>“[And] [do [not] judge {anyone}], [and] [you will [definitely not] be judged]. [And] [do [not] declare {anyone} guilty] [and] [you will [definitely not] be declared guilty]. [Release {them}], [and] [you will be released].  
<sup>38</sup>[Give], [and] [it will be given] [to you]. [They will give {you}] [an [exceptionally good] Measure]—[pressed down\*], [moved back and forth], [running over\*] [in] [The] [Fold of [your] Garment]. [For] [in whatever] [Measure] [you measure {something} out], [it will be measured out [for you] in return\*].”  
(Luke 6:37–38) —my interim translation

That sounds wonderful, doesn’t it? Give a hundred, get back hundreds more; give a thousand, get back thousands more. Trouble is, the prattlers who preach that pernicious portrayal of a reality that does not exist most likely know it does not exist. If they don’t, they are just as stupid as the people who fall for their tripe. The Truth is to be found in Luke’s account of what Jesus said right before the text above:

<sup>27</sup>“[But] [I tell] [you] [who] [are listening], [love] [your] [Enemies]; [do [exceptionally well] by] [those who] [hate] [you]; <sup>28</sup>[bless] [those who] [curse] [you]; [pray] [for]

[those who] [abusively threaten] [you]. <sup>29</sup>[To the one who] [hits] [You] [on] [The] [Cheek], [offer] [The] [Other] [also]; [and] [you should] [also] [not] withhold] [Your] [Undergarment] [from] [the one who] [takes] [Your] [Overgarment]. <sup>30</sup>[Give] [to everyone] [who requests {something}] of] [You], [and] [do] [not] request that [the things that are] [Yours] be returned] [by] [the one who] [takes {them}]. <sup>31</sup>[And] [just as] [You want] [Men] [to] [do] [for you], [do] [The Same] [for them]. <sup>32</sup>[And] [if] [you love] [those who] [love] [you], [what] [Thanks] [do] [you] get]? [For] [The] [Sinners] [also] [love] [those who] [love] [them]. <sup>33</sup>[For] [even] [if] [you do good things] [for those who] [do good things] [for you], [what] [Thanks] [do] [you] get]? [Even] [The] [Sinners] [do] [The] [same] Thing]. <sup>34</sup>[And] [if] [you lend to {those}] [from] [whom] [you hope] [to receive], [what] [Thanks] [do] [you] get]? [Even] [Sinners] [lend] [to Sinners] [so that] [they may get back] [what is] [equivalent]. <sup>35</sup>[Yet] [love] [your] [Enemies] [and] [do good things]; [and] [lend], [expecting] [nothing] in return\*; [and] [your] [Wage] [will be] [huge], [and] [you will be] [Sons] [of The One Who Is Dwelling On High]; [because] [He] [is] [benevolent] [to] [those who are] [ungrateful] [and] [nasty]. <sup>36</sup>[Be] [compassionate], [just as] [your] [Father] [is] [also] [compassionate].

<sup>37</sup>[And] [do] [not] judge {anyone}, [and] [you will] [definitely not] be judged]. [And] [do] [not] declare {anyone} guilty] [and] [you will] [definitely not] be declared guilty]. [Pardon {them}], [and] [you will be pardoned]. <sup>38</sup>[Give], [and] [it will be given] [to you]. [They will give {you}] [an] [exceptionally good] Measure—[pressed down\*], [moved back and forth], [running over\*] [in] [The] [Fold of] [your] Garment]. [For] [in whatever] [Measure] [you measure {something}] out], [it will be measured out] [for you] in return\*.”

(Luke 6:27–38) —my interim translation

So you see, the concept of giving to get is exactly the opposite of what Jesus taught His disciples; and it runs totally counter to the statement He made next:

<sup>1</sup>[So] [pay] [The] [Declaration of Not Guilty] [you have] close attention] [so that] {you} do [not] do {things}] [in front of] [Men] [in order to] [make sure] [they] get a good look]. [Otherwise], [you are] [not] going to have] [a Wage] [with] [your] [Father]—[the One Who is] [in] [The] [Heavens]. <sup>2</sup>[Therefore], [when] [You make] [a Contribution to the Less Fortunate], [You should] [not]

sound a trumpet] [ahead of] [You], [indeed, just as] [The] [Hypocrites] [do] [in] [The] [Synagogues] [and] [in] [The] [Streets], [so that] [they may be glorified] [by] [Men]. [Without doubt] [I tell] [you], [they are far away from] [their] [Wage]. <sup>3</sup>[But] [while] [You] are making] [a Contribution to the Less Fortunate], [do] [not] let [Your] [Left Hand] know] [what] [Your] [Right Hand] [is doing], <sup>4</sup>[so that] [Your] [Contribution to the Less Fortunate] [may be] [in] [Secret]; [and] [Your] [Father]—[the One Who is] [watching] [in] [Secret]—[will pay] [You] back.”

(Matthew 6:1–4) —my interim translation

The point Jesus is making is, if you do anything for any reason other than pure love, you already have your reward. So much for the nonsensical beliefs of the give-to-get crowd. As for the blessings that they crave so assiduously, Jesus addressed those cravings in the verses right before the ones I quoted from Luke above:

<sup>20</sup>[And] [after] [He] lifted up] [His] [Eyes] [toward] [His] [Disciples], [He says]: “**You who are] [poor] [are fortunate]**, [because] [The] [Kingdom] [of The] [{Living} God] [is] [your own]. <sup>21</sup>**You who] [are hungry] [now] [are fortunate]**, [because] [you will be satiated]. [You who] [are weeping] [now] [are fortunate], [because] [you will laugh]. <sup>22</sup>**You are] [fortunate] [when] [Men] [hate] [you]**, [and] [when] [they set] [you] apart] [and] [ridicule] {you}] [and] [throw] [your] [Name] out] [as] [Something Nasty] [on account] [of The] [Son] [of The] [Man]. <sup>23</sup>[Rejoice] [and] [leap for joy] [on] [That] [Day], [for] [guess what!] [Your] [Wage] {is} [huge] [in] [Heaven]. [For] [their] [Fathers] [acted] [in accordance with] [the] [same] {actions}] [toward The] [Prophets]. <sup>24</sup>**Yet] [woe] [to you] [who are] [wealthy]**, [because] [you are far away from] [The] [Encouragement] [you have]. <sup>25</sup>**Woe to] [you] [who] [are completely satisfied] [now]**, [because] [you will be hungry]. **Woe to] [those who] [are laughing] [now]**, [because] [they will mourn] [and] [weep]. <sup>26</sup>**Woe to] {you}] [when] [all] [Men] [speak] [exceptionally well] of] [you]**, [for] [their] [Fathers] [acted] [in accordance with] [the] [same] {beliefs}] [about The] [False Prophets].”

(Luke 6:20–26) —my interim translation

There appears to be some sort of disconnect between the give-to-get teaching and *The Teaching* that Jesus *handed down* to His disciples. No surprise there. ■

Continued from front cover

things of the world; the rich will assume hardness of heart; the rulers will not help the poor; the powerful will cast off all pity; the judges will remove justice from the just, and, blinded with bribes, they will call in unrighteousness.

And what am I to say with respect to men, when the very elements themselves will disown their order? There will be earthquakes in every city, and plagues in every country; and monstrous thunders and frightful lightnings will burn up both houses and fields. Storms of winds will disturb both sea and land excessively; and there will be unfruitfulness on the earth, and a roaring in the sea, and an intolerable agitation on account of souls and the destruction of men.

There will be signs in the sun, and signs in the moon, deflections in the stars, distresses of nations, intemperateness in the atmosphere, discharges of hail upon the face of the earth, winters of excessive severity, different frosts, inexorable scorching winds, unexpected thunders, unlooked-for conflagrations; and in general, lamentation and mourning in the whole earth, without consolation. For, "because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold."

By reason of the agitation and confusion of all these, the Lord of the universe cries in the Gospel, saying, "Take heed that ye be not deceived; for many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ, and the time draweth near: go ye not therefore after them. But when ye shall hear of wars and commotions, be not terrified: for these things must first come to pass; but the end is not yet by and by." Let us observe the word of the Saviour, how He always admonished us with a view to our security: "Take heed that ye be not deceived: for many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ."

Hippolytus, "Appendix to the Works of Hippolytus," in Roberts and Donaldson (Eds.), *The Ante-Nicene Fathers* (1886), Vol. 5, pp. 243–244.

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