

STRATEGIC LEVEL PRAYER JOURNAL - DECEMBER 2024

PRAYING AND PRAISING GOD.



In the Christian tradition, prayer and praise are a profound expression of worship and reverence towards God.

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6. <https://www.moongiant.com/moonphases/december/2024/>
7. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.1163/j.ctt1w76wv6.11?seq=1>
8. https://lausanne.org/report/sustainable/rising-debt-ratios?utm_source=Lausanne+Movement+List&utm_campaign=f4fbddc2ad-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2024_04_19_09_34_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_602c1cb67d-d06d1e4f37-92126016



May the Lord grant you understanding of this prayer journal as you pray, consequent upon which there will be changes in your life or your prayer group or Family, Church, Nation, and Continent. What is presented are not Jewish Dates or the Jewish calendar but what the LORD instituted which we all see manifested in the movement of the Moon every month. The enemy has always manipulated these bodies for which believers are just becoming aware. This season is also a special edition of revelation which brings a new breath of fresh air without adding to the word of God but confirms it and makes our faith stronger.

You may wish to pray in two ways:-

1. You can pray using the whole journal to pray into the womb of time according to the authority level granted to you by your appointment in the Lord. Expect the prophetic germination [as you saturate the ground and the womb of time with God's ordination] to happen. In any case ensure your seed remains in the ground as investment for the coming year. Determine, and command what this month should deliver to you and what it should not and must Not.
2. You can also use this daily for your prayers AND DEVOTION to prevail at the gate of each day, especially on critical days of intense warfare in the heavens. Remember that the day starts from 6pm for the next 24 hours. If you are in Britain for instance the time will be early hours of the next day in Hong Kong @ your 6pm.
3. This document may seem lengthy, but it shows the effort that was generated in prayer. You can keep it and save it for use in a good way.

Pray that your prophetic faculties will be on the rise and be enlarged and sharp...visions; dreams; interpreting symbols; applying parables; riddles; revelation and predictions; accurate delivery of words of wisdom and words of knowledge; intercessions; interaction with heaven etc.. Divine decrees to cause the future and many other such faculties.

SHAPE YOUR DAY, MONTH AND CONSEQUENTLY YOUR YEARS

Ignorance of what every month holds for you, your family, community, nation, the church and the continent at large has caused many to perish, miss out or not fully access what God has in store for them.

Understanding the heavens and what they signify every month is another very key aspect as we enter this new level of our assignments among the nations. While the kingdom of darkness has used astrology, prognostications, and all manner of demonic methods to control the

activities on earth using the heavens, the church continues in ignorance. They have even employed materialism to blind believers in Jesus Christ, whereas *all things are yours*

We thank God for the many people whom He is raising in different parts of the world to understand what the heavens hold for us every month. As you seek deeper understanding, the Holy Spirit will guide you into greater revelations. Amen.

PRAYING AND PRAISING GOD.

Introduction

Revelation 5:8~And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.

Response to Grace and Mercy

It is matter of joy to all the world, to see that God deals with men in grace and mercy through the Redeemer. He governs the world, not merely as a Creator, but as our Saviour. The harps were instruments of praise; the vials were full of odours, or incense, which signify the prayers of the saints: prayer and praise should always go together.

Christ has redeemed his people from the bondage of sin, guilt, and Satan.

He has not only purchased liberty for them, but the highest honour and preferment; he made them kings and priests; kings, to rule over their own spirits, to their sphere in this world; to overcome the world, and the evil one.

He makes them priests; giving them access to himself, and liberty to offer up spiritual sacrifices.

What words can more fully declare that Christ is, and ought to be worshipped, equally with the Father, by all creatures, to all eternity! Happy those who shall adore and praise in heaven, and who shall for ever bless the Lamb, who delivered and set them apart for himself by his blood.

How, worthy art thou, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, of our highest praises! All creatures should proclaim thy greatness and adore thy majesty.

Having every one of them harps. For praise. (The grammatical construction seems to include both living creatures and elders.)

And golden vials (bowls) full of odours. These symbolize the prayers of the saints. *The imagery represents these heavenly assistants presenting these in heaven in behalf of the saints*

on earth. The comforting thought is that these prayers are not lost, but are presented at the throne of God and before the Lamb.

Looking more closely at this verse it says “Having (*Grk~echontes*)- Ps 33:2; 43:4; 150:3. *Take a psalm, and bring hither the timbrel, the pleasant harp with the psaltery. Blow up the trumpet in the new moon, in the time appointed, on our solemn feast day. For this was a statute for Israel, and a law of the God of Jacob. Psalms 81:2-4.*

"Holding." A harp (*Grk~kitharan*). Old word, the traditional instrument (lyre or similar to a guitar) for psalms (Ps 33:2; 98:5, etc.). Golden bowls (*phialas chrusâs*). Broad shallow saucers, old word, in N.T. it is only in Rev 5:8; 15:7; 16:1-4,8,10,12,17; 17:1; 21:9. Of incense (*thumiamatôn*). Old word from *thumiaô*, to burn incense (Luke 1:9), as in Luke 1:10. Which are (*hai eisin*). "Which (these bowls of incense) symbolize the prayers of the saints as in Ps 141:2; Luke 1:10.

Church History

Valeriy A. Alikin in his book-(*The Earliest History of the Christian Gathering: Origin, Development and Content of the Christian Gathering in the First to Third Centuries.*) says that there was a culture of singing at festive group meals and thus affected the early church. As to singing at their community meals, they conformed to the practice of their contemporaries.

Since there are almost no sources that inform us directly about the musical practices of Christians in the first two or three centuries, such as musical notations, 12 manuals for singing and making music, or instruments played, information about their singing and music has to be gleaned from literary sources.

Sources about singing by Christians in the first three centuries show that it took place mostly after the communion and exhortation. From the writings of Paul to the Christian gathering in Corinth, it appears that in his time singing in the Christian gatherings was already a normal activity. He writes that when Christians gathered together, each of them had a psalm to sing. How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying (1 Cor. 14:26).

Again Paul writing to the Ephesians admonishes his readers not to get drunk but “to sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts.” Eph. 5:19. He elaborates on this in Col.3:16~ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

The apostle refers to the singing during the Christian meetings: he encourages his addressees to use their time spent in the gatherings singing rather than drinking, as it was in their time and day. Another possible reminiscence of the custom of singing in the Christian assembly is found in James 5:13b where Christians are advised to sing songs of praise when they are cheerful (*Is any merry? let him sing psalms.*)

The Patterns of Scripture are very compelling

In Acts 16:24-26~ *Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks.*

And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.

And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed.

Please quickly observe:

(1.) that the Christian has the sources of his happiness within him. External circumstances cannot destroy his peace and joy. In a dungeon he may find as real happiness as on a throne. On the cold earth, beaten and bruised, he may be as truly happy as on a water bed .

(2.) The enemies of Christians cannot destroy their peace. They may incarcerate the body, but they cannot bind the spirit. They may exclude from earthly comforts, but they cannot shut them out from the presence and sustaining grace of God.

(3.) We see the value of a good conscience. Nothing else can give peace; and amidst the wakeful hours of the night, whether in a dungeon or on a bed of sickness, it is of more value than all the wealth of the world.

(4.) We see the inestimable worth of faith of Christ. It fits for all scenes; supports in all circumstances; upholds by day or by night; inspires the soul with confidence in God; and puts into the lips the songs of praise and thanksgiving.

(5.) We have here a sublime and holy scene, which sin and infidelity could never furnish. What more sublime spectacle has the earth witnessed than that of scourged and incarcerated men, suffering from unjust and cruel inflictions, and anticipating still greater sorrows; yet, with a calm mind, a pure conscience, a holy joy, pouring forth their desires and praises at midnight, into the ear of the God, who always hears prayer! The darkness, the stillness, the loneliness, all give sublimity to the scene, and teach us how invaluable is the privilege of access to the throne of mercy in this suffering world.

They prayed, and sang praises. Never before had such sounds at midnight been heard from that inner dungeon. Bound, fettered, tortured, the spirit still had liberty, could pray, and praise God. God heard them, too, for there was a vibration and release of such energy that set captives free.... Follow the heavenly and apostolic patterns for your life. Amen.

I.D. Lawon

27/11/2024

Rising Debt Burdens

Bob Doll & Timothy Wong

The Burgeoning Debt Crisis

Global debt as a percentage of global GDP has moved up from roughly 100 percent in 1970 to well over 250 percent today. And the rate of increase is accelerating (see Chart 1). Global government debt rose more than 10 percent in 2022 driven primarily by the U.S., Japan and China, but with the vast majority of countries continuing to increase borrowing. Debt service costs increased by more than 15 percent as interest rates rose. The accumulation of public debt since 2007 is largely attributable to the two major economic crises governments have faced—first the global financial crisis, and then the COVID-19 pandemic.

The post-crisis wave of debt buildup has been unprecedented in its size, speed, and reach in emerging markets and developing economies. Similar waves in the past half-century led to widespread financial crises in these economies. Accordingly, policymakers must remain vigilant about the risks posed by record-high debt levels.

In 2020, the world observed the largest one-year debt surge since World War II, with global debt rising to USD 226 trillion as the world was hit by a global health crisis and a deep recession. Debt was already elevated going into the crisis, but now governments must navigate a world of record-high public and private debt levels.

Debt dynamics, however, differ markedly across countries. Advanced economies and China accounted for more than 90 percent of the USD 28 trillion debt surge in 2020. These countries were able to expand public and private debt during the pandemic thanks to low interest rates, the actions of central banks (including large purchases of government debt), and well-developed financial markets. But most developing economies are on the opposite side of the financing divide, facing limited access to funding and often higher borrowing rates.

In 2020, the world observed the largest one-year debt surge since World War II

The shocks experienced in recent years have had a severe impact on low and lower-middle income developing countries. This not only impacts the past but also poses a future threat. The world's poorest nations, home to a significant portion of the global poor, are at risk of facing a lost decade. This would be a humanitarian disaster and a significant moral failure for the global community, especially developed nations. Urgent action is needed, starting with addressing the looming debt crisis.

According to the IMF, approximately 15 percent of low-income countries are already in debt distress, and an additional 45 percent are at high risk of experiencing the same. Among emerging markets, about 25 percent are also facing high risk and borrowing conditions resembling defaults. Countries like Sri Lanka, Ghana, and Zambia have already defaulted, and many more are likely to follow suit.

Unfortunately, leading economies such as the U.S. have their own debt problems to grapple with. Federal expenditures grew 35 percent in 2022 and are projected to grow by another 35 percent in 2023. Relative to the size of the U.S. economy, interest costs in 2030 will reach 3.3 percent of gross domestic product (GDP), exceeding the previous post-World War II high of 3.2 percent of GDP, which was recorded in 1991. Within 10 years, net interest costs will exceed

federal spending on crucial programs like Medicaid and defense (see Chart 2). Spending for net interest will become the largest ‘program’ in the U.S. federal budget within the next 30 years, outpacing spending on Medicare and Social Security. Within ten years, the U.S. federal government will spend more on interest costs than it has historically spent on research and development (R&D), infrastructure, and education combined. Rising interest payments can crowd out other priorities in the federal budget and lead to a cycle of higher deficits, growing debt, and even more interest payments in the future.

The U.S. national debt is higher as a share of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) than at any time since World War II and is on course to breach that record. This does not mean there is no proper time to borrow. In fact, deficit spending helped to prevent an economic catastrophe and support the country through a pandemic in the recent COVID-19 crisis. However, even this justified borrowing comes with some consequence, and much of the recent borrowing before and since the COVID crisis was enacted for political rather than purely economic justification.

In the developed world especially, deficits are caused mainly by predictable structural factors: an aging baby-boom generation, rising healthcare costs, and a tax system that does not bring in enough money to pay for what the government has promised its citizens.



Consequences of Debt Burden on Governments

What are the main consequences of the growing debt burden?

- Decreased savings and income
- Higher interest costs
- Lack of flexibility
- Risks of a new crisis

High debt levels:

- Threaten economic vitality
- Place a strain on the budget
- Create geopolitical challenges and risks

- Make responding to new emergencies more challenging
Are unfair to younger and future generations.

The interest on debt immediately reduces the money available for other spending programs. Advocates of certain benefits will call for a reduction in spending in other areas as it increases. A growing debt burden becomes a big problem for everyone in the long term.

If long-term fiscal challenges remain unaddressed, the economic environment weakens as confidence suffers, access to capital is reduced, interest costs crowd out key investments in our future, the conditions for growth deteriorate, and nations are put at greater risk of economic crisis. If long-term fiscal imbalances are not addressed, the future economy will be diminished, with fewer economic opportunities for individuals and families and less fiscal flexibility to respond to future crises. As federal debt mounts, governments will spend more of their budget on interest costs, increasingly crowding out public investments. As more federal resources are diverted to interest payments, there will be less available to invest in areas that are important for economic growth.

‘Intergenerational justice demands that one generation must not benefit or suffer unfairly at the cost of another.’

The fundamental problem with government debt is that it requires future taxes that slow economic growth and reduce potential welfare. Calls for intergenerational justice capture this concept, but only imperfectly, as they do not specify the nature of what is just or lay bare the essential tax issues. While some policy analysts characterize the public financing choice as between taxes and debt, the reality is that the choice is between taxes today and taxes tomorrow—and taxation has efficiency costs that are detrimental in all but the most extreme cases.

Governments borrowing money means that more treasury securities are issued and compete against securities issued by the private sector. The government’s need to borrow will eventually exceed the savings available, and even though more households and businesses are purchasing treasury securities, national savings will reach a low point in comparison to the size of the federal debt. Treasury securities with high interest rates will make saving more appealing than investing for businesses. The private sector will stop seeking investments that can generate growth due to the incentive to save. This includes the lower amount of capital available once individuals stop investing in securities offered by businesses due to treasury securities being more attractive. This lack of investment will result in low productivity and create an environment where work produces little value and wages decrease.

Federal borrowing competes for funds in a nation’s capital markets, thereby raising interest rates and crowding out new investment in business equipment and structures. Entrepreneurs face a higher cost of capital, potentially stifling innovation and slowing the advancement of new breakthroughs that could improve lives. Growing debt also has a direct effect on the economic opportunities available. If high levels of debt crowd out private investments in capital goods, workers would have less to use in their jobs, which would translate to lower productivity and, therefore, lower wages. Higher interest rates resulting from increased federal borrowing would make it harder for families to buy homes, finance car payments, pay for college or even put food on the table. Fewer education and training opportunities stemming from lower investment could leave workers without the skills to keep up with demands of a more technology-based, global economy.

Christian voices in the public square generally warn against the potential damages from too much debt, saying things like, ‘Intergenerational justice demands that one generation must not benefit or suffer unfairly at the cost of another.’ There is also a strong plea to avoid reductions in government programs that benefit the poor.

Consequences of Debt Burden on the Church

In the U.S. and many other (especially developed) parts of the world, giving to churches has fallen, often significantly. The generation that was most generous is passing away. This generation gives as much as half for typical evangelical ministries—locally, nationally, and globally. In his book, *The Great Evangelical Recession* by John S. Dickerson, the author argues, ‘From young, thriving and conservative ministries to established evangelical mainstays of all stripes, the financial strain of the Great Evangelical Recession is beginning to show in desperate funding pleas from all manners of ministries.’¹ While there are many causes, debt and its consequences is certainly one of them.

Some Christian commentators maintain that indebtedness is viewed as a judgement of God on rebellious nations (eg, Deuteronomy 15:6-7 and Deuteronomy 28: 43-44). Jesus says, in the parable of talents in Matthew 25:29, ‘For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.’ The point of the parable, reflecting a truth regarding the kingdom of God, is summarized in verse 29 (as well as in Matthew 13:12) and indicates that those who have productive assets and use them wisely will be given more while those that do use productive assets wisely will have their assets confiscated. Ultimately, the parable is not about asset returns and the distribution of wealth in a capitalist system. Rather, the spiritual truth communicated is that the kingdom of God will be given to those with spiritual insight, and who understand the intention of the master, while those who do not understand the master’s intention will not be allowed to participate in the kingdom. The point is not about debt, assets, and their use, but rather about understanding the master and obeying his wishes. Nevertheless, the parable explicitly uses the concept of debt to make this spiritual point. In the process, we are led to understand that wise use of debt for productive purposes and its repayment can be likened to God’s intentions with regard to his kingdom.

Addressing Debt Burden

We need to understand these issues if we are to seek the ‘welfare of the city’ (Jeremiah 29:7). The consequences and timeline for excessive government debt include: more debt issuance, higher inflation, financial repression, increased taxes, and spending restraint (reduced benefits).

The only way to lower deficits is to implement higher rates and reduce federal spending. This situation will result in a lower disposable income, whether high tax rates reduce paychecks and the incentive to work, or whether a future administration cuts expenses by reducing social programs or other ‘entitlement’ benefits.

Monetary policy has appropriately shifted focus to rising inflation and inflation expectations. While an increase in inflation, and nominal GDP, helps reduce debt ratios in some cases, this is unlikely to sustain a significant decline in debt. As central banks have raised interest rates to prevent persistently high inflation, borrowing costs rise. In many emerging markets, policy rates have already increased and further rises are expected. A significant tightening of financial conditions is heightening the pressure on the most highly indebted governments, households, and firms. If the public and private sectors are forced to deleverage simultaneously, growth

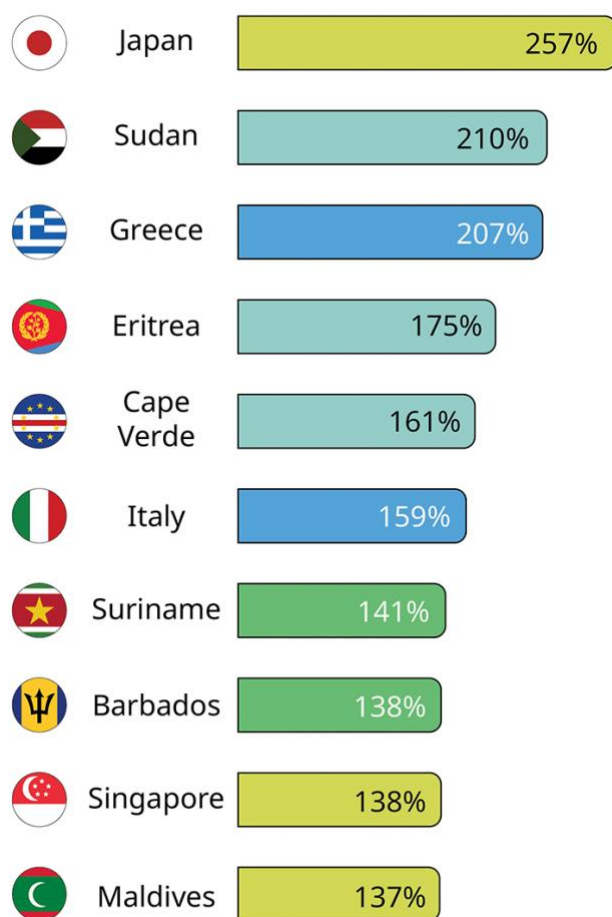
prospects will suffer. The uncertain outlook and heightened vulnerabilities make it critical to achieve the right balance between policy flexibility, nimble adjustment to changing circumstances, and commitment to credible and sustainable medium-term fiscal plans. Such a strategy would both reduce debt vulnerabilities and facilitate the work of central banks to contain inflation.

Robust macroeconomic, financial and structural policies can help countries strike the right balance between the costs and benefits of debt accumulation. Such policies are also critical to help reduce the likelihood of financial crises and alleviate their impact, if they erupt. Although many emerging markets and developing economies have better policy frameworks now than during previous debt waves, there remains significant room for improvement.

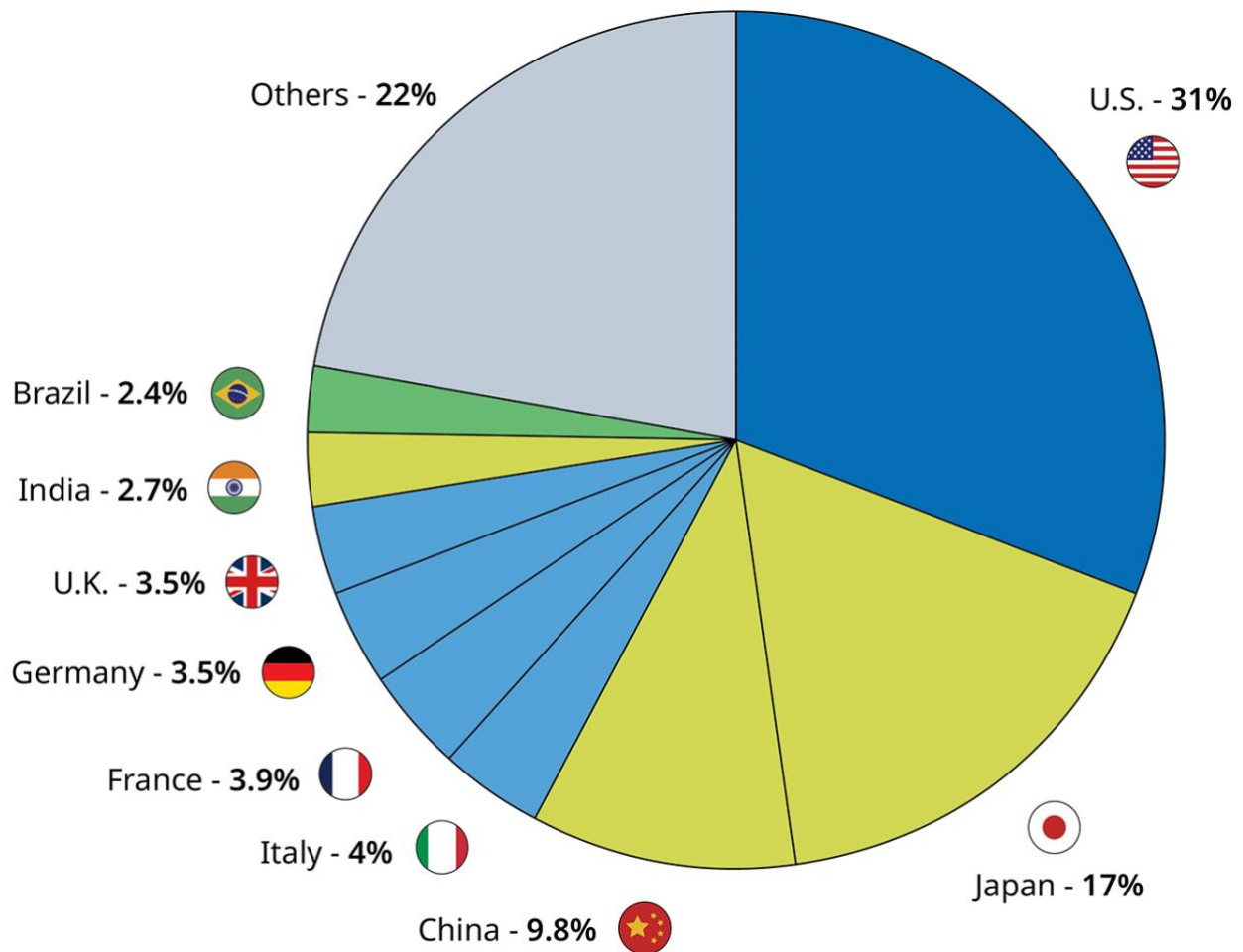
The war in Ukraine is adding risks to unprecedented levels of public borrowing while the pandemic is still straining many government budgets. The situation highlights the urgent need for authorities to undertake reforms, including governance reforms, to improve debt transparency and strengthen debt management policies and frameworks to reduce risks.



Becoming Informed.



Source: World Economic Outlook Report, Oct. 2021



Source: International Monetary Fund (IMF); Visual Capitalist, 2019

Many educators have been advocates for increasing the awareness about the issues of debt and consumption. This approach to learning is slowly having an impact as the concept of voluntary simplicity has become an integral part of many people's philosophies of living. The idea that consumerism makes life easier is increasingly challenged when individuals learn the impact that debt accumulation can have on their welfare.

Christian voices on the public policy issue of government debt must be better informed on the basic economics of debt and its consequences.

Christian voices on the public policy issue of government debt must be better informed on the basic economics of debt and its consequences. That requires a foundational understanding of how Scripture views debt. Scripture figures debt as sin, which implies that debt avoidance is important. Debt acquisition is not neutral. It is not merely a practical tool of economic policy that can be rationally used whenever advantageous. Debt brings economic consequences that must be dealt with, and hence debt avoidance is advisable. Scripture also figures the reality that debt must be repaid. That repayment is not likely to be neutral in its economic effect. Long-run productivity and economic growth are affected by intergenerational redistribution.

Given that Scripture figures in multiple ways the detrimental effects of debt accumulation, then debt reduction deserves more careful attention by Christian commentators. The current fiscal

situation in many advanced economies is not sustainable with long-term debt to GDP ratio forecasts rising to historic levels. Structural deficits must be reduced, requiring primary surpluses on balance over time.

Impact of Debt

Money is something we deal with every day. We are either working to earn money, spending money, planning how to spend money, or using something on which we have spent money. The way we spend our money is an expression of our faith. We spend our money, time and thoughts on the things which are most important to us. However, many churches do not talk about personal finances unless there is a need for increased giving. Yet, the spiritual impact is clear:

- Financial challenges can ruin marriages.
- Vocational choices can too often be about money.
- Consumerism can be an addiction.
- People feel like they cannot be generous givers because their debt is overwhelming.
- Overwhelming debt can make people feel isolated, embarrassed and alone. Debt can make people feel depressed and powerless.

Christians often talk about the physical and the spiritual as if they are two separate entities—but they are connected. Being worn down physically has an adverse spiritual effect. When we are weakened by lack of sleep, illness, or hunger, it affects our spiritual outlook and ability to make wise decisions. In the same way, we cannot compartmentalize our financial management from our spiritual life. Not only can we get a clear picture of our spiritual priorities from our financial habits, but the decisions we make with our resources also impact our own spiritual sensitivity. As our debt grows, it impacts our ability to hear and respond to God in these four ways:

1. *Debt makes us feel poorer than we are*

Pastor Mark Batterson said, ‘When God blesses you financially, don’t raise your standard of living. Raise your standard of giving.’ That is difficult when you live in a culture that is always encouraging you to live beyond your means. You do not want to end up in a position where your financial perspective and God’s are entirely at odds. He may have blessed you with an income that allows you to bless others, and there is a problem if you leverage that income in a way that makes you feel impoverished.

2. *Debt discourages generosity*

The natural consequence of always feeling financially strapped is that we do not have the breathing room necessary to be generous. Instead of feeling the joy of giving sacrificially, we find ourselves in a position of giving out of obligation and insufficiency. Outstanding debt infringes upon our ability to give freely and openly.

3. *Debt affects our view of God’s provision*

In the Lord’s Prayer, Jesus encourages us to pray for our daily bread (Matthew 6:11; Luke 11:3). In the same way that God daily distributed manna in the wilderness (Exodus 16:1-36), Jesus encourages us to look for his daily provision in our lives. After all, God does not always provide everything in advance. What happens if you already owe tomorrow’s allotment of bread to someone else? Suddenly God’s provision seems inadequate. We find ourselves having to ask God for twice as much bread tomorrow because of the decision we made yesterday. If God does not provide, it feels like he has let us down.

4. *Debt can make obedience difficult*

Every Christian wants to be able to respond to promptings and conviction. If moved by a global, national or local tragedy, Christians want to give when they feel led. Debt can create dissonance. It is another factor that needs to be taken into account when you feel led to meet someone else's need. Imagine feeling a very distinct call to the mission field or to join a ministry where you need to raise your own support. No matter how badly you want to be obedient, you are still responsible to the credit card company, retail establishment, or bank that you owe money to. Too much debt can become a chain that holds you in place and an impediment to following God's call. You want to avoid using credit cards for things that lose their value once you own them, or at least pay your credit cards off monthly so that they do not accrue into a mountain of debt that limits your freedom and negatively impacts how you perceive your worth.

Freedom from Debt

How you spend your money is an indication of how you integrate your faith into every aspect of your life. Getting out of debt means intentionally deciding not to define yourself based on what you own. That's not to say that spending is inherently wrong, or that treating yourself to some nice things is bad. But how much you buy depends on how much you can afford, and that is a reflection of your values. It is amazing how content we can be living a very simple life if we would only make the effort to do it.

Getting out of debt means intentionally deciding not to define yourself based on what you own.

People who have fought their way out of debt say not owing money gives them a sense of joy, freedom and gratitude to God. They live out their understanding that everything they have is a gift from God. With that understanding comes thankfulness and peace, along with a sense that God will provide for them in good times and bad. Everything that we have, including our money and possessions ultimately comes from God, not our own efforts. When you realize this, it suddenly becomes a lot easier to escape from the grasp of consumerism and quit trying to fill the void by accumulating more stuff.

Financial freedom will also result in the ability to contribute financially to the work of God's kingdom. The global body of Christ can play a significant role in offering a solution by simply exercising better stewardship of financial resources. The Centre for the Study of Global Christianity at the Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary estimates that the total personal income of Christians globally is USD 53 trillion as of mid-2022. Giving to Christian causes is USD 896 billion or 1.7 percent of total income. This is well below the 10 percent tithe suggested in scripture. Of this amount, only USD 52 billion is given to global foreign missions. There is a great need for greater financial resources to be released to complete the Great Commission.



Potential Future Implications

From a financial standpoint, the world in which we live may be unsustainable, and current financial systems may not stand. Several key implications for the Great Commission follow:

Reliance on Volunteers and Discipleship

With less economic growth and higher taxes due to the debt crisis, the church (and related ministries) will need to rely less on paid professionals and more on trained volunteers. The key is faithful men and women who have found life in Christ. Could it be that the solution is disciples, not dollars? We need to awaken and nurture spiritual gifting in non-staff servant leaders as we seek to accomplish the ‘good works’ God has prepared in advance for us to do (Ephesians 2:10). Some financial problems are not a shortage of funds, but a shortage of commitment.

Fresh Inroads

Emerging countries are struggling with the impact of the debt crisis and the resulting greater hardships for their citizens. For example, the 10/40 Window refers to a geographical region between 10 degrees and 40 degrees north latitude, spanning across Africa, the Middle East, and Asia. This region is characterized by significant challenges, including poverty, political instability, and limited access to basic services. The debt crisis in the 10/40 Window has emerged as a critical issue with severe implications for these countries. The 10/40 nations also have a high concentration of unreached people groups, and collectively represent the final frontier for world missions.

The debt crisis in the 10/40 Window has serious consequences for the citizens living in these countries. It can lead to reduced social spending, inadequate healthcare systems, compromised education, and diminished infrastructure development. Moreover, the debt burden hampers the ability of these nations to respond to other pressing challenges, such as climate change, conflict resolution, and poverty eradication.

Can the global body of Christ rise up in a coordinated manner to offer sustainable solutions funded by the generous giving of the saints in the developed world? Generous missions giving and strategic mobilization of kingdom resources could generate fresh inroads for the gospel in some of the poorest and least reached nations of the world.

Call to Steward Resources

As the church becomes obedient in stewarding its resources, God will pour out greater blessing upon her, resulting in a virtuous cycle of provision and blessing flowing to the nations. As God says in Malachi 3:10, “Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my temple. If you do,” says the Lord of Heaven’s Armies, “I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won’t have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put me to the test!”.’ May it be so!

Resources

- *Risks and Threats from Deficits and Debt*, Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget
- <https://www.crfb.org/papers/risks-and-threats-deficits-and-debt>
- *Global Waves of Debt – Causes and Consequences*, World Bank Group
<https://thedocs.worldbank.org/en/doc/279031577823091771-0050022019/original/GlobalWavesofDebtfullreport.pdf>
- *The Global Outlook for Government Debt Over the Next 25 Years: Implications for the Economy and Public Policy*, Peterson Institute for International Economics <https://www.piie.com/bookstore/global-outlook-government-debt-over-next-25-years-implications-economy-and-public-policy>

FULLSTATURE COLLEGE OF THE BIBLE AND MISSIONS

WISDOM TO PREPARE for the Work with Eternal Benefits for all.

We must think deeply about making Jesus known. He has given us the Holy Spirit, the Bible and many preachers but we need to be trained in our minds on how to be effective for the Lord.

Experience has shown that if we just count on our love and passion to make inroads in the mission field or as pastors or in ministry, we’d likely become burnt out and quit very soon. Instead, God gave us the wisdom to prepare. The interest you expressed at the AWMC24, must remain burning and you have opportunity to be trained.

If you just show up in ministry, hearts full of love for God and eager to make big changes for His Kingdom, you will likely be back home early, burnt out and disappointed.

Instead, God gives us the wisdom to slow down and discover how we could effectively work on His behalf, using the talents, skills, and education He blessed us with.

God cut us out for this work, but we are presently rough and unpolished. **Fullstature College of the Bible and Missions (FCBM) will help take out the raw edges, sand out the splinters and prepared you for God to add the varnish, readying us to begin your work. Don’t get**

us wrong we have always been a little unfinished, but God has helped us to help others since 1994. In this work, we will always need to be learning, growing, and adapting.

Missionary Challenge

The countries that have received the greatest amount of Western missionary attention over two centuries contain the greatest number of unreached and unreached people groups: China and India (which once included Pakistan and Bangladesh).

PROPHETIC PRAYER FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, 2024

David and others prophesied often in the Psalms about the whole earth experiencing salvation. These were prophecies about the kingdom. David, who was a king, prophesied often about the greater kingdom of his Seed, Christ, the Messiah. Some of those prophecies in the Book of Psalms are shown below:

- *“You are My Son ... I will give You the nations for Your inheritance” (Ps. 2:7–8).*
- *“All the families of the nations shall worship before You” (Ps. 22:27).*
- *“The earth is the LORD’S” (Ps. 24:1).*
- *“According to Your name, O God, so is Your praise to the ends of the earth” (Ps. 48:10).*
- *“You who are the confidence of all the ends of the earth” (Ps. 65:5).*
- *“All nations whom You have made shall come and worship before you, O Lord” (Ps. 86:10).*
- *“The nations shall fear the name of the LORD, and all the kings of the earth Your glory” (Ps. 102:15).*
- *“Be exalted, O God, above the heavens, and Your glory above all the earth” (Ps. 108:5).*

The vision of the prophets was always global. The kingdom would not be limited to Israel but would encompass all nations. The scribes and teachers understood this but did not understand how it would be accomplished. It would come through the death of the Messiah, the descent of the Holy Spirit and the preaching of the gospel.

When reading these scriptures there should be no doubt of the plan and purpose of God. This purpose comes through the church, the new-creation people, who will become a global phenomenon. The church could not be limited to Jerusalem. The Book of Acts is the story of the church and kingdom breaking out of the framework of the old covenant and breaking forth throughout the whole earth.

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Adopt-A-Missionary- A Missions' Strategy

<https://www.fullstature.net/adopt-a-missionary>

...a strategy for loving the missionary family as well as the people groups, they serve

Adopt-A-Missionary is a mission strategy that has gained momentum in missions over the years. What makes this strategy different is its focus. Historically, churches have focused on countries, and mission agencies have focused their attention on people groups. Adopt-A-Missionary focuses *on missionary families, or what we can call message bearers.*

For 5 years, my wife (of blessed memory) and I served as missionary representatives to the Kenyan peoples of East Africa. We divided the nation of Kenya into 6. Working with the missionary on ground we had a plan to evangelise the nation. We raised teams of two by two from Nigeria and planted 6 churches throughout the country. In the last 29 years + the FMI missionary teams have been helped by God to open the gospel among 40 unreached people groups. Our FMC churches faithfully prayed and the missionaries that we served with, and the church has supported them financially.

In 1990 for example, we were relocated to Kano with two major tribes- the Kanawas and Magusawas. We were led of the Lord to pay more attention to *tribal missions in 1993, where the gospel has never been heard while maintaining a church base.* Thankfully, our churches have continued to pray for and support the mission's effort with this strategic ministry.

ADOPT-A-Missionary Defined

What then does it mean to Adopt-A-missionary? It means committing yourself as an individual, fellowship group, local congregation, denomination, or mission agency to pray for and commit resources to win souls, establish believers, administrate the work within a specific people group through a missionary family or families. This commitment is continued until the believers in that people group can reach the rest of their people without outside (cross-cultural) assistance.

We are agents of God praying, giving, and serving to see an adopted family reach out to bring sinners into God's family. This is the true meaning of Adopting a missionary family. One day this will be accomplished, and every tribe, tongue, people, and nation will give glory to God around His throne (Rev. 5:9).

Adopt a Missionary Family

Fullstature Missions International is committed to the work of missions and has developed a ministry to bring into focus the Great Commission (Matt 28:19-20) set forth by Christ and to support missionary families need. We ask that your family prayerfully consider adopting a missionary family to be a blessing and to be blessed. After you have made an adoption, we encourage you can send your missionary family an email to share about your family and to ask them to share with you. The FMI becomes a bridge to help people you may never know or

meet. You can reach out to the missionary during Holidays, birthdays, or anniversaries or just at any time. Commit to lift your missionary up in prayer. (Phil. 6)

It is also our desire to support more missionaries through our ministry budget than we currently can do. The missionaries we support currently are under-supported. In other words, the support we grant is not adequate. In most cases, we are nearly able (with Naira) to provide what will keep body and soul together leaving projects in the field undone. This is where you pause and do something.

It is our goal to ensure that every Missionary, supported through, (what we call) the General Fund which includes the “Faith Promise Offering” (FPO), are missionaries we, as a ministry want to support.

The money these Missionaries receive is totally dependent on what is given by the individual or families who have adopted them.

Example: Missionary “Felix” may have two families in First Baptist Church which chose to adopt him. They do so for a combined support of \$200 per month, one for \$75 per month and one for \$125 per month. Should the family who chose to support Missionary “Felix” for \$125 per month be unable to do so for any reason, Missionary “Felix” would only receive \$75 for that month. There will be a “shortfall” and the family who was unable to give what they had purposed to give would not be contacted and asked, “Where is your contribution”.

If you have a desire to support a Missionary, please feel free to fill out a “Adopt-A-Missionary Request Form” and return it to our ministry office.

Build a Relationship

Develop a relationship with your adopted missionary family. Learn about their ministry and their ups and downs so that you know when to Praise God with them and when to lift them up in prayer. Being a missionary can have very hard times and there is great comfort when a missionary knows that God is always there and that there are people supporting them at every step.

Faith Promise

In addition to your commitment to get to know and pray for your adopted missionary, you may consider supporting your missionary financially. Among some of the greatest difficulties that missionaries face is having their financial needs met. Missionaries typically spend a significant amount of time raising monies to support their ministries which in turn reduces the amount of time out in the field.

Would you prayerfully consider financially committing to a missionary? If you agree please fill out the form below and send separately.

Thank you.



Missionary Adoption Promise Form

Fullstature Missions International Conference Centre for the Nations, 4 Parliament Highway, Secretariat

Donor Information (please print or type)

Click this link to complete online-

<https://www.fullstature.net/adopt-a-missionary>

Name _____

Billing address _____

City, _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ . _____

WhatsApp| _____ . Email _____

Type Donor individual church group church other:

Promise Information: I want to donate to General Fund Adopt a Missionary I (we) promise by faith a total of \$ _____ to be paid: one time monthly

quarterly yearly for a length of: three years four years five years.

This gift will start _____ (date) and end _____ (date), with an option to continue. I (we) plan to make this contribution in the form of: cash check credit card other.

If you have already been given a missionary name list here:

_____ Please contact me by

phone email if my missionary leaves the field

I am also interested in:

Account Name: - Fullstature Missions International

Account Number: - 1011822382

Please send SMS or WhatsApp to +234-802 333 9638 or email: fmi@fullstature.net to notify us of your donation. *The Lord blesses us. Amen.*

IS THIS THE MONTH OF YOUR BIRTH?
USE REVELATION KNOWLEDGE WELL AND AGAIN!!



New Moon
December 1
06:21 UTC

First Quarter
December 8
15:27 UTC

Full Moon
December 15
09:02 UTC

Last Quarter
December 22
22:18 UTC

New Moon
December 30
22:27 UTC

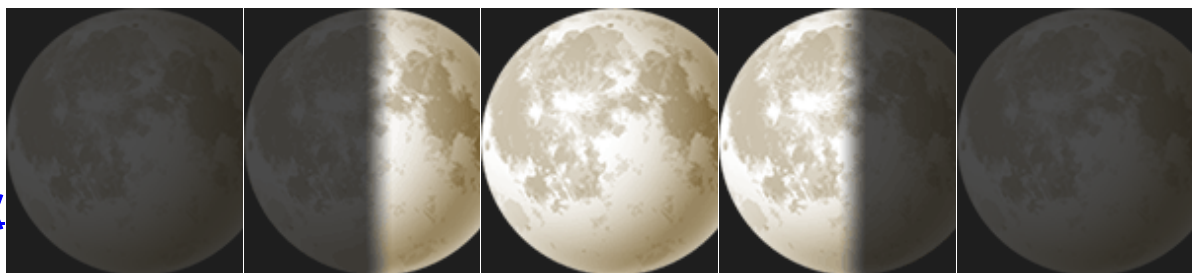
Even if this is not your month of birth, pray into the day of your birth on a weekly basis (that is the weekday in which you were born). Take time at regular basis to be praying for yourself and prophesying over your own life. Speak into the foundations of your life and prophesy good things.

Thank Him for your specific day of birth. Declare that day blessed.

- Thank Him that He ordained that you will be made manifest on earth on a specific day in that month at a specific hour and minute.
- Thank Him that He has a purpose for your life, and it will be fulfilled.
- Ask Jehovah to forgive you where you have for one reason or another, ignored or rejected to recognize your day of birth.
- Thank Jehovah for the day of your conception. (Psa 139:13)
- Thank Jehovah that when He thought of you, he already thought of your entire life. Thank Him that He did not leave anything to chance. (Isa 49:1)
- Thank Him that he knew exactly what your redemptive purpose was going to be. (Psa. 139:16)
- Pray that He will reveal the original you more and more as you enter another year of your life. (Psa 139:13-15)
- Pray that He will restore the heavenly label, and the heavenly name He gave you before you were conceived. (Jer 1:5).
- Speak into the foundations of your life and prophesy good things.

- Prophecy that you will live and not die prematurely in any area of your life. Your family will live, the work of your hand will live and grow from strength to strength. Deut. 33:6, Psa. 27:13, 118:17
- Prophecy and proclaim the blessing of Levi upon your life as a priest unto Jehovah (2 Pet 2:9, Deut 33:8-11)
- Prophecy and proclaim the blessing of Benjamin upon your life Deut. 33:12
- Prophecy the blessing of the wisdom of Issachar in every area of life. Wisdom to establish the work of your hands, your family, as you grow a year older 1 Chron 12:32, Deut.33:18b-19, Pro 24:3-4
- Prophecy the blessing of Dan concerning your role as a leader. Prophecy over your inheritance that Jehovah will indeed ensure you leave an inheritance for your descendants. Deut 33:20-21, Psa 16:5-6.
- Prophecy the blessing of Joseph. Speak to the earth and declare that the earth will bring forth its best for you in this new year. Prophecy to the heavens to declare the glory of Jehovah over your life every day of this new year. Deut 33:13-17, Lev 26:4-5, Hos 2:21-22, Psalm 19:1-2, Isa 55:12
- Prophecy that you will grow in your spirit man into a matured son so you can receive your inheritance. Wherever you go in this new year, creation will experience release from frustration. Rom 8:19-20, Gal 4:1-2
- Praise Jehovah that your birthday marks the entry into another season of Jubilee. Thank Jehovah that immediately you were born, you cried out prophetically blowing your own jubilee cornet, and prophetically rejoiced in yourself. Ask Him to give you joy no matter your circumstance, to rejoice on this day.

SUBDUING KINGDOMS IN THE LAST DAYS



<u>New Moon</u>	<u>First Quarter</u>	<u>Full Moon</u>	<u>Last Quarter</u>	<u>New Moon</u>
<u>December 1</u>	<u>December 8</u>	<u>December 15</u>	<u>December 22</u>	<u>December 30</u>
<u>06:21 UTC</u>	<u>15:27 UTC</u>	<u>09:02 UTC</u>	<u>22:18 UTC</u>	<u>22:27 UTC</u>

NOTICE THAT MONTH HAS A DOUBLE NEW MOON - MEANING THE STAR GAZERS WILL DO A DOUBLE CHANTING AGAINST THE RIGHTEOUS - BUT NO PROBLEM - YOU ARE FOREARMED.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1

Scripture: Hebrews 11:1-3

Hebrews 11:1-3 says, “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good testimony. By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.” Faith in God's Word spoken forth under the anointing of the Holy Spirit releases the creative power of God to bring His will, purpose and plan to pass. The reason why, without faith, it is impossible to please God is because He spoke the worlds into existence. He was the Creator in the beginning, is still a Creator today and His Kingdom is to be created in the earth.

This is to be done by believers who, in faith, embrace His Word and under the direction of the Holy Spirit speak that Word and believe and expect God to perform what He has laid on their hearts to speak. This is a God-operation and just like a farmer sows seed in the soil, when we memorize and plant the Word of God in our hearts, we are sowing spiritual seed that will grow and reap a harvest. And under the anointing of the Holy Spirit, that seed accomplishes God's will, purpose and plan for our life. Our futures are framed by what we have sown and what we speak, so let us sow His Word and speak it so we can see God's purpose come to pass in our lives. *His purpose for the end-time church is to frame a harvest of nations and to see His will come to pass.* He has given us everything we need to maintain life and Godliness. Walking with the Lord is an amazing adventure that unfolds daily. Let God arise and His enemies be scattered!

MONDAY, DECEMBER 2

Scripture: Hebrews 11:32-33, 1 Samuel 7:7-13

Hebrews 11:32-33 says, “And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,...” We are given a list of people in verses 32-33 who, through faith, subdued kingdoms. The word translated “*subdued*” means ‘overcoming, by the Spirit and the Word, the opposition to God's Will and making sure His Kingdom is established.’ All the individuals listed here did that, and they did not do it the same way- (this is a very interesting study of believers). The value of looking at their assignments and encounters with opposition becomes a real and valuable source of training for us.

In 1 Samuel 7:7-13, we see what Samuel initially learned about subduing Kingdoms. This is an account of the battle with the Philistines. First, we need to

remember that, in Samuel's lifetime, the Philistines took whatever they wanted from Israel, whenever they wanted it. The Philistines were a major enemy, all the days of Eli and his sons. But when Samuel began to take over for Eli, Samuel brought a completely different type of integrity to the nation and victory started to develop because Samuel refused the sin of Eli and his sons. Righteousness and holiness accounts for the transition between Eli and Samuel. **Samuel was a man of righteousness and obedience and consequently was a man of the Holy Spirit.** In 1 Samuel 7:8, Israel cried out to Samuel, "So the children of Israel said to Samuel, "Do not cease to cry out to the Lord our God for us, that He may save us from the hand of the Philistines." Verses 9-10 records Samuel making a burnt offering and crying out to God. In the middle of the offering, God thundered upon the Philistines, confused them and they were overcome before Israel. **Samuel subdued Kingdoms by prayer.** Samuel was a man of faith and righteous and as a result, God answered his prayers. Verse 13 says, "So the Philistines were subdued, and they did not come anymore into the territory of Israel. And the hand of the Lord was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel." *Samuel subdued kingdoms through faith and through prayer.* He prayed, God heard and God intervened based on those prayers. We need to develop the faith of Samuel and learn to use that faith on our flesh to walk in righteousness and holiness and obedience as Samuel did. James 5 says there is no difference between us and Elijah, for he was a man like us. God is calling us to pick up the Samuel challenge.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3

Scripture: Hebrews 11:32-33, 1 Samuel 15

In 1 Samuel 15:1-6, by the direction of the Holy Spirit, Samuel gave Saul a simple assignment. It says, "Samuel also said to Saul, 'The Lord sent me to anoint you king over His people, over Israel. Now therefore, heed the voice of the words of the Lord. Thus says the Lord of hosts: "I will punish Amalek for what he did to Israel, how he ambushed him on the way when he came up from Egypt. Now go and attack Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and do not spare them. But kill both man and woman, infant and nursing child, ox and sheep, camel and donkey.'" So Saul gathered the people together and numbered them in Telaim, two hundred thousand foot soldiers and ten thousand men of Judah. And Saul came to a city of Amalek, and lay in wait in the valley. Then Saul said to the Kenites, 'Go, depart, get down from among the Amalekites, lest I destroy you with them. For you showed kindness to all the children of Israel when they came up out of Egypt.' So the Kenites departed from among the Amalekites." That was the assignment. Verses 7-9 says, "And Saul attacked the Amalekites, from Havilah all the way to Shur, which is east of Egypt. He also took Agag king of the Amalekites alive, and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword. But Saul and the people spared Agag and the best of the sheep, the oxen, the fatlings, the lambs, and all that was good, and were unwilling to utterly

destroy them. But everything despised and worthless, that they utterly destroyed.” There was an obvious problem and that was obedience. *Saul and the people obeyed partially but not fully. And as a result, Saul lost his kingship.* Verses 10-11 state, “Now the word of the Lord came to Samuel, saying, ‘I greatly regret that I have set up Saul as king, for he has turned back from following Me, and has not performed My commandments.’” And it grieved Samuel, and he cried out to the Lord all night.” Has the church been trained to be more like Saul than like David? The church is paralyzed by tradition they have been taught by church leaders. We have to recover from traditions that go against the Word and begin to develop men and women full of faith who can, like Samuel, say, ‘I have not taken, I have not hurt.’ God is looking for those people. Rest assured, you and I are called to be among that number.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4

Scripture: Hebrews 11:32-33, 1 Samuel 15:12-23

Verses 20-21 state, “And Saul said to Samuel, ‘But I have obeyed the voice of the Lord, and gone on the mission on which the Lord sent me, and brought back Agag king of Amalek; I have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. But the people took of the plunder, sheep and oxen, the best of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice to the Lord your God in Gilgal.’” Saul gave an excuse and God’s answer was directed at that excuse. Verses 22-23 state, “Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, He also has rejected you from being king.” Judgment begins in the House of God and sometimes judgment is necessary to clean up the mess that’s been made. The rebellious cannot stand in the presence of the living God. Saul cried out in verses 25-26, “‘Now therefore, please pardon my sin, and return with me, that I may worship the Lord.’” But Samuel said to Saul, ‘I will not return with you, for you have rejected the word of the Lord, and the Lord has rejected you from being king over Israel.’” The judgment Saul failed to execute ended up coming back on him. If we are going to gain a harvest of nations today, we are going to have to follow the Spirit when He leads us to execute the judgment of God in prayer.

And if, like Saul, we fail to execute God’s judgment, that judgment may very well come back on us. We cannot afford not to follow the Spirit when He leads us to declare God’s judgment. *Judgment is starting in the House of the Lord and God is going to replace disobedient leaders with those who will frame tomorrow’s world by obedience and faith in His Word. Let’s make sure we are part of the answer and not the problem.*

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5

Scripture: 1 Samuel 15:27-33

Hebrews 11 tells us that Samuel subdued kingdoms. But how did he subdue kingdoms? What Saul refused to do, Samuel did. 1 Samuel 15:27-33 says, “And as Samuel turned around to go away, Saul seized the edge of his robe, and it tore. So Samuel said to him, ‘The Lord has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today, and has given it to a neighbour of yours, who is better than you. And also, the Strength of Israel will not lie nor relent. For He is not a man, that He should relent.’ Then he said, ‘I have sinned; yet honour me now, please, before the elders of my people and before Israel, and return with me, that I may worship the Lord your God.’ So Samuel turned back after Saul, and Saul worshiped the Lord. Then Samuel said, ‘Bring Agag king of the Amalekites here to me.’ So Agag came to him cautiously. And Agag said, ‘Surely the bitterness of death is past.’ But Samuel said, ‘As your sword has made women childless, so shall your mother be childless among women.’ And Samuel hacked Agag in pieces before the Lord in Gilgal disobedience. Samuel hacked Agag to pieces and in Hebrews 11 we are told to emulate Samuel who, through faith, subdued kingdoms. In obedience to God's direction, Samuel had to do what Saul refused to. And when he did, he was given a great victory. *Let us walk in obedience so we can see kingdoms subdued and nations won in the last days.*

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6

Scripture: Hebrews 11:32-33, Jeremiah 1:9-14

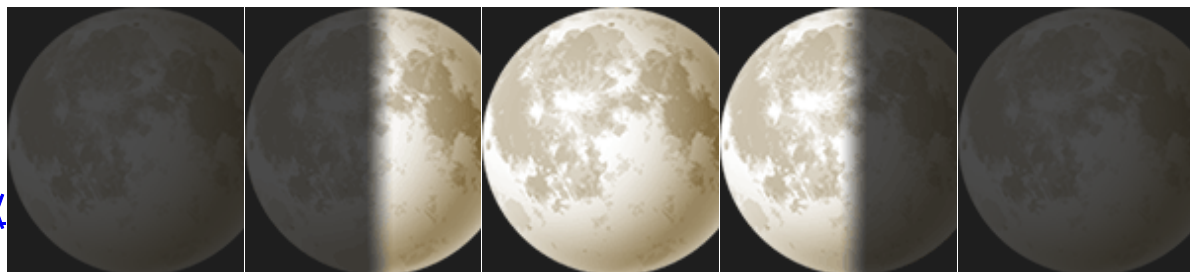
The prophets are all said to have subdued kingdoms. As we look at each prophet to discover how, we begin to realize that God has a variety of applications of faith to accomplish His purpose and plan in the earth. Jeremiah 1:9-14 says, “Then the Lord put forth His hand and touched my mouth, and the Lord said to me: ‘Behold, I have put My words in your mouth. See, I have this day set you over the nations and over the kingdoms, To root out and to pull down, To destroy and to throw down, To build and to plant.’ Moreover the word of the Lord came to me, saying, ‘Jeremiah, what do you see?’ And I said, ‘I see a branch of an almond tree.’ Then the Lord said to me, ‘You have seen well, for I am ready to perform My word.’ And the word of the Lord came to me the second time, saying, ‘What do you see?’ And I said, ‘I see a boiling pot, and it is facing away from the north.’ Then the Lord said to me: ‘Out of the north calamity shall break forth On all the inhabitants of the land.’” How was the calamity to happen? It would come forth from the words Jeremiah was to speak that came from the Lord. How did David, Samuel and the prophets subdue kingdoms? Sometimes they used the sword, but often they used the Word of the Lord and prayer and waited for God to do it. Does that say something to us? Hebrews 11 gives us very clear instruction to use these men as examples. *We can walk in faith the same way they did and proclaim what*

God gives us to proclaim, the same way they did. What a season we are in and what a harvest we are called to bring in! It is time to get ready!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7

Scripture: Jeremiah 1:17-19

Jeremiah 7:17-19 says, “Therefore prepare yourself and arise, And speak to them all that I command you. Do not be dismayed before their faces, Lest I dismay you before them. For behold, I have made you this day A fortified city and an iron pillar, And bronze walls against the whole land— Against the kings of Judah, Against its princes, Against its priests, And against the people of the land. They will fight against you, But they shall not prevail against you. For I am with you,” says the Lord, “to deliver you.” Is God going to be just like that for us? Of course He is! He does not give us any assignment He does not anoint us to do. God is amazing and He is fully invested in His warriors and He protects them. God gave this assurance to Jeremiah and it is written in Jeremiah “...for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.” We have better promises based on a better covenant! Could anyone kill Jeremiah? No! But did he have to spend some time trapped in a well? Yes! There was tremendous persecution that went with following God's assignment, but his enemies could not kill him. No one could take him out before his appointed time. And in like manner as we walk in faith and obedience, no one can take us out before our appointed time. That is Who God is to us and all He asks us to do is walk with Him in faith.



New Moon
December 1
06:21 UTC

First Quarter
December 8
15:27 UTC

Full Moon
December 15
09:02 UTC

Last Quarter
December 22
22:18 UTC

New Moon
December 30
22:27 UTC

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

Scripture: Jeremiah 28:1-17

In Jeremiah 28, Jeremiah finds himself living in the reign of Zedekiah, king of Judah, in a conflict with another prophet called Hananiah. Hananiah was a false prophet and he declared within two full years the Lord would bring back the exiled king from Babylon. Jeremiah has been told by God to tell the people to submit to Nebuchadnezzar, because the alternative would have been far worse. That brought Jeremiah and Hananiah into conflict. Verses 14-17 state, “For thus

says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: “‘I have put a yoke of iron on the neck of all these nations, that they may serve Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon; and they shall serve him. I have given him the beasts of the field also.’ Then the prophet Jeremiah said to Hananiah the prophet, ‘Hear now, Hananiah, the Lord has not sent you, but you make this people trust in a lie. Therefore thus says the Lord: “Behold, I will cast you from the face of the earth. This year you shall die, because you have taught rebellion against the Lord.”’ So Hananiah the prophet died the same year in the seventh month.” Jeremiah faced off with the false prophet, declared the Word of the Lord on the false prophet and God killed him. The realm of religious spirits and of the counterfeit prophetic had to be subdued by Jeremiah. And if the realm of the counterfeit prophetic had to be subdued by Jeremiah, rest assured it has to be subdued today. *The real question is, who among us have the faith and righteousness necessary to walk out that calling? God is looking for those prepared to resist and subdue. Every prophetic voice that prophesies from the motive of manipulation or for personal gain is a counterfeit. Will God find any Jeremiahs today? I trust He will, in Jesus’ name!*

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9

Scripture: Ezekiel 4

In Ezekiel 4, Ezekiel had the assignment in portraying a siege in Jerusalem. So he had to build a mound wall against the wall of Jerusalem, placing battering ramps all around. And his assignment then got very difficult – he had to lay on his left side one day for every year of the iniquity of the House of Israel, 390 days. And he had to lay on his right side one day for every year of the iniquity of the House of Judah, 40 days. Then the assignment got even more difficult. In verses 9-12, God restricted the amount of food and water Ezekiel was allotted and mandated that he cook his food using his own waste as fuel. It is hard to imagine flavoring food with human waste. Ezekiel protested that the assignment would make him defile himself. And God said he could instead use the waste of cows.

And He said in verses 16-17, “Son of man, surely I will cut off the supply of bread in Jerusalem; they shall eat bread by weight and with anxiety, and shall drink water by measure and with dread, that they may lack bread and water, and be dismayed with one another, and waste away because of their iniquity.” Ezekiel was called to demonstrate what was coming because people refused to repent for their sin. Being a prophet has always been a difficult job, and Ezekiel’s assignment is a prime example. But God’s purpose was for Ezekiel to demonstrate Israel and Judah’s sin so that they could understand the judgment that was coming upon them. He was trying to gain a harvest of repentance out of Jerusalem. *Are our prophets today showing us the judgment that is coming so that we can gain some repentance? Walking in obedience gives us the authority to move the judicial Hand of God. If we do not walk in obedience, we will not have the*

authority to move His Hand. This is part of the platform of subduing kingdoms. The question is, how many are willing to accept it?

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10

Scripture: Ezekiel 13:1-5

Ezekiel 13:1-5 says, “And the word of the Lord came to me, saying, ‘Son of man, prophesy against the prophets of Israel who prophesy, and say to those who prophesy out of their own heart, ‘Hear the word of the Lord!’ Thus says the Lord God: ‘Woe to the foolish prophets, who follow their own spirit and have seen nothing! O Israel, your prophets are like foxes in the deserts. You have not gone up into the gaps to build a wall for the house of Israel to stand in battle on the day of the Lord.’” Ezekiel was speaking to the prophets and said they had failed the nation. *Suddenly the assignment of Ezekiel was to subdue the kingdom of false prophets. Whenever sin enters the land, it creates a breach or gap in the wall and breaks down the hedge of God's protection. Are we preparing to arise and stand in the gap some churches have created?*

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11

Scripture: Job 1:8-9

The most familiar place that we find the concept of a hedge is in the beginning of Job 1:8-9 when the Lord is dealing with Satan. These verses say, “Then the Lord said to Satan, ‘Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?’ So Satan answered the Lord and said, ‘Does Job fear God for nothing?’ Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land.” God put a hedge around Job and Satan could not get to him. Satan had to ask God to give him access through the hedge. God hedges about His people and hedges about Godly nations. But according to Ezekiel, sin creates a gap or breach in that hedge. When Ezekiel was identifying the purpose for the prophets, the primary one was not to edify people with good words. The primary purpose was to locate breaches in the hedge of God's protection and stand in the breach or gap. *The purpose of standing in the gap is that we are helping to repair the hedge of God's protection and safe-keeping by building a wall against evil.* Only by protecting areas where there are gaps can God's people stand in battle on the Day of the Lord, which means on the day of God's judgment. Sin creates breaches in the hedge and it requires judgment. It is the job of the prophets to subdue the sin that is making the nation vulnerable to destruction. The job of the prophets is to teach the church that we have the assignment to subdue the kingdom of darkness. Sin opens up a nation to destruction. If we do not subdue the kingdom of darkness, when the judgment of God comes, many people in the

church will fall also. *We have to identify breaches in the wall of protection around our nation to call out and point to the sin for the purpose of repentance. Let's stand in the gap like Ezekiel did!*

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12

Scripture: Ezekiel 13:6-16

In verses 6-16, the Holy Spirit began to identify the reasons God was against the false prophets. They were speaking a vision of their own heart.

My wrath on the wall and on those who have plastered it with untempered mortar; and I will say to you, 'The wall is no more, nor those who plastered it, that is, the prophets of Israel who prophesy concerning Jerusalem, and who see visions of peace for her when there is no peace,' says the Lord God." He said they were building a boundary wall and plastering it with untempered mortar. Sin causes breaches in God's hedge of protection around His chosen people or nations. Teaching people compromised Scripture means plastering them with untempered mortar, and compromised walls eventually fall flat! War and destruction were coming and they were prophesying peace. God declared He would visit them with judgment as a result. *We know that judgment begins with the House of the Lord. And if we want to see the church stand we have to identify breaches in the wall and stand in the gap and become a wall in the middle of gaps in the hedge.*

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13

Scripture: Jeremiah 1:10

I would like to see our nations in victory and blessed by God's protection and by His Hand. Are we willing to pay the price sufficient concerning those who God shows us are compromised and are plastering with untempered mortar? This is a tough assignment and one that is part of the end-time picture. It was the assignment of Jeremiah and Ezekiel – they were called to do things that were difficult to do. But when God comes to us, as He did to Jeremiah and says, "See, I have this day set you over the nations and over the kingdoms, To root out and to pull down, To destroy and to throw down, To build and to plant." *How will we respond? The anointing is available. I trust we will receive, in Jesus' name!*

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14

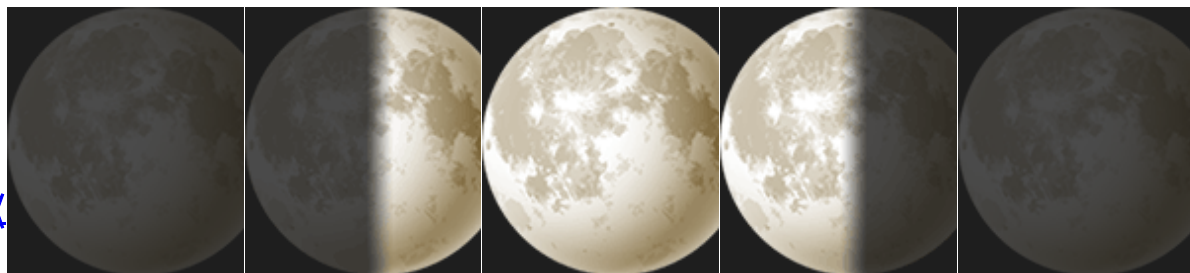
Scripture: Ezekiel 13:17-19

Ezekiel 13:17-19 tells us the primary issue that made prophets unable to subdue wickedness was that they did not pass the test of integrity. In verse 19 God said, "And will you profane Me among My people for handfuls of barley and for pieces

of bread...” He was addressing prophets changing their message in order to gain money enough to eat. But that had major consequences.

Verse 19 continues showing us that delivering a compromised Word kills people who should not die and saves people that should not live. A compromised Word kills saints that should not die and extends the life of evil-doers who should not live. The purpose of judgment is to save. Sin causes a breach in the hedge and if the perpetrators refuse to turn, judgment on them means saving both the righteous and the potential harvest. God has to have ministers who are 100% committed to speaking what He says, even if it means they starve. They have to be willing to speak even if it means they will be stoned. The prophets get rebuked in verses 32-33 for strengthening the hands of the wicked so they do not turn from their wickedness to save their life. If the prophets had brought the fear of God to the wicked, the wicked would have turned and it could have saved their life. Disobedient prophets, by their foolishness, open the door to destruction. Judgment saves – it saved both the innocent and those who turn.

NOTICE THAT MONTH HAS A DOUBLE NEW MOON - MEANING THE STAR GAZERS WILL DO A DOUBLE CHANTING AGAINST THE RIGHTEOUS - BUT NO PROBLEM - YOU ARE FOREARMED.



<u>New Moon</u>	<u>First Quarter</u>	<u>Full Moon</u>	<u>Last Quarter</u>	<u>New Moon</u>
<u>December 1</u>	<u>December 8</u>	<u>December 15</u>	<u>December 22</u>	<u>December 30</u>
<u>06:21 UTC</u>	<u>15:27 UTC</u>	<u>09:02 UTC</u>	<u>22:18 UTC</u>	<u>22:27 UTC</u>

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

Scripture: Ezekiel 24:15-24

Ezekiel 24:15-24 describes one of the most painful things that can happen in the life of a prophet. Suddenly, in a sign and a wonder, God said there was great destruction coming to the nation and He was taking the desire of Ezekiel’s eyes, his wife, home and he was not allowed to mourn. God said it was a picture for the church of what He was about to do to those who had defiled His altars. God said when His judgment came, they would be judged and Ezekiel was to tell them to turn.

Throughout the book of Revelation we see great devastation. We know that the end-times are full of devastation and destruction. Being a prophet in the last days is likely to be an amazingly difficult assignment. If Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever we must remember that what He did to Ezekiel, He can and will do today. It takes great faith, humility and submission to walk with God. We cannot afford to be offended by what He does. We have to praise Him, walk with Him and receive the understanding of why from Him. *God gave that to Ezekiel, it became a preaching moment and Ezekiel followed through. I hope that all of us who walk with God in the last days have the same kind of heart that Ezekiel had to represent God in the midst of the most trying and devastating personal circumstances that we could ever imagine. Let's prepare ourselves so we can do the same if necessary!*

MONDAY, DECEMBER 16

Scripture: Daniel 1:

Daniel was taken captive in the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim, King of Judah. Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, came to Jerusalem, besieged and conquered it. He brought articles into the treasury from the House of God. Verses 3-4 states, "Then the king instructed Ashpenaz, the master of his eunuchs, to bring some of the children of Israel and some of the king's descendants and some of the nobles, young men in whom there was no blemish, but good-looking, gifted in all wisdom, possessing knowledge and quick to understand, who had ability to serve in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the language and literature of the Chaldeans." According to Hebrews 11, how did Daniel walk in faith and subdue kingdoms?

Daniel is mentioned in Hebrews 11 under the heading of prophets, "David and Samuel and the prophets: who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire..."

The book of Daniel is a virtual testimony of what is required to walk in faith and please God. In Daniel 1, it all started for Daniel and his three friends who quenched the violence of fire over whether or not they would eat the king's delicacies or obey God's law. God's law had a significant number of dietary restrictions and the very first test of faith for Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego was whether they would obey God in their diet. In verse 10, the chief steward said, "I fear my lord the king, who has appointed your food and drink. For why should he see your faces looking worse than the young men who are your age? Then you would endanger my head before the king." Daniel's reply in verses 12-13 was, "Please ***test your servants*** for ten days, and let them give us vegetables to eat and water to drink. Then let our appearance be examined before

you, and the appearance of the young men who eat the portion of the king's delicacies; and as you see fit, so deal with your servants."

The steward consented to the test, which lasted ten days. Verse 15 says, "And at the end of ten days their features appeared better and fatter in flesh than all the young men who ate the portion of the king's delicacies." So the steward allowed them to obey their law. The test of faith that established the platform for them to subdue kingdoms started there. Are we going to do what the world says to do or are we going to obey what God says? The fruit of Daniel's obeying what God said shows up in verses 19-20, "Then the king interviewed them, and among them all none was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah; therefore they served before the king. And in all matters of wisdom and understanding about which the king examined them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers who were in all his realm." The lesson of Daniel is the lesson of Samuel and Moses and it is a lesson repeated over and over again in Scripture. It is the lesson of obedience.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17

Scripture: Daniel 3:1-12

Nebuchadnezzar built an image of gold that was 60 cubits high and six cubits wide. He set it up in the province of Babylon and commanded all the officials to bow down and worship whenever they started to hear the music. And whoever did not fall down and worship would be thrown in the midst of a fiery furnace. Once again, the faith of Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego was being tested. The Jews were accused because they chose to obey God rather than man and King Nebuchadnezzar was told in verse 12, "They do not serve your gods or worship the gold image which you have set up." So the test was on for whether or not they were going to live according to God's Word or the world's dictates.

They had just been promoted and the test came immediately after their promotion. Isn't it amazing that often when we are promoted, tests come and the promotion hangs in the balance? We have to face whether we are willing to sacrifice everything we have gained in order to serve God? In many ways it is a mammon/integrity test because often our livelihoods are on the line. The stakes double and the enemy is right there because he wants to stop us at every juncture. What are we going to do as the tests unfold? We have to make a choice. We have to choose to live in God's Word or compromise that Word to save our position. For these men, it wasn't only their promotion on the line – it was their lives. Sometimes God comes through and we live and sometimes He says no and we get promoted to glory. *Thousands in the Middle East and in Nigeria have been slaughtered by Isis or Boko Haram, because they refused to deny Christ. The book of Revelation tells us it is going to happen in the end-times and it is amazing*

that we are seeing it in the here and now. This is a real test and one that believers are going to face more and more in the days ahead. Will we be faithful unto death? That is the call. Settle it now!

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18

Scripture: Daniel 3:19-25

Nebuchadnezzar was full of fury. The expression on his face changed and he had the furnace heated seven times hotter. Verse 22 says, “7 fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego.” But once they were bound and thrown in they said in verses 16-18, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up.” Verse 24-25 says, “Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished; and he rose in haste and spoke, saying to his counsellors, ‘Did we not cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?’ They answered and said to the king, ‘True, O king.’ ‘Look!’ he answered, ‘I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.’” They put their life on the line and God entered the fire with them and brought them safely through. By faith they walked in the midst of the fire and were not hurt. *They quenched the violence of fire by faith.*

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19

Scripture: Daniel 3:26-30

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were willing to stand up for righteousness. Because they were thrown into the fire and by faith quenched the fire, they subdued the kingdom of Babylon. And Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, did the preaching, “Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, who sent His Angel and delivered His servants who trusted in Him, and they have frustrated the king’s word, and yielded their bodies, that they should not serve nor worship any god except their own God! Therefore, I make a decree that any people, nation, or language which speaks anything amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made an ash heap; because there is no other God who can deliver like this.” Verse 30 continues, “Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego in the province of Babylon.” *Their faith was tested in the extreme and they were promoted. They walked in the face of death and quenched the violence of fire. The second promotion was hard won but they got it because they refused to compromise. They walked in righteousness, they walked in holiness and chose the Word of God over everything else and the Lord preserved them.*

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20

Scripture: Daniel 4

Daniel 4 finds Nebuchadnezzar preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom. And the reason is because Daniel the prophet was willing to interpret the dream. For seven years Nebuchadnezzar ate grass because of his arrogance and because of his pride. His own words declare in Daniel 4:34-37, “And at the end of the time I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my understanding returned to me; and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever: For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, And His kingdom is from generation to generation. All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven And among the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand Or say to Him, ‘What have You done?’ At the same time my reason returned to me, and for the glory of my kingdom, my honor and splendor returned to me. My counselors and nobles resorted to me, I was restored to my kingdom, and excellent majesty was added to me. Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, all of whose works are truth, and His ways justice. And those who walk in pride He is able to put down.” *Isn't it interesting to hear a heathen king, who has been subdued by faith, extol the God of the Hebrews?* The fruit of Daniel's life is seen in a king who is preaching the same God that Daniel served. Might we see our senators and lawmakers preach the same God we serve? *Are we subduing kingdoms by faith or are the kingdoms subduing us? The church in the last days is supposed to be subduing kingdoms as kings. But it comes with a price. We cannot compromise God's Word. We have to walk it out. Amen!!*

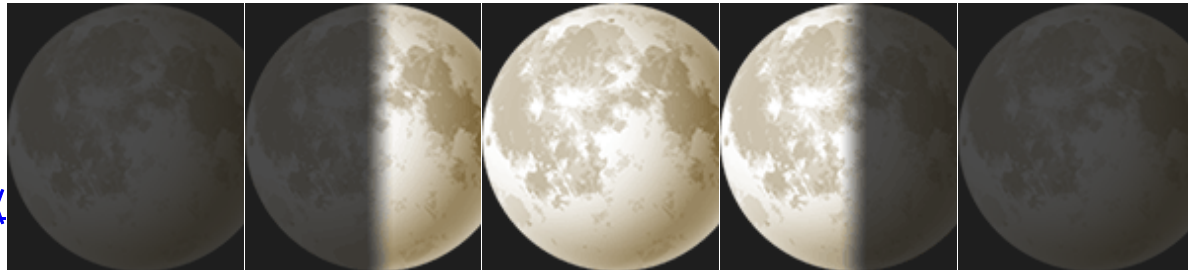
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21

Scripture: Daniel 5:1-9, 18-30

Daniel 5 is about Nebuchadnezzar's son Belshazzar. Belshazzar made a great feast and had the utensils from the temple in Jerusalem brought so his friends could party. So they ate, drank and praised the gods of gold, silver, bronze, iron, wood and stone. All of a sudden a hand appeared and it wrote on the wall, “Mene mene tekle upharsin.” No one could interpret the words and someone remembered there was a prophet who interpreted Nebuchadnezzar's dream. They got Daniel and in verses 26-29 he interpreted the tongue of judgment that was written on the wall and immediately it happened.

That night, Belshazzar was killed, the king of the Chaldeans was slain and Darius the Mede received the kingdom. Once again, Daniel subdued another king. First Nebuchadnezzar then his son, and then the kingdom was transferred. Will we see this kind of authority again? The whole reason it was written is for our admonition

upon whom the ends of the world have come. **We have to harvest nations. Tongues and interpretations are New Testament gifts that we can all walk in.** Here it is being used in Daniel’s life to bring the judgment of God and to subdue a kingdom. All nine gifts of the Spirit have judicial manifestations just like they have priestly manifestations. **And we have to walk in the Spirit and follow His lead in how each gift manifests.**



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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

Scripture: Daniel 9:1-23, 1:21, Jeremiah 1:10

In Daniel 9, the Lord reveals to him the seventy years that Jeremiah prophesied about the destruction of Jerusalem. Daniel lived his whole life in the dispersion because of that destruction. Israel rebelled against God and the judgment was they lost their nation and they were dispersed to Babylon. Daniel spent his whole life there. He subdued kingdoms, subdued Babylon and in Daniel 1, we are told exactly how long he ministered. Daniel 1:21 says, “Thus Daniel continued until the first year of King Cyrus.” Just before King Cyrus was going to take over in the last part of Daniel’s reign, he began to pray for the restoration of Jerusalem. That is the assignment of the king who was going to take over next. So Daniel began to pray it into existence. At the very end of Daniel’s life as he was closing out his days, he got to see the king that was going to restore Jerusalem and rebuild the temple. Not only did Daniel subdue kingdoms, but he got to restore kingdoms. He got to pray that restoration into existence in the Spirit. He laid the spiritual foundation for it to happen even though it did not happen until after he was gone. One of the things we need to learn from the book of Hebrews is that faith to walk in the end-times is realizing that what we pray about may not come until we are gone. It did not for Daniel, who prayed for restoration, but he only lived through the first year of Cyrus. Cyrus completed what Daniel prayed for. We may not get to see what we pray come to pass – somebody else may see it after we are gone. But rest assured, our prayers mean that it will in part be attributed to us. Are we willing to walk knowing that we may never see our dreams and prayers be fulfilled in this life?

Our destiny may be handing off the answers to the next generation. The next generation cannot be made complete without us. They are standing on our shoulders, and it is our job to pray it and call it into existence. If we never see the fruition of our prayers, we will get to watch from the balcony of heaven as God brings it to pass!

MONDAY, DECEMBER 23

Scripture: Matthew 21:1-7, Luke 19:28-31

In Matthew 21, we see the picture of the triumphal entry in which Jesus is sitting on the donkey and the colt. We also notice here that the colt has never been broken. It is obvious that it is the attitude of the colt that allows God to accept the brokenness of the parent as payment for the participation of the colt. Because the colt was willing to walk with the donkey and do as the donkey did, they both got to carry Jesus into Jerusalem. It was the attitude of the colt that allows him to participate. The attitude of the younger generation makes it possible to either gain or forfeit what the previous generation bought and paid for but have not yet seen. This is a picture of how the younger generation can gain what the older generation paid for. They have to listen, hear and accept what the previous generation spent their lives believing for but did not see in fullness. Then and only then will God give them that fullness. Otherwise, they will forfeit what the previous generation paid for.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

Scripture: Daniel 6, Hebrews 11:32-33

The last lesson that comes out of Daniel in subduing kingdoms deals with the transition between Belshazzar and Darius the Mede taking over as the steward of Babylon. With a brand new king that did not know Daniel's history, all of his enemies had an opportunity. They understood that the only way to get Daniel was to capture him in a trap of serving his God in rebellion against the command of the king. Daniel 6:7 says, "All the governors of the kingdom, the administrators and satraps, the counselors and advisors, have consulted together to establish a royal statute and to make a firm decree, that whoever petitions any god or man for thirty days, except you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions." When the king signed it, they knew they had Daniel. They accused him because he refused to stop praying. In the meantime, Darius the Mede had learned about Daniel. In verse 16 he said, "So the king gave the command, and they brought Daniel and cast him into the den of lions. But the king spoke, saying to Daniel, 'Your God, whom you serve continually, He will deliver you.'" Verse 18-24 says, "Now the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting; and no musicians were brought before him. Also his sleep went from him. Then the king arose very early in the morning and went in haste to the den of lions. And when he came to the den, he

cried out with a lamenting voice to Daniel. The king spoke, saying to Daniel, ‘Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?’ Then Daniel said to the king, ‘O king, live forever! My God sent His angel and shut the lions’ mouths, so that they have not hurt me, because I was found innocent before Him; and also, O king, I have done no wrong before you.’ Now the king was exceedingly glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no injury whatever was found on him, because he believed in his God. And the king gave the command, and they brought those men who had accused Daniel, and they cast them into the den of lions—they, their children, and their wives; and the lions overpowered them, and broke all their bones in pieces before they ever came to the bottom of the den.” **Hebrews 11 is full of men who walked in faith and God honored their faith. They subdued kingdoms but they also restored kingdoms. Shall we not finish what they started!**

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25. MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Scripture: Hebrews 11:32-35

Verse 35 says, “Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection.” Is it possible that the more adversity we have, the better our resurrection is going to be? Not accepting deliverance is a concept that is very difficult to grasp. We are trained to accept everything God does and it’s almost impossible to imagine not accepting deliverance to gain a better resurrection. *There is something about suffering that most in our present day generations do not know.* It is often pointed out that there is a vast difference between the generations that went through the Great Depression and World War II and the ones that later generations did not. There is a place in faith where God dramatically rewards those who do not see what they spent a lifetime believing for. *Their reward is a better resurrection.* I suspect there are many believers right now who that applies to – people who have not seen but have believed for a promise God gave them. There is such an emphasis on fulfillment that discouragement outweighs the promise of better resurrection. According to Hebrews 11, the reward is greater for those who choose not to receive fulfillment. Yet, it feels like church leaders have not trained the Body of Christ in this dimension and rarely even pointed it out. Is it possible there are gifts in the Bible that we have never understood and brought to the people of God? There is a gift revealed here and if we don’t see it, the enemy can use discouragement to thwart us and slow us down in the Kingdom. *Discouragement is a battle that can be won with biblical gifts. Let’s pray the church into the place we can hear and receive!*

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26

Scripture: Hosea 1:2-9

Hosea 1:2-9 says, “When the Lord began to speak by Hosea, the Lord said to Hosea: ‘Go, take yourself a wife of harlotry And children of harlotry, For the land has committed great harlotry By departing from the Lord.’ So he went and took Gomer the daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son. Then the Lord said to him: ‘Call his name Jezreel, For in a little while I will avenge the bloodshed of Jezreel on the house of Jehu, And bring an end to the kingdom of the house of Israel. It shall come to pass in that day That I will break the bow of Israel in the Valley of Jezreel.’ And she conceived again and bore a daughter. Then God said to him: ‘Call her name Lo-Ruhamah, For I will no longer have mercy on the house of Israel, But I will utterly take them away. Yet I will have mercy on the house of Judah, Will save them by the Lord their God, And will not save them by bow, Nor by sword or battle, By horses or horsemen.’ Now when she had weaned Lo-Ruhamah, she conceived and bore a son. Then God said: ‘Call his name Lo-Ammi, For you are not My people, And I will not be your God.’” When Hosea was called to be a prophet, the Lord said to take a wife and children of harlotry from a land that had committed harlotry. All of a sudden, Hosea had to get a wife he would have never chosen and her name was Gomer. All his children were all named after the major sins of the land. The last one’s name meant “For you are not My people, And I will not be your God.” That is an incredible assignment and one that it’s hard to imagine having to walk out.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27

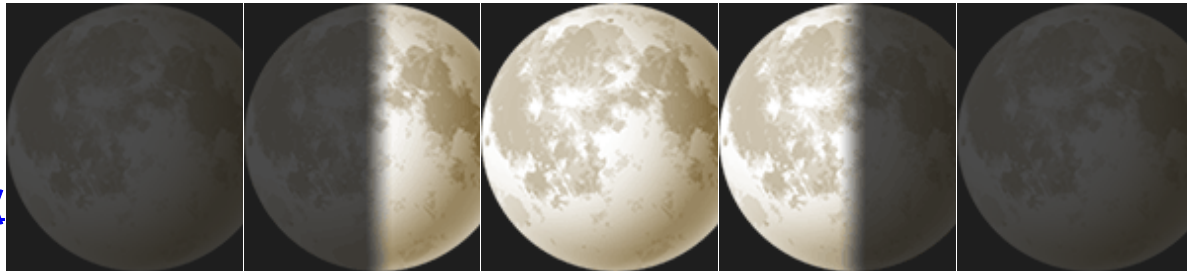
Scripture: Joel 2:1-11

The prophet Joel saw the great army of God coming forward and began to identify how they flowed together and saw that because of their unity, nobody could cut them down. Nobody could endure the army of God. Verse 8 says, “They do not push one another; Every one marches in his own column. Though they lunge between the weapons, They are not cut down.” Be encouraged that in the day of the army of the Lord we will see it. Joel outlines what the end-time church will look like. We know it has an initial and a secondary long-term fulfilment because verse 2 says, “A people come, great and strong, The like of whom has never been; Nor will there ever be any such after them, Even for many successive generations.” *The army of the Lord in Joel is an army that executes judgment on the disobedience of covenant people. The army of God will execute judgment and gain a harvest in the last days. Will we grow to the place where we can move God's Hand for justice and sow it into the next generation?*

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28

Scripture: Joel 2:15-19

Joel says there is a season where a trumpet is blown and the people come together and begin to weep between the porch and the altar. **Their intercession will bring about a change, answers, deliverance and restoration. God will begin to pour out salvation, deliverance, freedom and blessing.** We expect to see that and live in it for a long time as we gain a harvest of nations. Joel prophesied it and I expect a generation will see it in the days ahead!



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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29

Scripture: Joel 2:23-25

In Joel 2:23-25, we see the promise of the double anointing for the end-times but we also see the preparation that it takes for the end-times and why our faith has to carry us through that preparation period. There are four layers of locusts that God sends. The locusts represent adversity that has to eat away all ‘flesh’ so people can wholly give themselves to God for His purposes. We begin to understand that in the preparation of people for ministry, God chooses their adversity. It sometimes comes in four different layers. Some of the adversity is devastating, but one thing is sure – all four layers of locusts chew away everything of the flesh until there is absolutely nothing left. Only then can we, by faith, respond to the Lord and participate in the fullness He has for us because He has gotten ‘us’ out of the way. *We have to use our faith on our flesh to obey God and eventually what we do will contribute to the great end-time harvest, even if we do not get to see it in our lifetime.*

MONDAY, DECEMBER 30

Scripture: Joel 2:26

Joel 2:26 says, “You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, And praise the name of the Lord your God, Who has dealt wondrously with you; And My people shall never be put to shame.” The Hebrew word translated “wondrously” is **paw-law** which means, **‘to go beyond the bounds of human role or agency.’** When the locusts finish their work, the paw-law of God begins to happen. A paw-law or ‘wonder’ is something that you and I are incapable of performing. God promised

Abraham and Sarah a son even though they were well passed age. They were in a position where it was impossible to perform it. Only God could resurrect Sarah's womb and He did. Genesis 18:12-14 states, Sarah laughed within herself saying, "Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, "After I have grown old, shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?" And the Lord said to Abraham, 'Why did Sarah laugh, saying, "Shall I surely bear a child, since I am old?" Is anything too hard/paw-law for the Lord? At the appointed time I will return to you, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son.'" Paw-law is the fulfilment of a promise that is beyond our ability to do. And God says it is a part of overcoming the locusts. So if God does not bring to pass His promises to us during our lifetime, we get to participate in paying the price of the paw-law for some generation to follow! May we all get to see it! Amen.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31

Scripture: Joel 2:27

Joel 2:27 says, *"Then you shall know that I am in the midst of Israel: I am the Lord your God And there is no other. My people shall never be put to shame."*

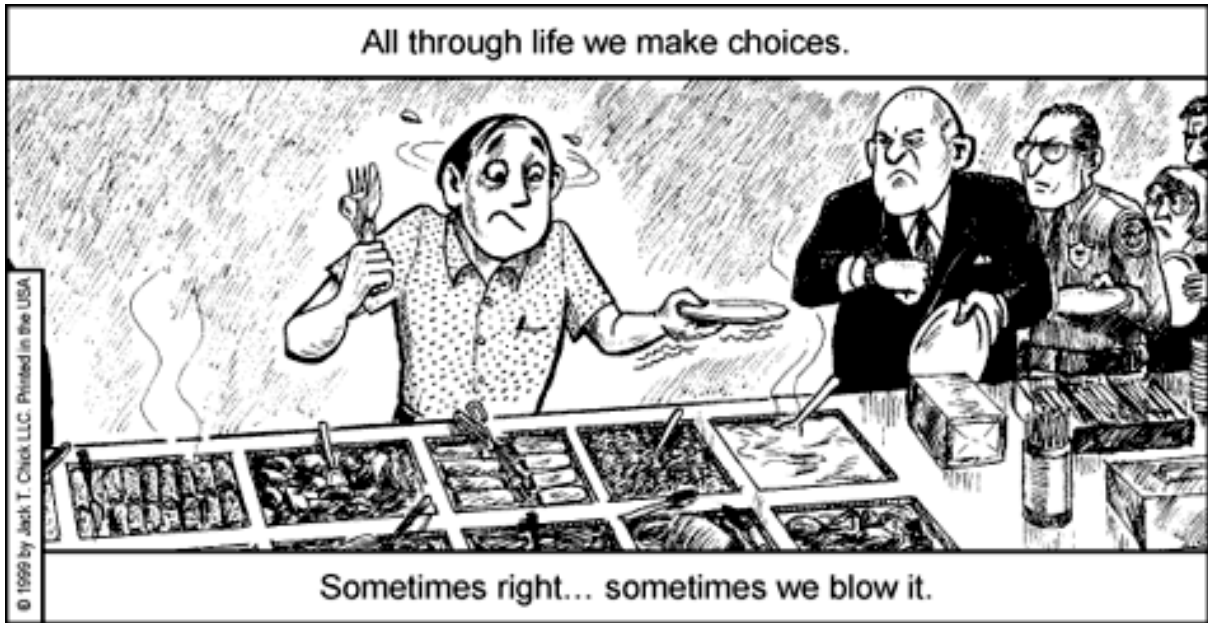
The word translated "know" is the Hebrew word *yaw-dah* and means, 'the ultimate in intimacy.' The fulfilment of the promise brings the ultimate of intimacy. *In Jesus' name God is fulfilling His covenant promises in these days. We are going to see it and we are going to have the ultimate intimacy with God. The victory and the harvest belong to the church and we can participate.*

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

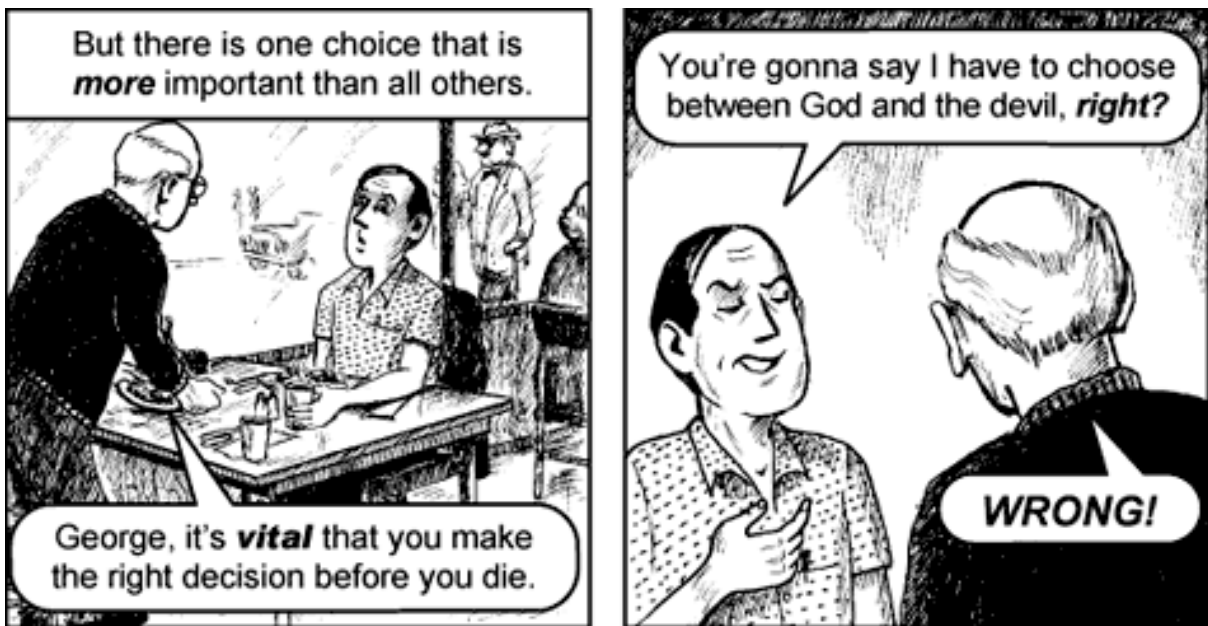


THE CHOICE

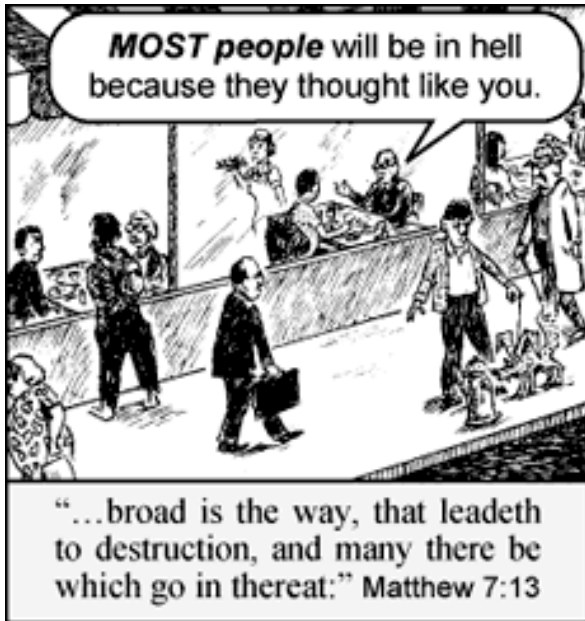
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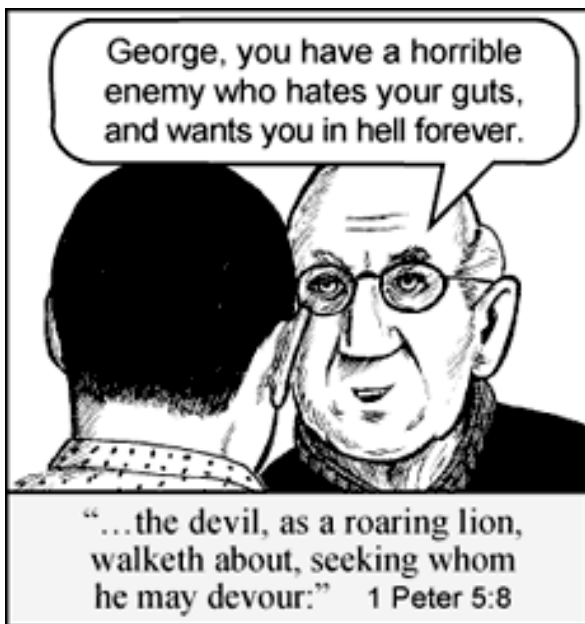
Page 2



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Page 4



Page 5

When Satan was created, his name was Lucifer. His job was to cover God's throne.



But he became proud and rebelled against God.

So God kicked him out of heaven and he became Satan.



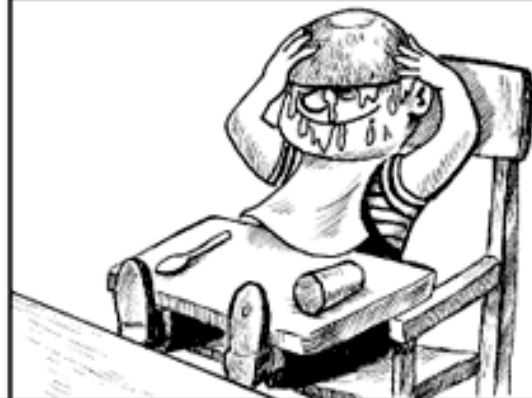
"How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer..." Isaiah 14:12

Page 6

When Adam and Eve were created, Satan tempted them and they sinned.




Because of what they did, sin was passed down to all of us.



"...by one man (Adam) sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:" Romans 5:12


Page 7

George, because of sin, we are **all** born spiritually dead...



"Behold, I was shapen in iniquity (sin); and in sin did my mother conceive me." Psalms 51:5

and headed for **damnation** in hell.



"...sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death." James 1:15

Page 8

The devil knows there is only **ONE WAY** to escape hell's flames.



So he works hard to stop people from learning that way of escape.

One of his **FAVORITE** weapons is **religion**.



He uses it to keep billions in bondage.

Page 9

Satan also uses education.



Many think they are *too smart* to accept this one truth.

Peer pressure stops many young people from accepting it...



because their friends wouldn't think it was "cool".

Page 10

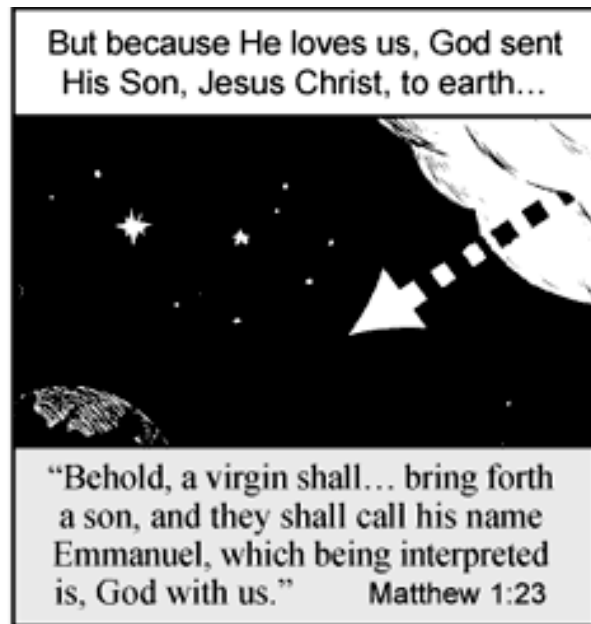
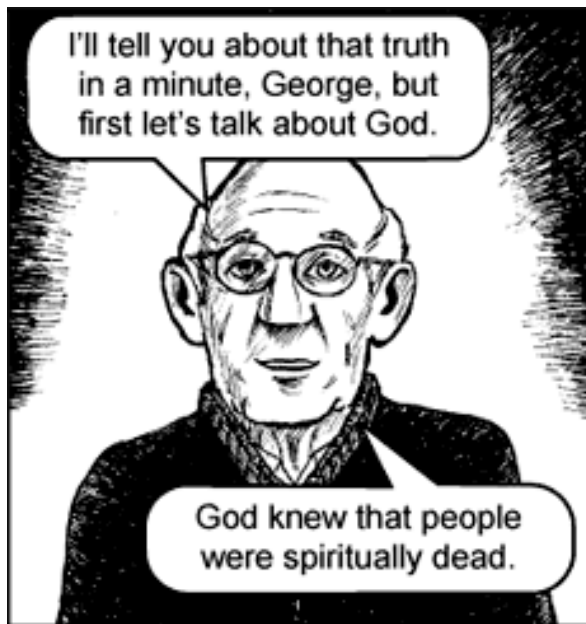
Satan keeps some people so busy chasing the cares of this world, they never stop to consider this truth.



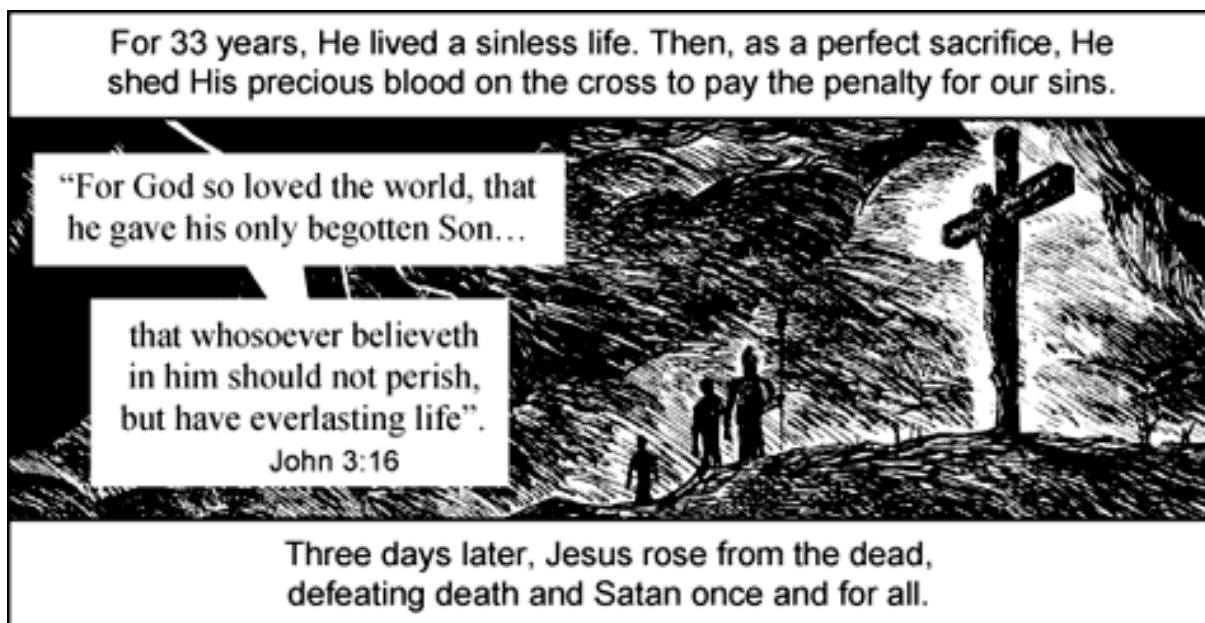
He uses sports to keep many others away from it.

"In whom the god of this world (Satan) hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them." 2 Corinthians 4:4

Page 11




Page 12



Page 13


George, here's the simple truth... the **ONLY** way to escape hell is through faith in Jesus Christ.



That sounds **too easy!**

“And you hath he (Christ) quickened (made alive), who were dead in trespasses and sins;” Ephesians 2:1

Jesus Himself said:




“He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.”*

*John 6:47

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:” Ephesians 2:8


Page 14

Those who believe that Jesus died for their sins and trust Him as their Saviour are born into God's family.



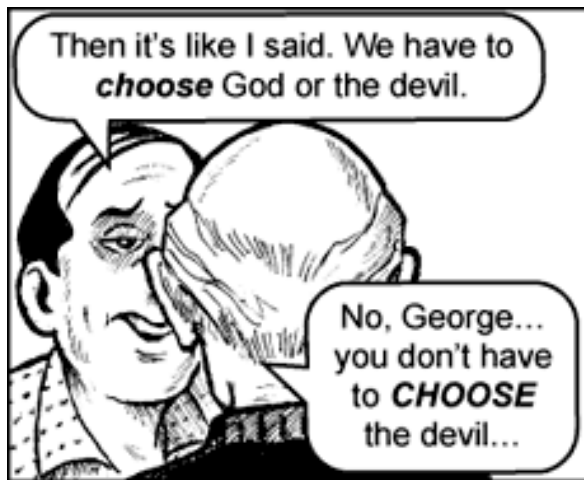
“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God...” John 1:12

They receive the gift of eternal life now and will go to heaven at death.



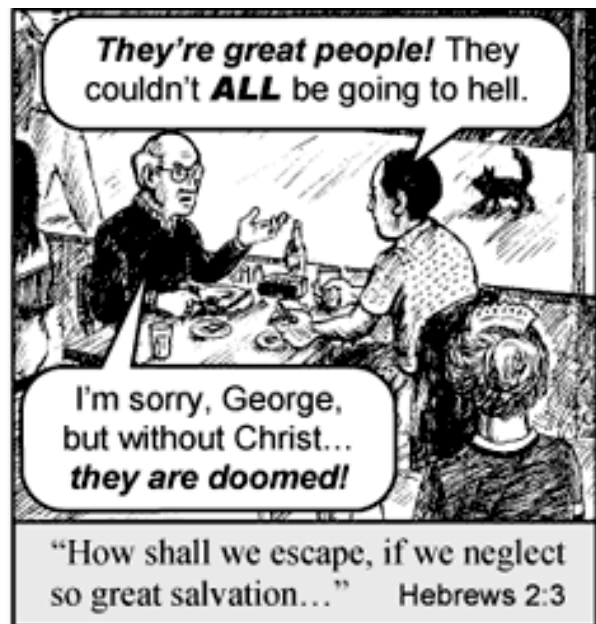
“...the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Romans 6:23

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“He that believeth on him (Jesus) is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.” John 3:18

Page 16

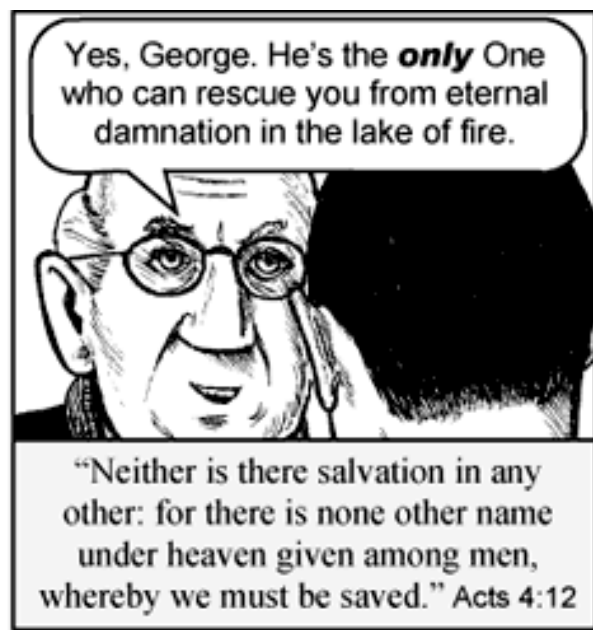
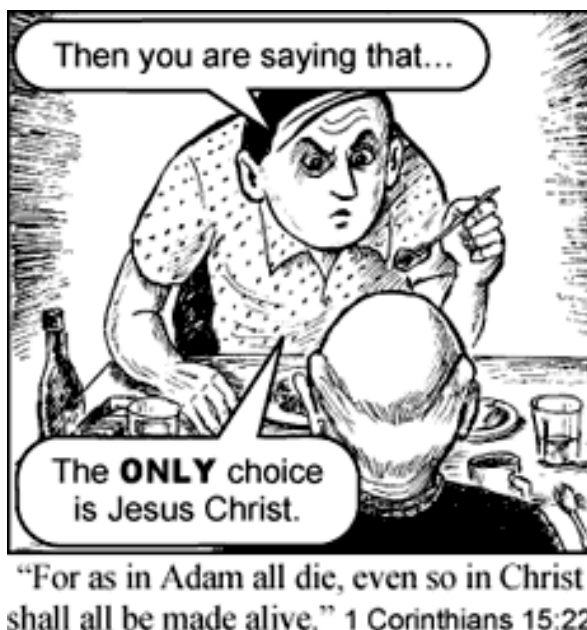


“How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation...” Hebrews 2:3

Page 17



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Page 19



"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:" 2 Timothy 3:16

Page 20



Jesus said: "He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life." John 5:24

Page 21

Lord Jesus, **please** forgive **ALL** my sins.

I make **YOU** my choice.

Please come into my heart. I trust **YOU** as my Saviour right now.

“There is... no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus...” Romans 8:1

Reader... it's now time to make **YOUR** choice.

If you choose Jesus Christ, all of your sins will be forgiven and you will receive God's **FREE** gift of eternal life.

If you do nothing, you'll remain a condemned child of Satan... and one heartbeat from hell.

Choose Christ right now.

Page 22

THE BIBLE SAYS THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO HEAVEN!

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." John 14:6

**NOBODY ELSE CAN SAVE YOU.
TRUST JESUS TODAY!**

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." Rom. 10:9

1. Admit you are a sinner. See Romans 3:10
2. Be willing to turn from sin (repent). See Acts 17:30
3. Believe that Jesus Christ died for you, was buried and rose from the dead. See Rom. 10:9-10
4. Through prayer, invite Jesus into your heart to become your personal Saviour. See Rom. 10:13

WHAT TO PRAY

Dear God, I am a sinner and need forgiveness. I believe that Jesus Christ shed His **precious blood** and died for my sin. I am willing to turn from sin. I now invite Christ to come into my heart as my personal Saviour.

If you trusted Jesus as your Saviour, you have just begun a wonderful new life with Him. Now:

1. Read your Bible (KJV) every day to get to know Jesus Christ better.
2. Talk to God in prayer every day.
3. Be baptized, worship, fellowship, and serve with other Christians in a church where Christ is preached and the Bible is the final authority.
4. Tell others about Jesus Christ.

Here's help to grow as a new Christian! Read **The Next Step**, available at www.chick.com.

Page 23

The Generosity Test

Interactive Q's KEEP SCORE – ADD POINTS

1. Do you support missionaries or other ministries?

- a) Regularly (2 pts.)
- b) Sometimes (1 pt.)
- c) Seldom/Never (0 pt.)

2. When eating out with someone, do you offer to pay for their lunch?

- a) Regularly (2 pts.)
- b) Sometimes (1 pt.)
- c) Seldom/Never (0 pt.)

3. When driving do you prefer the other driver when changing lanes, parking and/or stopping at a stop sign?

- a) Regularly (2 pts.)
- b) Sometimes (1 pt.)
- c) Seldom/Never (0 pt.)

4. Do you lend money to those in need and then decide to cancel or reduce their debt?

- a) Regularly (2 pts.)
- b) Sometimes (1 pt.)
- c) Seldom/Never (0 pt.)

5. When you hear about a need do you pause to consider how to personally meet it?

- a) Regularly (2 pts.)
- b) Sometimes (1 pt.)
- c) Seldom/Never (0 pt.)

6. Are you responsive to the Lord to give over and above your regular preplanned giving? (Tithes & Offerings etc.)

- a) Regularly (2 pts.)
- b) Sometimes (1 pt.)
- c) Seldom/Never (0 pt.)

7. How did you do in the Generosity Test?

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