

Revelation 2 Part 1

Table Revelation 2:1-11

- 1 *Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;*
- 2 *I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:*
- 3 *And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted.*
- 4 *Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.*
- 5 *Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.*
- 6 *But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.*
- 7 *He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.*
- 8 *And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive;*
- 9 *I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan.*
- 10 *Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.*
- 11 *He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.*

See Dr Ruckman's commentary *The Book of Revelation* pp 31-51 and the *Ruckman Reference Bible* p 699 on 'Palestinians.'

1. **Revelation 2:1.** The expression "Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write" together with companion expressions in Revelation 2:8, 12, 18, 3:1, 7, 14, the rebukes to some of those churches notwithstanding, is an exhortation to today's believer to fulfil Psalm 40:7-8 "Then said I, Lo, I come: in the volume of the book it is written of me, I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart" and a reminder of the fulfilment in the Church Age of Psalm 102:18 "This shall be written for the generation to come: and the people which shall be created shall praise the LORD."

The expression "These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand" is a reminder for today's believer to abide by Matthew 17:5 "While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him" and to rest in the Lord's promise of John 10:28 "And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand."

The expression "who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks" is the post-Calvary fulfilment of Leviticus 26:12 "And I will walk among you, and will be your God, and ye shall be my people" and 2 Corinthians 6:16 "...for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath

said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people” with the Lord’s promise for today’s believer of Matthew 18:20 “For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”

2. Revelation 2:2-3. The Lord commends “the church of Ephesus” with the statement “I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil...And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name’s sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted” that by way of encouragement to today’s believer exemplifies:

- 1 Thessalonians 1:3 “Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father;”
- 1 Corinthians 5:13 “...Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person.”
- Hebrews 6:10 “For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.”

“the church of Ephesus” in all those respects fulfilled godly attributes that today’s believer should as Paul sets out in Philippians 3:17 “Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.”

Moreover the Lord commends “the church of Ephesus” because “thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars.” The reasons are as follows.

“the church of Ephesus” admirably fulfilled Malachi 3:18 “Then shall ye...discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not.”

“the church of Ephesus” understood the distinction that Paul drew in 2 Corinthians 11:13, 12:2 “For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ...Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds” such as in Acts 20:9-10, 12 “And there sat in a window a certain young man named Eutychus, being fallen into a deep sleep; and as Paul was long preaching, he sunk down with sleep, and fell down from the third loft, and was taken up dead. And Paul went down, and fell on him, and embracing him said, Trouble not yourselves; for his life is in him...And they brought the young man alive, and were not a little comforted.”

“the church of Ephesus” would have as today’s believer should be able to immediately recognised that “This is a deceiver and antichrist” 2 John 7 who insists by means of 13 bogus reasons wrested from the scriptures that “Prince of the Apostles” means that St. Peter held a certain primacy over the other eleven. *Understanding St. Peter’s unique position among the twelve and the unique ministries he exercised lays an excellent groundwork for a discussion of Christ’s founding of the Papacy.*

See www.stpeterslist.com/94/13-biblical-reasons-st-peter-was-the-prince-of-the-apostles/.

“the church of Ephesus” would have been aware as today’s believer should be of the key scriptures that the 13 bogus reasons omit with respect the *real* Prince of the apostles and Peter’s subjection to Him as simply as one of “the apostles of Christ” 2 Corinthians 11:3, 1 Thessalonians 2:6 without primacy over any of the others.

“Salute Andronicus and Junia, my kinsmen, and my fellowprisoners, who are of note among the apostles, who also were in Christ before me” Romans 16:7 i.e. Peter is *not* said to be “of note among the apostles.”

“Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus” Hebrews 3:1, the only scripture where the term “Apostle” is capitalised.

“The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: Feed the flock of God

which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away" 1 Peter 5:1-4, noting the sense of the term "ensample" from Philippians 3:17 i.e. to be followed in full by *all* believers and not restricted to a self-styled 'prime' believer. Peter is "an elder" not the *prime* elder and the Lord Jesus Christ, not Peter, is "the chief Shepherd" according to Peter.

3. Revelation 2:4-5. The charge "Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love" indicates that "the church of Ephesus" had loved the Lord Jesus Christ as their evident fulfilment of 1 Thessalonians 1:3, Hebrews 6:10 unequivocally testifies. "the church of Ephesus" had fulfilled 1 John 4:19 "We love him, because he first loved us" with respect to the Lord Jesus Christ.

However, *genuine* love for the Lord Jesus Christ is defined by *the Lord Jesus Christ* in John 14:23 "Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him."

The Lord Jesus Christ commends "the church of Ephesus" for "thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience" Revelation 2:2 and their fulfilment in Revelation 2:2 in a spiritual sense of Deuteronomy 33:29 "...thine enemies shall be found liars unto thee; and thou shalt tread upon their high places" and 1 Peter 3:11 "Let him eschew evil, and do good..." noting of course that what had been "your work and labour of love" is now simply "thy works, and thy labour."

Unlike His commendation of the Philadelphian Church in Revelation 3:10 "...thou hast kept the word of my patience..." the Lord Jesus Christ does *not* commend "the church of Ephesus" in that respect.

"the church of Ephesus" had clearly fallen into the peril of "having men's persons in admiration because of advantage" Jude 16 and come under the Lord's condemnation of Matthew 15:7-9 "Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men" with Mark 7:6-7.

Christian fundamentalists do so repeatedly with respect to "The words of the LORD" Exodus 4:28, 24:3, 4, Numbers 11:24, Joshua 3:9, 24:27, 1 Samuel 8:10, 15:1, 2 Chronicles 11:4, 29:15, Psalm 12:6, Jeremiah 36:4, 6, 8, 11, 37:2, 43:1, Amos 8:11, Acts 20:35 "the words of the Lord Jesus." 19 occurrences in all. See the attached study [The 1611 Holy Bible versus the Non-Extant Original](#) that addresses the chief fundamentalist heresy with respect to "teaching for doctrines the commandments of men" Matthew 15:9, Mark 7:7 of 'originals-onlyism.'

Therefore instead of the blessing of "we will come unto him, and make our abode with him" "the church of Ephesus" incurs the censure of Revelation 2:5 "Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent"

"the church of Ephesus" is in effect exhorted to return to its former "labour of love" 1 Thessalonians 1:3, Hebrews 6:10 with *work* being predicated upon *word* through abiding by as today's believer indeed *must* 2 Thessalonians 2:15-17 "Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle. Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work."

This writer was once acquainted with a young preacher with an Ephesian attitude to "the words of the LORD." This preacher once said that he could preach from ANY Bible on "justification by faith", even if we could only be sure of "98%" of God's words. Not only are there no scriptures to support this view but a 2% uncertainty in the scriptures yields approximately 600 doubt-

ful verses. Any concordance will show that the word “*justify*” or its equivalent with respect to faith, occurs in no more than about 30 verses in the New Testament. Are THESE verses among the doubtful 600? Who decides and by what authority? Typically in this writer’s experience no answer was forthcoming from that young preacher. That preacher and the Ephesians had become “*a law unto themselves*” Romans 2:14 concerning “*the words of the LORD.*”

4. **Revelation 2:6.** See **Appendix – the Nicolaitans, “being lords over God’s heritage” 1 Peter 5:3** for details, particularly on the Biblical derivation of the term “*Nicolaitans*” and see remarks under Revelation 2:2-3 with respect the so-called primacy of Peter.

The Lord hates “*the deeds of the Nicolaitans*” as today’s believer should because they violate the priesthood of all believers as set out by *Peter himself* in 1 Peter 2:9 “*But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.*”

King Solomon had “*the deeds of the Nicolaitans*” pegged in his time *and the Lord’s perception of them, noting especially the last two phrases.*

“*These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren*” Proverbs 6:16-19.

For an overview of countering “*the deeds of the Nicolaitans*” see the attached study **Revival – A Seven-Point Plan.**

5. **Revelation 2:7.** The exhortation “*He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches*” applies *in context* as Paul states in 1 Timothy 4:1 “*Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils*” the context of Revelation 2:7 indicating that “*doctrines of devils*” include “*the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.*” See remarks under Revelation 2:6.

The exhortation *in principle* applies according to John 16:13 “*Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.*”

The Lord’s promise “*To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God*” would have historical and indeed devotional application for today’s believer according to 1 John 5:4-5 “*For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?*” in the sense of trusting in John 6:57 “*As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me.*”

Doctrinally and prophetically the Lord’s promise applies to End Times saints of whom John states “*And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held*” Revelation 6:9 and “*Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city*” Revelation 22:14.

By contrast the Church Age saint is never under any altar because as Paul states “*...God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us...hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus*” Ephesians 2:4, 6.

Moreover the Church Age saint has no need of “*the tree of life*” as such because as Paul states “*Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God*” Romans 5:1-2 so that the Church Age saint can rejoice *now* that he is of those

“...with Clement also, and with other my fellowlabourers, whose names are in the book of life” Philippians 4:3.

Therefore “Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice” Philippians 4:4.

See the attached summary study “shadow of death” with respect to historical, devotion-al/practical/spiritual, doctrinal and prophetic applications of scripture.

6. Revelation 2:8. The expression “These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive” is a reminder of Paul’s statements for the encouragement of today’s believer with respect to the Lord Jesus Christ that:

- “So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it” Isaiah 55:11
- “Then said the LORD unto me, Thou hast well seen: for I will hasten my word to perform it” Jeremiah 1:12
- “Then cometh the end...when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death” 1 Corinthians 15:25-26
- “...he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence” Colossians 1:18
- From www.timefortruth.co.uk/alan-oreilly/ Revelation Overview p 8 “I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen” [Revelation 1:18] so that Paul, as indicated under Revelation 1:12, exhorts via the Corinthians for the sake of all his readers, saved or unsaved, with respect to his commitment as it should be for today’s believer to fulfil “...the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God” Acts 20:24 “Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily” Colossians 1:29, “For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again” 2 Corinthians 5:14-15.

“And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada answered the king, and said, Amen: the LORD God of my lord the king say so too” 1 Kings 1:36.

“I...have the keys of hell and of death” because as Paul declares and from which today’s believer can derive great comfort “Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage” Hebrews 2:14-15 “Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God...For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus” Romans 8:21, Galatians 3:26.

7. Revelation 2:9. “I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich)” matches these scriptures that today’s believer, particularly in the West, should keep to the fore after the manner of 1 Timothy 6:17 “Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy” and Titus 3:8 “This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.”

“Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia; How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty

abounded unto the riches of their liberality...And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God" 2 Corinthians 8:1-2.

"For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister" Hebrews 6:10.

"Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?" James 2:5.

See the attached studies from www.timefortruth.co.uk/alan-oreilly/:

From *Israel – Past, Present, Future* pp 9-13, 42-43, 47:

Israel – the 'Re-interpretations' with References Appendix 2 – 'Khazars,'... - 2010 Notes...

Acts 3:19 and John Wycliffe 1320-1384, Friend of Israel

with respect to identifying "...the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan" in that they deny that contemporary Jews are "the seed of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob" Jeremiah 33:26 and that therefore in addition to "...the glory of all lands" Ezekiel 20:6, 15, "...the glorious land" Daniel 11:16, 41 they can help themselves to that which rightfully belongs to "Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises" Romans 9:4 after the manner of the Ammonites of old, *today's Palestinians*, whom Jeremiah denounces.

"Concerning the Ammonites, thus saith the LORD; Hath Israel no sons? hath he no heir? why then doth their king inherit Gad, and his people dwell in his cities?" Jeremiah 49:1.

8. **Revelation 2:10.** The Lord states "Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer" because He has promised for all saints including today's believer "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness. Behold, all they that were incensed against thee shall be ashamed and confounded: they shall be as nothing; and they that strive with thee shall perish. Thou shalt seek them, and shalt not find them, even them that contended with thee: they that war against thee shall be as nothing, and as a thing of nought" Isaiah 41:10-12.

Today's believer and indeed the End Times saint must therefore abide for his own ministry by Colossians 4:17 "And say to Archippus, Take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfil it" and trust in Paul's exhortation "But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience, Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me. Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution...And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen" 2 Timothy 3:10-12, 4:18.

The statement "behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried" is daunting, no doubt especially to those to whom it was *historically* addressed directly and to whom it will be *doctrinally* addressed directly for the End Times. That is why Paul and Peter exhort the saints as they do having suffered imprisonment themselves.

"Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him" Acts 12:5.

"And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailor to keep them safely...And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them" Acts 16:23, 25.

"Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body" Hebrews 13:3. See attached extract from Letter to Bro. Jack J. Riolo, Elmira Correctional Facility, New York State, December 5th 2016. This writer

has written over 30 letters to Bro. Riolo and over 100 to Bro. David Edwards in Auburn Correctional Facility New York State. Both men are saved and KJ believers, though they are serving life until the Lord's Return.

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you. To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen" 1 Peter 5:8-11.

Concerning the Lord's statement **"...ye shall have tribulation ten days"** see the attached studies **Revelation 2:10 - TEN DAYS** and **St George of Lydda** with respect to the historical fulfilment of that statement during the Church Age according to persecutions inflicted on believers by ten successive Roman emperors, the last one being Diocletian under whose regime George of Lydda was martyred.

Concerning End Times fulfilment of the Lord's statement **"...ye shall have tribulation ten days"** noting that **"ten days"** historically corresponded to ten persecutions via ten emperors it is feasible that the End Times saints suffer persecution from the ten satanic kings at the height of **"...your hour, and the power of darkness"** Luke 22:53 that John describes and whom the Lord defeats at His Return.

"And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast. These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast. These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful" Revelation 17:12-14.

That persecution is inflicted during the time of **"Jacob's trouble," "troublous times"** or **"great tribulation"** as Jeremiah, Daniel and the Lord Himself show with particular application to Israel.

"Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it" Jeremiah 30:7.

"Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times" Daniel 9:25.

"For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be...woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck, in those days! for there shall be great distress in the land, and wrath upon this people" Matthew 24:21, Luke 21:23.

Together with Jeremiah 30:7 **"that day...the time of Jacob's trouble"** during **"troublous times"** Daniel 9:25 the scripture then reveals another *nine* references with respect to **"the day of trouble"** and **"the day of my trouble"** making *ten* in all that to this writer would correspond to the *ten* satanic kings' persecution of the End Times saints consistent with the historical persecution of **"ten days"** as *ten* persecutions under *ten* emperors. By inspection the following nine scriptures have a strong End Times emphasis, especially with respect to Jewish saints in the End Times.

"The LORD hear thee in the day of trouble; the name of the God of Jacob defend thee" Psalm 20:1.

"And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me" Psalm 50:15.

"But I will sing of thy power; yea, I will sing aloud of thy mercy in the morning: for thou hast been my defence and refuge in the day of my trouble" Psalm 59:16.

“In the day of my trouble I sought the Lord: my sore ran in the night, and ceased not: my soul refused to be comforted” Psalm 77:2. Psalm 77:2 suggests a *repentant* individual who had suffered according to Revelation 16:2 **“And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image”** but who would then suffer persecution for his repentance.

“In the day of my trouble I will call upon thee: for thou wilt answer me” Psalm 86:7.

“Thus saith the LORD; Behold, I will raise up against Babylon, and against them that dwell in the midst of them that rise up against me, a destroying wind; And will send unto Babylon fan-ners, that shall fan her, and shall empty her land: for in the day of trouble they shall be against her round about” Jeremiah 51:1-2.

“The morning is come unto thee, O thou that dwellest in the land: the time is come, the day of trouble is near...” Ezekiel 7:7.

“The LORD is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him” Nahum 1:7.

“When I heard, my belly trembled; my lips quivered at the voice: rottenness entered into my bones, and I trembled in myself, that I might rest in the day of trouble: when he cometh up unto the people, he will invade them with his troops” Habakkuk 3:16.

Today’s believer can take comfort and encouragement devotionally/practically/spiritually from Psalm 20:1, 50:15, 59:16, 86:7, Nahum 1:7.

The exhortation with its promised reward **“be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life”** is the same for today’s believer and for the End Times saint with respect to enduring suffering and even death as a steadfast testimony to the Lord Jesus Christ as James states in the only other scripture reference to **“crown of life.”**

“Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him” James 1:12 with respect to Revelation 12:11 **“And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death”** for both Church Age and End Times martyrs but especially the End Times martyrs.

For a Church Age example of **“be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life”** though from the Philadelphian rather than the Smyrnan era see the extract from *Hebrews 11 Part 4* p 4 www.timefortruth.co.uk/alan-oreilly/ and *Follow-Up Comment*.

Even if he does not have to face martyrdom today’s believer should seek whatever the consequences to be a faithful witness according to the apostles’ testimony of Acts 4:19-20 **“But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.”**

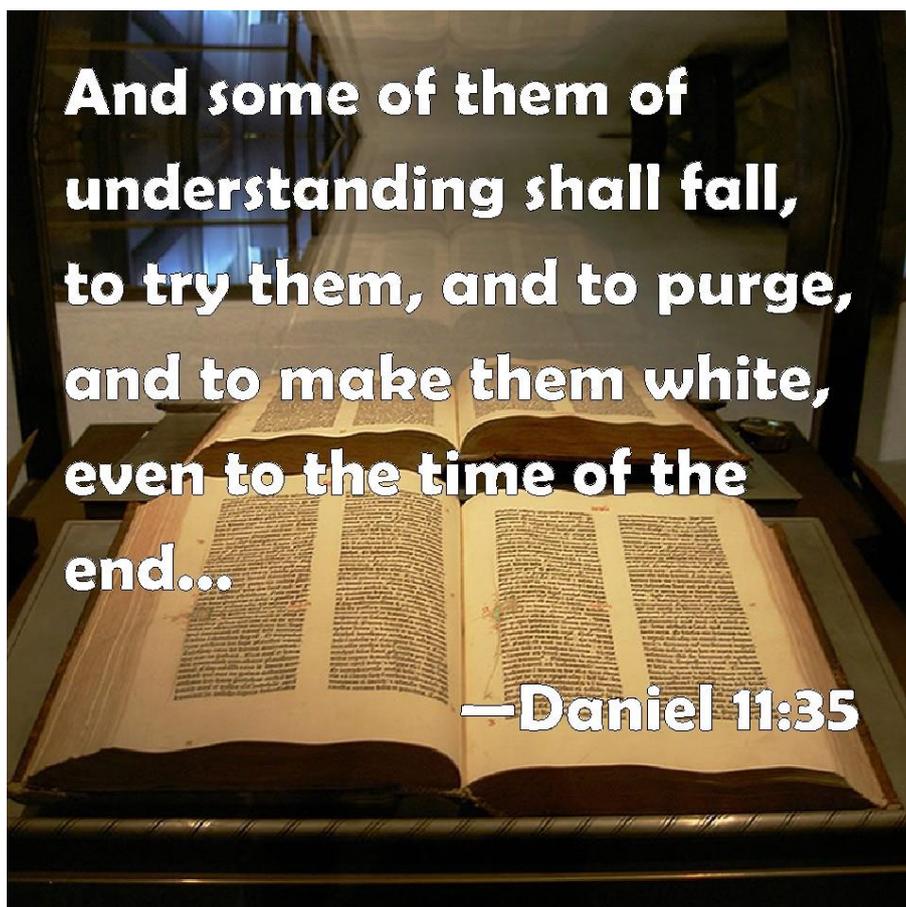
9. **Revelation 2:11.** Concerning the exhortation **“He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches”** note again as stated under Revelation 2:7 that the exhortation *in principle* applies according to John 16:13 **“Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.”**

Today’s believer **“...shall not be hurt of the second death”** because as was stated under Revelation 2:7 **“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God”** Romans 5:1-2 so that the Church Age saint can rejoice *now* that he is

of those “...with Clement also, and with other my fellowlabourers, whose names are in the book of life” Philippians 4:3.

The Lord’s promise to the faithful End Times saint, which has application to today’s believer according to 2 Timothy 2:12 **“If we suffer, we shall also reign with him...”** is Revelation 20:4-6 **“And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years...This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.”**

Conclusion



biblepic.com/daniel/11-35.htm#.WNLrWJ4sbv9

Revelation 2:1-11 Study Questions and Sample Answers

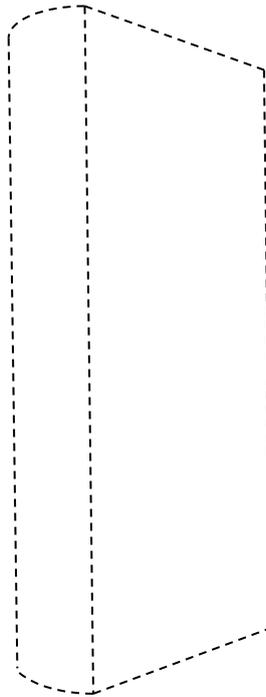
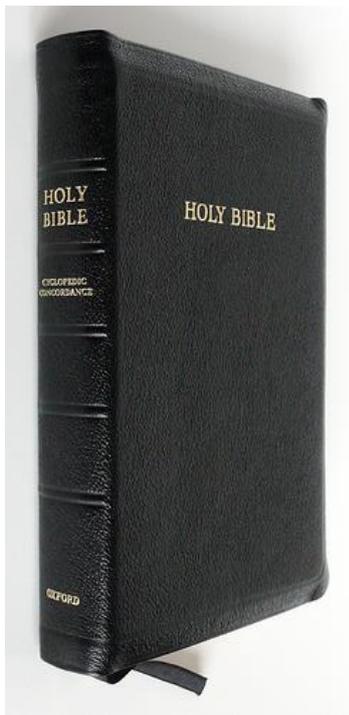
Study Questions

1. What do you think of the church of Ephesus?
2. What do the Lord's statements tell you about the church of Ephesus?
3. What can you put into practice from the Lord's statements?
4. What do you think of the church in Smyrna?
5. What do the Lord's statements tell you about the church in Smyrna?
6. What can you put into practice from the Lord's statements?
7. What do Revelation 2:1-11 tell you about the Lord Jesus Christ?
8. How should that affect your walk with the Lord Jesus Christ?

Sample Answers

1. The church could and did **"Provide things honest in the sight of all men"** Romans 12:17 and **"Let all things be done decently and in order"** 1 Corinthians 14:40.
2. The church understood Ephesians 2:10 **"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them"** not surprisingly but had neglected Matthew 12:33 **"...to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the soul, and with all the strength,,is more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices."**
3. Resist **"the deeds of the Nicolaitans"** for whom **"the words of the LORD"** do not themselves make up **"the word of God"** but are made subject to **"the word of men"** 1 Thessalonians 2:13.
4. The church in Smyrna historically typifying an equivalent church in the End Times could be the church of Ephesus undergoing refinement according to Daniel 11:35 **"And some of them of understanding shall fall, to try them, and to purge, and to make them white, even to the time of the end: because it is yet for a time appointed."**
5. That **"...because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you..."** John 15:19-20.
6. As far as possible follow the sign and **"If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men"** Romans 12:18 and ensure **"...that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty"** 1 Timothy 2:1-2. See www.keepcalm-o-matic.co.uk/p/keep-calm-and-carry-on-8044/.
7. **"For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth"** Hebrews 12:6.
8. Keep in mind that the gardener is never so close as when he is pruning as in John 15:2 **"Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit."**





The 1611 Holy Bible versus the Non-Extant Original

from **Presentational Perfection** of “*The words of the LORD*” Psalm 12:6

Introduction for this Study

This study is drawn from the works www.timefortruth.co.uk/why-av-only/ *Seven Sevenfold Purifications of The Words of the LORD* and *The Ten Gospels – or Twelve* www.timefortruth.co.uk/alan-oreilly/. The aim of this work is to emphasise that the fundamentalist notion of ‘only the original is perfect’ as embodied in fundamentalist statements of faith e.g. that of FIEC fiec.org.uk/about-us/beliefs cannot be true [2016 insert: it’s non-extant] and their framers “*abode not in the truth*” John 8:44.

The 1611 Holy Bible versus the Non-Extant Original

From “originally given” to Finally Perfected - Extract¹

God refined His word from **originally given** to *finally perfected* as the 1611 Holy Bible *historically, practically, inspirationally and textually*. The *historical* refinement follows [2016 insert: from the non-extant original to “*...the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever*” 1 Peter 1:23].

90 A.D. The most probable ‘original’²

See **Figure 1 New Testament Manuscripts 50-1500 A.D.**

The following citation has been adapted from Scrivener’s 1881 Edition of the Received Text, Textus Receptus, published posthumously in 1894 and reprinted by the Trinitarian Bible Society. Scrivener’s Edition is overall the closest Greek New Testament equivalent to the 1611 Holy Bible New Testament drawn mainly from Beza’s 1588-1589 and 1598 Greek Received Text Editions that the King James translators used extensively. Note, however, as Gail Riplinger shows, *Hazardous Materials*, Chapter 18, *The Trinitarian Bible Society’s Little Leaven, TBS Scrivener-Beza Textus Receptus*, Scrivener’s text is *not* finally authoritative for the Greek New Testament and *cannot* be used in authority over the 1611 Holy Bible English New Testament.

The most probable original example passage for a 1st century Greek script immediately follows³.

ΟΥΤΩΣΓΑΡΗΓΑΠΗΣΕΝΟΘΕΟΣΤΟΝΚΟΣΜΟΝΩΣΤΕΤΟΝΥΙΟΝΑΥΤΟΥΤΟΝΜΟΝΟΓΕΝΗ
ΕΔΩΚΕΝΙΝΑΠΑΣΟΠΙΣΤΕΥΩΝΕΙΣΑΥΤΟΝΜΗΑΠΟΛΗΤΑΙΑΛΛΕΧΗΖΩΗΝΑΙΩΝΙΟΝ

A considerably improved form of the passage now follows. Note that in addition to translation into “*words easy to be understood*” 1 Corinthians 14:9, vast strides have been made with respect to the presentation of the passage that will be addressed in more detail below.

1611 A.D.

John 3:16 For God so loued ye world, that he gaue his only begotten Sonne: that whosoener bel-
eueth in him, should not perish, but haue euerlasting life.

The finally perfected form of the passage now follows. The 1611 Gothic type style and Gothic letter forms e.g. **u** for **v** and vice versa, **y** for **th**, have been updated to Times New Roman and 1611 spelling has been standardised to contemporary spelling⁴.

1769 A.D.⁵ to 2015 A.D.+

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Concerning the progression of the written scriptures from 90 A.D. to 1611, when the then 1611 Holy Bible contained all the presentational features of today's 2015+ 1611 Holy Bible, note these extracts from Punctuation and Bible Chapter and Verse Division sources under the above reference. *Note especially that the scripture was the driving force for the development of punctuation.*

Punctuation – Medieval

Punctuation developed dramatically when large numbers of copies of the [Bible](#) started to be produced. These were designed to be read aloud, so the [copyists](#) began to introduce a range of marks to aid the reader, including indentation, various punctuation marks (diple, [paragraphos](#), *simplex ductus*), and an early version of initial capitals (*litterae notabiliores*)...

In the 7th-8th centuries Irish and Anglo-Saxon scribes, whose native languages were not derived from [Latin](#), added more visual cues to render texts more intelligible. Irish scribes introduced the practice of word separation...

Later developments

From the invention of moveable type in Europe in the 1450s the amount of printed material and a readership for it began to increase. “The rise of printing in the 14th and 15th centuries meant that a standard system of punctuation was urgently required” [Truss, Lynn (2004). *Eats, Shoots & Leaves: The Zero Tolerance Approach to Punctuation*. New York: Gotham Books. p. 77]. The introduction of a standard system of punctuation has also been attributed to the Venetian printers [Aldus Manutius](#) and his grandson [circa 1566]. They have been credited with popularizing the practice of ending sentences with the [colon](#) or [full stop](#), inventing the [semicolon](#), making occasional use of [parentheses](#) and creating the modern [comma](#)...

Question: “Who divided the Bible into chapters and verses? Why and when was it done?”

Answer: When the books of the Bible were originally written, they did not contain chapter or verse references. The Bible was divided into chapters and verses to help us find Scriptures more quickly and easily. It is much easier to find “John chapter 3, verse 16” than it is to find “for God so loved the world...” In a few places, chapter breaks are poorly placed and as a result divide content that should flow together*. Overall, though, the chapter and verse divisions are very helpful.

*No changes have ever been made, though. See the attached study [Archbishop Stephen Langton – Charter Framer and Chapter Divider](#).

The chapter divisions commonly used today were developed by Stephen Langton, an Archbishop of Canterbury. Langton put the modern chapter divisions into place in around A.D. 1227. The Wycliffe English Bible of 1382 was the first Bible to use this chapter pattern. Since the Wycliffe Bible, nearly all Bible translations have followed Langton's chapter divisions.

The Hebrew Old Testament was divided into verses by a Jewish rabbi by the name of Nathan in A.D. 1448. Robert Estienne, who was also known as Stephanus, was the first to divide the New Testament into standard numbered verses, in 1555. Stephanus essentially used Nathan's verse divisions for the Old Testament. Since that time, beginning with the Geneva Bible, the chapter and verse divisions employed by Stephanus have been accepted into nearly all the Bible versions.

As indicated, God refined His word from **originally given** to *finally perfected* as the 1611 Holy Bible *historically, practically, inspirationally and textually*. The *practical* refinement follows.

See the following extracts from this writer's earlier work⁶ for a summary list of how that refinement was carried out *practically* beginning with a shrewd evaluation of the ‘originals-onlyism’ mindset.

This gentleman [our critic] is now deceased. However, a sister in the LORD in the USA had this to say in a note to this author about our critic after reading the hard copy edition of “*O Biblios.*”

The sister’s note makes for sombre reading.

“This man’s criticisms are unbelievable. Really, complaining about the use of Saint for the four gospels. I don’t really believe this man is saved much less has taken time to read the bible. I’m thinking that he only went to school to learn from the ‘scholarly’ men who taught him to disbelieve the bible. I think [our critic] was not a believer at all, Alan. It doesn’t seem possible with some of the things he said. To get so upset and write a 20 page thesis on what’s wrong with God’s word just to put you in your place so to speak. That doesn’t appear to be the least bit Godly.”

“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap”
Galatians 6:7.

8.2.7. ***“Your claims that the KJV is superior to the original Hebrew and Greek...the God breathed originals are unacceptable”***

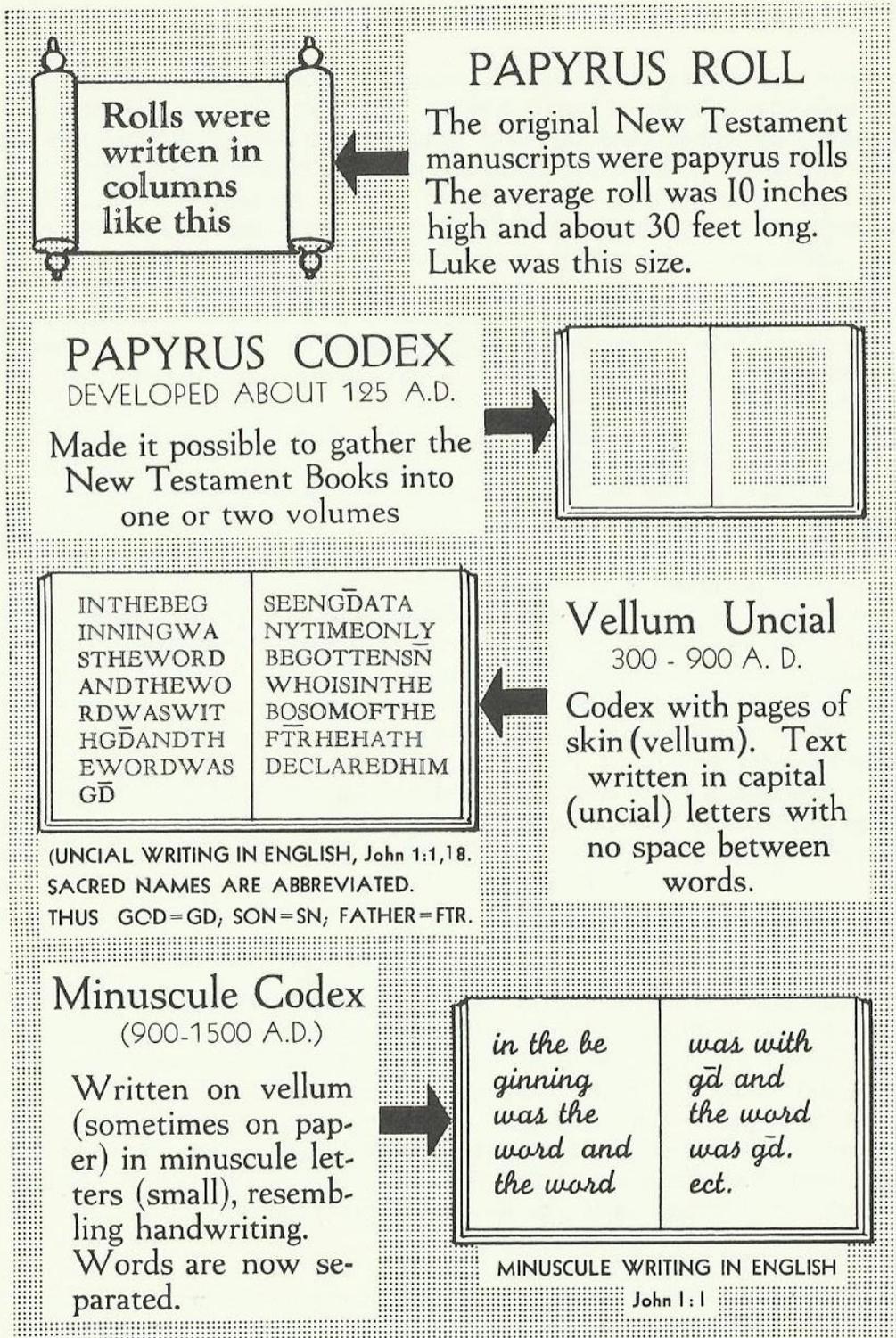
1. 7 specific verses substantiating these “claims” have been cited [Numbers 33:52, Psalm 74:8, Daniel 11:38, Acts 12:4, 19:37, 2 Corinthians 2:17, Galatians 2:20]. See Chapter 5. A total of 60 examples can be obtained from Ruckman [*Biblical Scholarship* Dr Peter S. Ruckman], Appendix 7 plus issues March, April 1989 and November 1991 of the *Bible Believers’ Bulletin*.
2. I repeat several reasons why the AV1611 is superior to “the originals” [*The Bible Babel* Dr Peter S. Ruckman] p 118.

The AV1611:

- 2.1 can be READ, the originals CANNOT and were NEVER collated into one volume. The verse usually quoted in support of “the God-breathed originals,” 2 Timothy 3:16, refers to copies of the scriptures, NOT the original.
- 2.2 has chapter and verse divisions, which even the modern translations must follow. The oldest manuscripts do NOT.
- 2.3 has word separation so that it can be more easily understood. The oldest manuscripts do NOT.
- 2.4 is arranged in Pre-millennial order which the Masoretic text is NOT and even though the translators were NOT Pre-millennial. Again, the modern translations must follow this order.
- 2.5 is rhythmical and easy to memorise which Greek and Hebrew are NOT.
- 2.6 has been responsible for the conversion of more souls than any original autograph or any copy made within 5 centuries of the original autographs.
- 2.7 is in the universal language which Greek and Hebrew are NOT. Hebrew is spoken by approximately 1% of the world’s population. New Testament Greek is a DEAD language, not even spoken in Greece, which incidentally is one of the most spiritually impoverished nations in Europe, according to the Trinitarian Bible Society.

Note especially points 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.7 from the above list in addition to the detailed material from the web sources on how the Lord refined His word from **originally given** to *finally perfected* as the 1611 Holy Bible according to interwoven historical and practical refinements, the *sixth* sevenfold purification of “**The words of the LORD**” the 1611 Holy Bible, “***the little book***” Revelation 10:8, 9, 10 *that is hand-held*.

Figure 1 New Testament Manuscripts 50-1500 A.D. depicts the nature of this sixth sevenfold purification.



New Testament Manuscripts From 50 - 1500 A.D.

Figure 1 New Testament Manuscripts 50-1500 A.D.

Archbishop Stephen Langton – Charter Framer and Chapter Divider

Archbishop Stephen Langton - “*a chosen vessel unto me*” Acts 9:15

The Christian Institute⁷ has compiled a most informative synopsis of Magna Carta⁸. June 15th 2015 was the 800th Anniversary of Magna Carta. We should note that Archbishop Stephen Langton circa 1150-1228⁹ was not only the prime mover in framing Magna Carta but God used him to create the chapter divisions in the scripture that we have today. As “*a chosen vessel unto me*” Acts 9:15 Bro. Langton did a good job before *two* kings, as Charter Framer before an earthly king and Chapter Divider before “*the King of kings and Lord of Lords*” 1 Timothy 6:15 thereby meriting King Solomon’s commendation *and bar*¹⁰. See below. Note that the man may be a tyrant – no later English or British king has been named or taken the name John for the purpose of reigning – but still not a mean man, rather one with great power, even if like John he misuses it.

“Seest thou a man diligent in his business? he shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men” Proverbs 22:29.

Today’s believer should aim for the *same* diligence, as Paul exhorts.

“For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister. And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end” Hebrews 6:10-11.

A Secular Evaluation

One secular but fairly well-balanced source¹¹ has this to say about Bro. Langton.

Who Divided the Bible into Chapters? by Fred Sanders, July 9th 2009

At some point late in [Langton’s] teaching career (the date usually given is 1205)...Langton had the great, simple idea of breaking the text of the Latin translation of the Bible into manageable sections about the size of long paragraphs... Langton broke the uniform text of Scripture into a series of chapters. He did this for the entire Vulgate, and his system of chapter division was immediately recognized as a great help for Bible study.

Bro. Langton completed the work of chapter divisions in 1227¹², not long before his home call. He could testify with the Lord Jesus Christ as every believer should aim to “***I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do***” John 17:4. Fred Sanders continues.

Chapter-division was apparently the right idea at the right time, and one of the remarkable things about the Langtonian chapter divisions is how they were adopted and propagated by different scholarly communities. Jewish scholars (who had worked with other methods of division previously) soon began observing Langtonian chapter divisions, and the churches of the Christian East took the same divisions over in their biblical studies...

Since Langton established the chapter system at the very beginning of the thirteenth century, his influence also spread into all the vernacular translations of the Bible that began appearing in the next



Stephen Langton
Archbishop of Canterbury 1207-1228

centuries. In fact, the chapter system became increasingly important with the proliferation of translations, enabling scholars to move quickly and precisely between versions. And with the advent of printing, Langton's chapters became still more important...

As Mordecai wisely said to Queen Esther *“and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?”* Esther 4:14.

A System Superior to the Critics

While voicing some criticism of Bro. Langton's system, stemming for example from Bible rejecters like Dr A. T. Robertson, Fred Sanders nevertheless states the following.

The vast majority of Langton's chapter breaks are more organic than artificial; they are not arbitrary, but are based on good insight into the flow of the text. Above all, they are handy and universally used. Even if we were to make a list of 250 places* where the Langtonian chapters could be improved by better break points, it would be madness to try to impose a new, improved re-chaptering of Scripture on a global community of Bible readers who have used a standardized system for centuries.

*from 1189 for the total number of chapters in the Old and New Testaments

Fred Sanders concludes leave the old system in place.

Likewise, the Lord's invitation remains, even if too often turned down.

“Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls...” Jeremiah 6:16.

Facing Down the Tyrant

Fred Sanders says this about Bro. Langton, Magna Carta and facing down the tyrant John.

Langton has an important place in the history of political thought, as he was involved in negotiating the famous dispute between the despotic King John...and his aggrieved noblemen. The deal they finally brokered, securing the rights of the noblemen and limiting the powers of the King, was sealed by the drafting and signing of the Magna Carta. Between this and his biography of Richard the Lion-Hearted, Langton was not popular with King John, and even found himself under a ban from Pope Innocent III* for several years. But his office and reputation were restored late in his life.

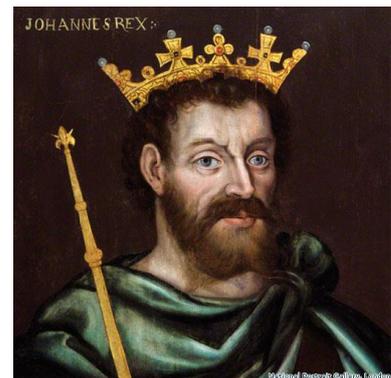
**“that man of sin”* 2 Thessalonians 2:3 and the AV1611 Epistle Dedicatory

Key to facing down the tyrant John was Bro. Langton's vision for the English Church though it would take centuries to fulfill it. The Christian Institute states [**Magna Carta's**] **first and last clauses guarantee the freedom of the English church.** The first one states, “we have granted to God, and by this present Charter have confirmed for us and our heirs in perpetuity, that the English Church shall be free, and shall have its rights undiminished, and its liberties unimpaired.” Amen.

Finishing the Course

In sum, though part of the Roman Church, as most folk were back then Bro. Langton could testify along with Paul and as all true believers would hope to do:

“I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing” 2 Timothy 4:7-8.



Additional Note: Regenerative Translations Superior to Degenerative Originals

It should be understood that anyone who appeals to the original, so-called, or the Greek and the Hebrew, so-called and invariably undefined, over the King James English is saying that the word of God has lost information in transmission i.e. translation. Fundamentalists repeatedly say words to that effect. However, if the word of God has lost information in translation, it has degenerated. If the word of God is subject to degeneration, then anyone who appeals to the original, so-called, or the Greek and the Hebrew, so-called, over the King James English is saying that the Lord Jesus Christ lied when He said as recorded 3 times in scripture ***“Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away”*** Matthew 24:35, Mark 13:31, Luke 21:33.

In addition, your salvation is predicated on the integrity and incorruptibility of ***“the word of God”*** as Peter states ***“Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever”*** 1 Peter 1:23. Anyone therefore who appeals to the original, so-called, or the Greek and the Hebrew, so-called, over the King James English is saying that the apostle Peter lied because the word of God is subject to degeneration and is therefore corruptible.

Therefore your salvation is subject to degeneration and it too is corruptible.

Further, anyone who appeals to the original, so-called, or the Greek and the Hebrew, so-called, over the King James English is also saying that the apostle James lied when he said ***“...receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls”*** James 1:21.

There’s no point because it isn’t and it won’t, according to anyone who appeals to the original, so-called, or the Greek and the Hebrew, so-called, over the King James English.

That is, you don’t have salvation and you can never have it, according to anyone who appeals to the original, so-called, or the Greek and the Hebrew, so-called, over the King James English.

That’s about as blasphemous as it gets but fundamentalists do it all the time.

You should of course be encouraged that translation is not degenerative but is always *regenerative*, an improvement over the original in scripture:

“So do God to Abner, and more also, except, as the LORD hath sworn to David, even so I do to him; To translate the kingdom from the house of Saul, and to set up the throne of David over Israel and over Judah, from Dan even to Beersheba” 2 Samuel 3:9-10.

“Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son” Colossians 1:13.

“By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God” Hebrews 11:5.

Final Word for this Work

Specifically with respect to final authority and the 1611 Holy Bible versus the non-extant original, see store-hicb8.mybigcommerce.com/content/bbb/2013/Aug.pdf p 6 *A Brief Analysis of Missionary Authority* by Jonathan Richmond, Bible Baptist Mission Board director.

*The espousal of a particular translation being equal to or superior to the **King James** leaves one in a precarious position in relation to Bible believers versus the Alexandrian Cult.*

*Bible believers believe that the **King James (Authorized Version)** is the perfect, inerrant words of God and is the final authority. It is the standard to which all versions and translations are compared. And since the AV is the standard, it is superior to anything and everything that is compared to it. Stated another way, nothing compared to the standard is equal to or superior to the standard. English is the standard for time, place, distance, size, quantity, volume, language, etc. When the English standard showed up, both the German and Spanish Bibles [i.e. any non-English Bible] should have been corrected and/or updated with the English.*

The Greek Textus Receptus (any edition) is not superior to English. It was an interim, early New Testament, a stepping stone to the purification of the words of God in English. The world does not speak Greek and never will again...

As Gail Riplinger has rightly said, *In Awe of Thy Word* p 956, this writer's emphases:

There existed a true original Greek (i.e. Majority Text, Textus Receptus). It is not in print and never will be, because it is unnecessary. No one on the planet speaks first century Koine Greek, so God is finished with it. He needs no 'Dead Bible Society' to translate it into "everyday English," using the same corrupt secularised lexicons used by the TNIV, NIV, NASB and HCSB [Holman Christian Standard Bible]. God has not called readers to check his Holy Bible for errors. He has called his Holy Bible to check us for errors."

"The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever" Isaiah 40:8.

Appendix – the Nicolaitans, “being lords over God’s heritage” 1 Peter 5:3

From www.timefortruth.co.uk/alan-oreilly/ “My Brethren” Matthew 25:40 and ‘the Hebrew’ and ‘the Greek’ p 9

Noting the Lord’s aversion to **“the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate”** Revelation 2:6 and **“the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate”** Revelation 2:15, it is realistic to ask **“what saith the scripture?”** Romans 4:3 about **“the Nicolaitans.”** Note the following scriptures with respect to words that may be associated in part with the term Nicolaitan.

“Then the five men departed, and came to Laish, and saw the people that were therein, how they dwelt careless, after the manner of the Zidonians, quiet and secure; and there was no magistrate in the land, that might put them to shame in any thing; and they were far from the Zidonians, and had no business with any man” Judges 18:7.

“There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews” John 3:1.

“For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia” 2 Timothy 4:10.

Observe that:

1. **“Laish”** has **“the people...therein”** that is, the laity.
2. **“Nicodemus”** was **“a ruler.”**
3. **“Demas...loved this present world”** that is **“the people...therein.”**

In sum, the scripture indicates that **“Nico”** is **“a ruler”** and whether associated with **“demus”** (**“Demas”**) or **“laitan”** (**“Laish”**) the result is **“Nicolaitan”** = a ruler of the laity, people or worldlings, as indicated earlier. See **Genesis 12:3, A Case in Point.**

Observe finally that **“the doctrine of the Nicolaitans”** Revelation 2:15 occurs adjacent to **“the doctrine of Balaam.”**

“But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication” Revelation 2:14.

The centrepiece of **“the doctrine of Balaam”** was clearly the **“stumblingblock”** that he **“taught Balac”** in order to subvert God’s people and thereby gain **“the wages of unrighteousness”** 2 Peter 2:15 that he was in danger of losing, Numbers 24:11-13.

“The Nicolaitans” clearly operate according to the same principle in order to be **“lords over God’s heritage”** 1 Peter 5:3 for the same reason as Balaam, as Paul warned.

“Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre’s sake” Titus 1:11.

The modern Nicolaitan **“stumblingblock”** is **“teaching things which they ought not”** namely that what God ‘really’ said may only be found **“in the Hebrew”** and/or **“in the Greek”** Revelation 9:11.

As Dr Mrs Gail Riplinger¹³ insightfully warns those things are **“echoes from “the bottomless pit”.**”

Revival – A Seven-Point Plan

Introduction

Jack Chick has addressed the most important issue for the church today. See:

www.chick.com/reading/tracts/1069/1069_01.asp.

What follows is therefore a seven-point plan in the light of Bro. Chick's observations for revival. *Genuine* spiritual revival depends upon *fidelity* to **"the book of the law of the LORD"** 2 Chronicles 17:9, now **"the law of Christ"** Galatians 6:2 - the 1611 Authorized King James Holy Bible, the *King's Holy Bible*. See the *Ruckman Reference Bible* pp 584, 586, 671-672 and note how revival came about in Josiah's time.



"And the king stood in his place, and made a covenant before the LORD, to walk after the LORD, and to keep his commandments, and his testimonies, and his statutes, with all his heart, and with all his soul, to perform the words of the covenant which are written in this book. And he caused all that were present in Jerusalem and Benjamin to stand to it. And the inhabitants of Jerusalem did according to the covenant of God, the God of their fathers. And Josiah took away all the abominations out of all the countries that pertained to the children of Israel, and made all that were present in Israel to serve, even to serve the LORD their God. And all his days they departed not from following the LORD, the God of their fathers" 2 Chronicles 34:31-33.

Pulling down and casting out according to **"the book of the law of the LORD"** had to go before **"perfecting holiness in the fear of God"** 2 Corinthians 7:1, 10:4, 5. So it is now as then.

Seven-Point Plan

1. Junk Vatican Versions

All modern versions are *Vatican* versions straight from **"THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH"** Revelation 17:5. See *Did The Catholic Church Give Us The Bible?* by David W. Daniels www.chick.com/catalog/bibleversions.asp and *Undeniable Proof the ESV, NIV, NASB are the new "Vatican Versions" and The NKJV is a Poor Substitute for the True Bible* by Will Kinney brandplucked.webs.com/kjbarticles.htm. No modern i.e. Vatican version has ever brought revival or ever will. **"They are even the dross of silver"** Ezekiel 22:18. Vatican versionism should be *confessed* and *forsaken* for revival. **"He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy"** Proverbs 28:13.

2. Junk 'Originals-Onlyism'

By definition, no 'originals-onlyist' has any *book in existence now* that is 'God's word' as the Lord Jesus Christ called it. **"But he said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it"** Luke 11:28.

No 'originals-onlyist' can **"keep"** what he doesn't have i.e. 'the originals.' It follows that the 'originals-onlyist' perceives that any book that he *calls* 'God's word' *has lost information in transmission*. It has therefore *degenerated*. The 'originals-onlyist' therefore *cannot even have salvation because it too must have degenerated because salvation is predicated upon* **"the word of God."** **"Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever"** 1 Peter 1:23, except the originals-onlyist' says it doesn't.

Moreover, the 'originals-onlyist' **"hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace"** Hebrews 10:29 in that he has *denied* Psalm 12:6-7: **"The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever."** 'Originals-onlyism' should be *confessed* and *forsaken* for revival.

3. **Junk Hebrew/Greekolatry**

Fundamentalists often cite 'the Hebrew' and 'the Greek' for what God 'really' said. However, 'the Hebrew' and 'the Greek' so-called *never* reveal anything *authoritative* and instead *mislead*. See for example the *Ruckman Reference Bible* p 1425 on John 21:15-17 for debunking *agape* and *phileo* as superior and inferior forms of *love*. See John 21:15, 16 for "**lovest**" *agape* twice and John 21:17 "**lovest**" *phileo* "**the third time.**" See Matthew 23:6/Luke 11:43 *phileo/agape*, John 5:20, 11:3, 16:27 *phileo* each time, 2 Timothy 4:10 *agape*, 2 Peter 2:15 *agape*, 1 John 2:15 *agape* each time. Moreover, New Testament Greek is a *dead* language as Gail Riplinger, *In Awe of Thy Word* p 956, states. **There existed a true original Greek...It is not in print and never will be, because it is unnecessary. No one on the planet speaks first century Koine Greek, so God is finished with it.** Hebrew/Greekolatry should be *confessed* and *forsaken* for revival.

4. **Junk 5-Point Calvinism**

5-Point Calvinism is heresy. See www.timefortruth.co.uk/errors-of-calvinism/. The scripture sums up 5-Point Calvinism as follows. David in despotic mode acts as Calvin's God, arbitrarily selecting saved and lost. "**And he smote Moab, and measured them with a line, casting them down to the ground; even with two lines measured he to put to death, and with one full line to keep alive...**" 2 Samuel 8:2. 5-Point Calvinism should be *confessed* and *forsaken* for revival.

5. **Junk anti- Israelism**

God is *not* all through with the nation of Israel. Paul says that you are conceited and ignorant if you think otherwise. "**For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob**" Romans 11:25-26. Anti-Israelism should be *confessed* and *forsaken* for revival.

6. **Focus on "the mysteries of God" 1 Corinthians 4:1**

See the *Ruckman Reference Bible* pp 1513-1514. "**The mysteries of God**" are seven; the Incarnation of Christ, 1 Timothy 3:16, the indwelling Christ, Colossians 1:27, the body of Christ, Ephesians 5:32, the Blindness of Israel, Romans 11:25, the Incarnation of Satan, 2 Thessalonians 2:7, the Rapture, 1 Corinthians 15:51, Babylon the Great, Revelation 17:5. "**The ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God**" 1 Corinthians 4:1 must faithfully *preach* them for revival.

7. **Submit to "the king's word" 2 Samuel 24:4, the King's 1611 Holy Bible**

King James translator Dr Miles Smith gives the crowning exhortation for revival. See www.jesus-is-lord.com/pref1611.htm. *Ye are brought unto fountains of living water which ye digged not; do not cast earth into them with the Philistines [Genesis 26:15], neither prefer broken pits before them with the wicked Jews [Jeremiah 2:13]. Others have laboured, and you may enter into their labours; O receive not so great things in vain, O despise not so great salvation!...a blessed thing it is, and will bring us to everlasting blessedness in the end, when God speaketh unto us, to hearken; when he setteth his word before us, to read it; when he stretcheth out his hand and calleth, to answer, Here am I, here we are to do thy will, O God. The Lord work a care and conscience in us to know him and serve him, that we may be acknowledged of him at the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with the holy Ghost, be all praise and thanksgiving. Amen. The King's Bible is "the book of the law of the LORD" 2 Chronicles 17:9 for *revival*. "**Where the word of a king is, there is power: and who may say unto him, What dost thou?**" Ecclesiastes 8:4.*

Conclusion

The above seven points must be in place for revival. Otherwise prayer for revival is a waste of time and time is not there to waste, as Paul warns "**See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil**" Ephesians 5:15-16.

“shadow of death”

The term ***“shadow of death”*** is found 19 times in scripture [in 19 verses, twice in Job 24:17]; Job 3:5, 10:21, 22, 12:22, 16:16, 24:17, 28:3, 34:22, 38:17, Psalm 23:4, 44:19, 107:10, 14, Isaiah 9:2, Jeremiah 2:6, 13:16, Amos 5:8, Matthew 4:16, Luke 1:79. Although the Jewish people dwelt ***“in the land of the shadow of death”*** during the First Advent, ***“the shadow of death”*** itself will not be manifest until the End Times just before the Second Advent. It will be a literal cloud of death¹⁴ passing over the earth at that time, emitting lethal radiation that kills everything that its shadow overtakes. Of ***“the land of the shadow of death”*** itself, the following may apply, with respect to its precise location, with reference to ***“the valley of the shadow of death”*** Psalm 23:4.

This valley may be the Great Rift Valley¹⁵ that passes through the Jordan Valley and the Dead Sea towards the Gulf of Aqaba and the Red Sea, which ‘just happens’ to be the area near ***“the land of Uz”*** where Job was, Job 1:1. It is possible that whatever embodies ***“the shadow of death”*** may emerge from beneath the Rift Valley via ***“a great earthquake”*** Revelation 6:12 when its ***“doors”*** are opened Job 38:17 during the time of ***“Jacob’s trouble”*** and ***“great Tribulation”*** Jeremiah 30:7, Revelation 7:14. The Lord would then dispel ***“the shadow of death”*** and shut the doors on any further manifestation of it at the Second Advent. Psalm 23:4 indicates God’s protection for His people at that time.

Note that at the time of ***“a new heaven and a new earth”*** the Lord will shut* ***“the gates of death”*** forever by means of the restoration of ***“the tree of life”*** Genesis 2:9, 3:22, 24, Revelation 2:7, 21:1, 22:2, 14. *He will actually have disposed of them in ***“the lake of fire...the second death”*** Revelation 20:14

Note also that ***“the valley of the shadow of death”*** had historical significance for David as ***“the valley of Elah”*** where David fought and killed Goliath, though the giant had vowed to kill him 1 Samuel 17:2-3, 44-51. Devotionally, ***“the valley of the shadow of death”*** also applies to ***“the saints and martyrs of Jesus”*** [Revelation 17:6] who suffered for the Lord down through the centuries, especially at the hands of Rome and her abominable offspring like Islam, Hebrews 11:35-38, Revelation 17:6, *The Prophet, Alberto Part 6*, Chick Publications, 1988. The term could also apply to great spiritual trials undergone by the believer upon whom ***“the light shined”*** [Isaiah 9:2] with the Lord’s deliverance, as Christian and Hopeful experienced in their escape from Doubting Castle and Giant Despair in Part 1 of *The Pilgrim’s Progress* and as Paul described in 2 Corinthians 1:9.

“But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead:”

5

Israel – the ‘Re-interpretations’

Having failed from earliest times to destroy Israel ^{2, p 20}, Satan has made repeated efforts to obscure the nation's identity and thereby to discredit Biblical testimony to God's faithfulness to Israel. The Devil has often used the Roman Catholic Church for this purpose. One its most prominent founders (and most effective satanic tool) was the North African theologian Aurelius Augustine, 354-430 AD, Bishop of Hippo and 'Doctor of the Church' ^{14, p 104, 15}. During the years 413-426 AD, he produced a book called *The City of God*, in which he misappropriated the material promises given to the nation of Israel, e.g. with respect to Israel's possession of the land and applied them to the Catholic Church. (He thus penned a diabolical rationale for the bloody and futile Crusades of later centuries ^{5, p 44}.) His approach to the scriptures was based on the allegorical method of interpretation, invented by the 'Christian' Gnostic philosopher Adamantius Origen of Alexandria, 185-254 AD and later adopted by John Calvin and other Reformers. Contrary to scripture, Calvin and his followers taught that God had cast off the Jews and Israel, so that all the Old Testament promises to Israel were to be spiritualised and applied to the Christian Church ^{2, p 2-3, 5, p 44, 16, p 7}. (Calvin's interpretation differed from Augustine's only in that Calvin's focus was not on the land itself. Significantly, Augustine's teachings re-emerge in the UN policy towards Jerusalem – see ***Introduction***.)

The Rev. Daniel Whitby developed a similar set of teachings in England in the 17th century, in which he claimed that Israel represented the Church of Jesus Christ. According to Whitby, literal blessings that God had promised for the land of Israel at the Second Advent, e.g. ***“rivers in the desert”*** Isaiah 43:20, really meant the enjoyment of salvation through hearing and believing the Christian Gospel ^{1, p 4-5}. Whitby's teachings received further encouragement in the 18th century through the results of the Great Awakening, brought about by the preaching of the great evangelists of the time, Wesley, Whitefield and others. So many souls were getting saved through their ministries that the beginning of the Lord's thousand-year reign, prophesied in Revelation 20:4, was incorrectly assumed to be imminent.

Whitby's influence is widespread even today. It may be found amongst the chapter headings inserted by the publishers of the Authorised Version, for Isaiah 43, which read ***“God comforteth the church..., The church comforted”***. Yet the Text of Isaiah 43 has nothing to do with the church, it is about the re-gathering of the Jews to the land of Israel, verse 6, the restoration of the land itself, verses 19, 20 and the cleansing of Israel from sin at the Second Advent, verse 25. The Chapter refers three times to ***“Jacob”*** verses 1, 22, 28 but this name is *never* applied to the Church in the New Testament – and is wholly inappropriate.

However, similar false teachings persist among contemporary reformed and evangelical groups. One evangelical publication ^{17, p 6} speaks for many of these groups with the following statement. ***“Like other aspects of Israel's covenant life, the land was a picture of gospel realities to come, not an ongoing entity to be somehow reclaimed in the future by an earthly people in 1948. The concept of “Israel” is fulfilled both in Christ and in the new people of God, the body of Christ”***. However, the author Jon Zens does not address Romans 9-11 in his article. Paul's letter to the Romans is rightly described as the pivotal book of the New Testament for the true Church but in these chapters, Paul is describing the permanence of Israel as a nation. He is not speaking of Christians but of ***“my kinsmen according to the flesh”***. See Romans 9:1-3 above.

When God first gave the future land of Israel to Abraham, He simply said ***“Unto thy seed will I give this land”*** Genesis 12:6. There were no conditions attached. Moreover, the land grant to Abraham was both a covenant and a promise. See Genesis 15:18 and Exodus 12:25. Even though Israel's sin would cause them to be displaced from the land, the expulsion would not be permanent. See above, ***Israel – the Apostasy and Dispersion***. Paul affirms that Israel will eventually occupy all the land that God assigned to her, ***“For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance”*** Romans 11:29.

Further on in his article, Mr. Zens repeats a falsehood that is common amongst opponents of the nation of Israel. ***“As the British withdrew in 1948, armed gangs of Zionists forced thousands of Arabs to leave their homes”*** ^{17, p 8}. The truth is that immediately after Israel became an independent nation in May 1948, 5 Islamic nations attacked her. They were Iraq, Lebanon, Syria, Egypt and Jordan. Iran and Libya supported them. Among the first targets was a bus carrying unarmed civilians. There had been repeated acts of Arab sabotage and terror long before then and they have continued since. Between 1949-1954, Israel reported over 1600 treaty violations by Jordanian terrorists ^{3, p 352ff, 18, p 3355} but the terrorists were not all external to Israel. In 1948, there were about 800,000 Palestinian Arabs on what was then Israeli territory ^{19, p 120}. Arab *agent provocateurs* had long existed amongst them, like Haj al Amin Hussein, the Arab Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, who instigated attacks on Jewish civilians from 1920 onwards, including Muslim riots in the old city of Jerusalem, in which hundreds of Jews were murdered ^{3, p 283, 299ff}. For example, in August 1929, a mob of 20,000 Muslims murdered over 200 Jews, screaming ***“Death to the Jews! There is no God but Allah!”*** The British authorities stood by and let it happen. Hussein said to the Muslims in Hebron ***“We are proud of our great victory and of***

the murder of the Jews we have killed. We are proud of the great booty we have taken. We will do our best to assure you that the [British] government will not oppose you."^{3, p 278}.

Nevertheless, in spite of these repeated provocations, Israel did not try to force the Arab citizens out. *In 1948 they were ordered to leave by the invading Arabs, under pain of execution as traitors and collaborators.* About 600,000 did so. (In Haifa, the Jewish authorities there urged them not to.) However, by 1974, there were an estimated 2,000,000 Arab 'refugees' *ibid.*,^{3, p 357} in Israel and the number is increasing. Anywhere from 60-80% are 'new, imported' refugees, who support the Palestinian Authority, an amalgam of 6 Muslim terrorist groups, with thousands of members in total, who are also among the 'refugees'^{3, p 360, 422, 430}.

Apologists for the Palestinian uprising like to emphasise Jewish atrocities against Arabs, like the massacre at Deir Yassin on April 8th 1948 by the I. Z.L., Irgun Zvai Leumi or Jewish National Military Organisation. However, Lambert^{19, p 119} states "*The Israeli Government of Ben Gurion publicly deplored the incident [and]...while in no way wishing to excuse this act...it was more than matched by Arab atrocities upon Jewish communities*". In 1947, as Israel's time of self-determination drew near, the Muslims stepped up the persecution. By May 1947, in Jerusalem alone "*the Moslems had killed scores of Jewish civilians [and] raped Jewish women...the fleeing British threatened military intervention in the war on the Arab side when the Jews attempted to drive the Egyptians out of Palestine*"^{3, p 356}. Moreover, 800,000 Jews were forcibly expelled from Arab lands between 1948-1951. Israel absorbed these refugees and did not try to force Arabs to leave Israel^{19, p 122}. Lambert affirms that the threat of execution at the hands of the invading Muslim armies was "*the overwhelming reason*" for the mass exodus of their co-religionists from Israel in 1948.

Arab aggression against Israel continued. "*Between June 1949 and October 1954, Israel reported 1612 violations of Moslem treaties dealing with the borders of the Jordanian terrorists after King Abdullah was assassinated. The UN did...nothing*"^{3, p 363}. (King Abdullah of Jordan had tried to make a genuine peace with Israel. His own people assassinated him in 1951^{3, p 361-362}.)

Persistent Arab terrorist attacks led to the Israeli counter-offensive of 1956^{3, p 384ff}. In 1967, 700,000 Jews faced 10,000,000 Muslims, with Radio Baghdad "*screaming daily "Kill the Jews! Kill the Jews! Kill the Jews!"*"^{3, p 396}.

The nations ranged against Israel during the Yom Kippur War were Egypt, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Yemen, Iran, Sudan, Libya, Morocco, Algeria, Tunis and Jordan. Egypt alone attacked with 3,000 tanks, 2,000 heavy guns, 1,000 aircraft and 600,000 men^{19, p 15}.

Israel fought alone – and won.

The rest of the world spurned even Israel's humanitarian efforts, at least as recently as 1975, after long years of Arab hostility to Israel. "*Israel appears to have suffered ostracism from the International Red Cross, for this body recognises the Red Crescent of the Arabs and the Red Lion and Sun of the Iranians and at the same time refuses recognition to the Red Shield of David*"^{19, p 17}. Lambert also states that Israel's contribution to the alleviation of the Palestinians' deplorable living conditions is higher than that of any of her Arab neighbours, who seem unconcerned for the plight of their fellow Muslims^{3, p 121}.

With cruel irony, the Arab nations in the region appear intent of making the Palestinian problem worse. Having uprooted their fellow Arabs in 1948, they have forced them to return in much greater numbers as a cloak for terrorist incursions. "*The fake "Palestinian" refugees - now numbering 4,000,000 (who entered Palestine after 1967) have summer camps to train eight to fourteen year olds how to use bombs, grenades, automatic rifles and rocks to maim and kill Jews*"^{20, p 7}. These camps have clearly been set up for offensive, not defensive, operations. In other words, the Palestinian "*refugee*" camps are no more for "*refugees*" than the camps set up in the Republic of Ireland to train the IRA - see *The Informer* by Sean O'Callaghan.

Jewish Israel is therefore facing another genocide. Arafat's aim for Israel, like Hitler's was for Europe, is a state that is 'Judenrien' – 'Jew-free'^{3, p 281}. (This is not surprising because Hussein, the Arab Grand Mufti of Jerusalem allied himself with Hitler in World War 2, recruited saboteurs and spies to aid the Germans in North Africa and helped raise two divisions of Kosovo Moslems for the German SS^{3, p 320}. He was outspokenly zealous for the murder of Jews^{3, p 278} just as Arafat is today, although the British media does not report his comments in this respect. See **Introduction**. Hussein stepped up his murder and mutilation campaign in 1935, after Hitler came to power. His terrorist group, the Fawzi El Kawji from Syria, targeted unarmed Jewish civilians and even Muslims reluctant to join in the slaughter, of whom the Fawzi murdered approximately 2,000. Hitler and Mussolini supported Hussein financially^{3, p 305}.)

Tragically, thanks to false teachers like Jon Zens, the Body of Christ is largely unaware of these sinister developments.

Another re-interpretation of Israel is that of British-Israelism. This movement began in the 19th century with Richard Brothers, who believed that the English speaking peoples were the true Israel "*and...consequently the true heirs of all God's promises to the Jewish nation*"^{21, p 3}. Britain was of course the leading world power during the 19th century because she had a King James Bible-believing Queen on the throne who declared

“that Book accounts for the supremacy of England”^{22, p 18}. Having observed God’s blessing in this respect, Brothers jumped to the wrong conclusion. Like Daniel Whitby before him, he failed to heed Paul’s admonition to Timothy. **“Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth”** 2 Timothy 2:15. Careful study of Genesis 9:22-28 would have shown Brothers the separate destinies of the races that sprang from Noah’s sons, amongst whom God divided the world after the flood. Dr. Halley *ibid.*, p 74 states of this passage *“Descendants of Ham to be servant races; Shemites to preserve knowledge of the true God; Japhetic races to have largest portion of world, and to supplant Semitic races as teachers of God. It was fulfilled when Israelites took Canaan, Greeks took Sidon, and Rome conquered Carthage; and ever since Japhetic races have dominated the world, and have been converted to the God of Shem, while Semitic races have occupied a place of comparative insignificance and Hamitic races a place of servitude. An amazing forecast!”*.

After the decline of the British Empire, the British-Israel movement resurfaced in the United States under the leadership of the late Herbert W. Armstrong, who propagated his beliefs through his magazine *The Plain Truth*^{21, p 4}. However, the movement also survives in Britain as the British Israel World Federation²³. Its major belief is that *“the Lost Ten Tribes of the Northern House of Israel’s descendants are to be found in the Anglo-Saxon-Celtic and kindred peoples of today. As the Federation believes in the whole Bible it therefore believes the Covenants made between God and Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (Israel) are everlasting and the British nation plays an important part of God’s plan”*^{ibid.}. This belief system has been developed from a detailed comparison between ancient Israel and Great Britain, consisting of 72 *“Marks of Israel”*^{23, 24, p 17}, supported by numerous scriptures.

A similar work by Hilliard^{25, p 48ff}, attempts to draw a distinction between the words ‘Israel’ and ‘Jew’ in order to ‘prove’ Israelitish ancestry for the Anglo-Saxon peoples but these terms are used interchangeably in the New Testament^{21, p 9}. See Acts 2:5, 14, 22, 36; 26:7. (Hilliard’s work also takes up the British-Israelite theme^{25, p 42ff} that the seven-fold punishment of Leviticus 26:18 is actually a punishment of seven times 360 prophetic years, or 2520 years. Larkin^{1, p 71} decisively refutes this interpretation. However, this theme is germane to the notion that the **“company of nations”** of Genesis 35:11 is the British Commonwealth^{25, p 35} to which Hilliard applies the term **“the commonwealth of Israel”** from Ephesians 2:12^{24, Chapter 9}. Yet inspection of the context reveals that members of this **“commonwealth”** are circumcised Jews! Obviously, the practice of circumcision has no long-standing tradition amongst the Anglo-Saxon peoples, who must therefore have an essentially different lineage. Hilliard’s rationale for his use of the term stems from his account of the escape of a Jewish princess Tamar Tephi to Ireland at the time of the fall of Jerusalem to Nebuchadnezzar in 586 BC and her subsequent marriage into the Irish Royal Household^{25, p 104}. He maintains that the present Queen is descended from this household, which itself is alleged to have been established by members of the tribe of Judah who had emigrated from the land of Israel much earlier, even before the captivity of the ten northern tribes *ibid.*. However, the ancient Irish Royal Household dates from long before the division of the nation of Israel into 12 tribes. See below. It should be noted, nevertheless, that Hilliard’s work is overall a very readable summary of Britain’s history from a Christian standpoint and provides a most vivid portrayal of God’s blessing to her while she remained faithful to Him and the Holy Bible.)

Moreover, the British-Israel based works either exclude or fail to appreciate the full significance of salient passages that explicitly identify Israel’s ancestry and declare her permanence such as Genesis 9:22-28; 15:18, Jeremiah 31:35-37; 33:20-21, 24-26 and Romans 9:1-3, 11:29. Solomon had observed long ago that **“Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people”** Proverbs 14:34, showing that Britain’s greatness came from being right with God and His Book, the Authorised King James Bible, not from an Israelitish ancestry. Queen Victoria understood this and so, it appears, did the writer of the following, with respect to the burgeoning superpower, America. (The quote has been wrongly attributed to French writer, Alexis de Tocqueville. It encapsulates a great deal of truth, however.)

“I sought for the key to the greatness and genius of America in her harbors...in her fertile fields and boundless forests; in her rich mines and vast world commerce; in her public school system and institutions of learning. I sought for it in her democratic Congress and in her matchless Constitution. Not until I went into the churches of America and heard her pulpits flame with righteousness did I understand the secret of her genius and power. America is great because America is good, and if America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great”^{26, Introduction}.

Clarence Larkin^{1, p 64} is emphatic. *“Much has been written to try to prove that the “Anglo Saxons”, the English speaking race, are the descendants of the lost Ten Tribes. But they cannot be, for it is said of Israel, that “they shall dwell alone, and not be reckoned among the nations” Numbers 23:9, but the Anglo-Saxons are numbered among the nations. Israel is to remain many days without a King, a Prince or a Temple (Hosea 3:4), but the Anglo-Saxons have kings, presidents and princes, and centres of religious worship. Once more, the penalty of “Uncircumcision” is “Excision”, (Genesis 17:10-14), the “Anglo-Saxons” are “Uncircumcised” and therefore not entitled to Jewish privileges”*.

But from whence did come the British and other European nations – and by implication, the United States? Using the *History of the Kings of Britain* from the 12th century, by Geoffrey of Monmouth and *The History of the Britons* from the 8th century, by Nennius, Bill Cooper^{27, p 69ff} traces the early British, Anglo-Saxon, Irish, Danish and Norwegian kings back to **“Japheth the elder”** Genesis 10:21. Japheth, the eldest son of Noah was known to the heathen Saxons as Scaef^{ibid., p 97} and is listed in the genealogies as such. The peoples over whom these kings ruled were of the same race as they were. Significantly, **“Japheth”** means both **“God shall enlarge”** Genesis 9:27 and **“fair”**²⁸.

A further indication of the distinction between Britain and Israel is found in Daniel 7:1-4. Dr. Ruckman states that the standard interpretation of Daniel 7:4 is that the winged lion is Babylon, as found in Daniel 2:37^{5, p 366ff} but he then shows that this interpretation cannot be correct. Daniel 7:17 reveals that the winged lion is the first of **“four kings which shall arise out of the earth”**, that is *after* Belshazzar who was already in power but who would be the last king of Babylon, Daniel 5:30. The prophecy would therefore be fulfilled in history with Media-Persia, Daniel 5:31, *not* Babylon. However, Daniel 7:2 refers to **“my vision by night”**, which prophetically corresponds to the Church Age, from Pentecost to the Second Advent^{5, p 367-368}, because the Lord’s return for His children is likened that of a **“thief in the night”**:

“For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night” 1 Thessalonians 5:2.

The scripture likens the Lord Jesus Christ and Christians to lights in a dark world, with the Christians awaiting the dawn and the scripture is itself **“a light that shineth in a dark place”** 2 Peter 1:19.

“Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life” John 8:12.

“Do all things without murmurings and disputings: That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world” Philippians 2:14b, 15.

“Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness” 1 Thessalonians 5:5.

“We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts” 2 Peter 1:19.

Paul referred to the present time as **“night”** – already well advanced in Paul’s day - and Jesus likened His followers to night watchmen.

“The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light” Romans 13:12.

“Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning” Mark 13:35.

Prophetically therefore, the visions of Daniel 7 most likely refer to imperial powers of **“the last time”** 1 John 2:18, equivalent in scope and influence to ancient empires of Babylon, Persia, Greece and Rome. The first of these would be Britain, *whose empire bore some vital equivalence to that of Media-Persia*. They were each the largest in extent in their own era, as a glance at any Biblical and contemporary atlases will show. *Moreover, they each allowed the Jews to return to their homeland*, Persia according to the decree of Cyrus and Britain according to the Balfour Declaration of 1918, *which was the decree of a king, George V of Great Britain*^{3, p 242-243, 5, p 370}. *They were the only world empires ever to do so.*

“Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, All the kingdoms of the earth hath the LORD God of heaven given me; and he hath charged me to build him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Who is there among you of all his people? The LORD his God be with him, and let him go up” 2 Chronicles 36:23.

Lord Balfour wrote to Lord Rothschild on November 2nd, 1917, according to this extract from the initial draft of the Declaration, : *“His Majesty views with favour the establishment in Palestine of the national homeland for the Jewish people, and will use [His Majesty’s government’s] best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object”*.

“Where the word of a king is, there is power: and who may say unto him, What doest thou?” Ecclesiastes 8:4.

In sum therefore, Britain is distinct from Israel because Britain has been the heart of a great world empire, whereas this distinction cannot in any be applied either to Israel or the Jewish people, as Larkin has shown – see citation above.

To ensure that there is no misunderstanding about the true identity of Israel, Cooper gives detailed listings of the genealogies of Noah’s sons in the appendices of his book, where he enlarges upon the Table of Nations,

as found in Genesis 10. He makes it abundantly clear that Britain and Israel each have a distinctly different lineage, the latter being descended from Noah's second son Shem, with no wholesale 'crossover' to Japheth's line at any time down through the centuries. The history of the Jews in Europe after the Dispersion shows that they largely retained their racial integrity – thanks in no small part to persecution by Catholics – see **Introduction** - who forced them to live in ghettos from as early as the 13th century^{3 p 174}.

The Catholic inquisitors of World War 2 certainly had no doubts about the racial background of those whom they were gassing and incinerating. Neither, it seems, did the victims and nor do Arafat's Muslim terrorists of the Palestinian Authority.

One recent and rather bizarre re-interpretation of Israel is that she is really **"Mystery Babylon"** of Revelation 17:5²⁹. Texe Marrs states that *"God's Word is clear: Mystery Babylon is that great city Jerusalem, whose final ruler shall rise from the bottomless pit. Both Matthew 23 and Revelation 18:24 agree, and no man can disannul the scriptures"*. Texe is referring to Matthew 23:35 **"That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zechariah son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar"** but he omits the context. The Lord is speaking of the shedding of **"righteous blood"** as recorded in the Hebrew Old Testament, which begins with Genesis and concludes with 2 Chronicles^{12, p 507}. Abel is slain in Genesis 4:8 and Zechariah in 2 Chronicles 24:20-22. Revelation 18:24 does refer to **"the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth"** but the culprit is **"that great city"** of Revelation 17:18 and 18:10, 16, 19 and 21, by whose sorceries **"were all nations deceived"** verse 23. The first mention of **"sorceries"** in scripture is in Isaiah 47:9 and 12, not with respect to Jerusalem but instead to ancient Babylon, which is associated both spiritually and prophetically with Mystery Babylon. Compare Isaiah 47:7-9 and Revelation 18:7, 8 and see, for example, *The Two Babylons* by Alexander Hislop and *Babylon Mystery Religion* by Ralph Woodrow for a more detailed comparison. See also **Israel – the Signs** above. Moreover, ancient Babylon was a great city, Daniel 4:30 but this description is never applied to Jerusalem in scripture, in either Testament. Further, it is difficult to understand why sea faring men, Revelation 18:17, would lament the destruction of a land-locked city over 30 miles from the seacoast of Israel!

One reason for Texe Marr's interpretation is Revelation 11:8, where Jerusalem **"spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt"**. He cites with reproduced photographs articles from *The Jerusalem Report*, July 16, 2001 and *The International Jerusalem Post*, October 12, 2001, which describe annual 'Gay Pride' parades in Jerusalem, attended by up to 50,000 sodomites and their supporters. This evidence shows that Jerusalem is now a most unholy city, in a most lamentable spiritual condition and could carnally be described as **"Sodom and Egypt"**. However, she will not fully be *spiritually* **"Sodom and Egypt"** until ruled over by **"the son of perdition"** 2 Thessalonians 2:2-4, whom, alas, she is waiting to receive^{3, p 453-454, 5, 217-218}. In God's sight, she is still **"the holy city"** Revelation 11:2, whom the Gentiles will **"tread under foot forty and two months"** but whom the Lord will cleanse:

"When the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and shall have purged the blood of Jerusalem from the midst thereof by the spirit of judgment, and by the spirit of burning" Isaiah 4:4.

The most precious blood of all was shed in the vicinity of Jerusalem, that of the Lord Jesus Christ, 1 Peter 1:19 and there will be future bloodshed in Jerusalem, Revelation 11:8 but Isaiah's prophecy indicates that Jerusalem will be restored to become on earth **"the city of the great king"** Matthew 5:35, Ezekiel 48:35. From her will emanate the Law of the Lord. **"And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem"** Isaiah 2:3. Not so Babylon:

"And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast it into the sea, saying, Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all" Revelation 18:21...

10

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Appendix 2 – ‘Khazars,’... - 2010 Notes...

The Khazar Heresy

Some right-wing conservatives in the UK and the US, including Christian fundamentalists, insist that the Jews of today are in reality the descendants of Gentile Khazars and not Biblical Jews. Dr Peter Ruckman summarises the matter quite in his book *Israel: A Deadly Piece of Dirt* (see **References**), pp. 207-209. Comments in braces are from American Baptist researcher Eric Jon Phelps, www.vaticanassassins.org/.

“On the evening of the Bolshevist Revolution, there were still 3,000,000 Jews in Russia; many of them took Communist posts in Lenin’s dictatorship.

“When these Jews became ‘commissars,’ they were all labelled as full-blooded ‘Reds;’ so, much of the anti-Semitic literature in America between 1920 and 1980 blames the Jews for the promotion of Communism. Along with this one will find (in the radically anti-Semitic publications in Europe [put forth by the Jesuits] the false information to the effect that every Jew in America is really a Russian ‘Khazar.’

“This means that any right-wing Conservative - especially the Roman Catholic Conservatives - can safely persecute Israel (or ‘Israelites’ or ‘Jews,’ etc.) and get away with it without incurring the curse that God mentioned to Abraham (Gen. 12:1-3), which was passed on to Isaac and then Jacob and then to the twelve literal Jewish TRIBES...

“The way that American Catholics try to get out from under this curse - so they can treat Jews the way Hitler treated them - is to pretend that the modern Jew is not the real ‘Israel.’ Conservative Protestants produce Scripture to support this delusion (Rom. 2:29) [refusing to distinguish those who are “Jews inwardly” referred to in this scripture, and those who are racial Jews as were the Apostle Paul (Acts 21:39) and the Apostle Peter (Gal. 2:14)]...

The ‘party line’ with British-Israelites, Black Muslims, and ‘Yahwehists’ is that the modern Jew is nothing but a mongrel half-breed Jew, ‘like the ones who killed Jesus Christ.’ If you can couple the Khazars with the Protocols [authored by French Jesuits in their Community of Sion in Valais just prior to the Dreyfus Affair] (see App. 1), you can carry out Adolph’s ‘final solution’ without any qualms of conscience. That is the material on which he ‘cut his teeth’ in [Jesuit-ruled, Roman Catholic] Vienna before World War I.

‘Khazaria’ was a land of nomad, heathen Russians who lived in central Asia between the Black and Caspian Seas. They stretched inland (north of the Georgia-Armenia area by about 400-500 miles; extending from Guranji on the east, to the Oxus River, to Buda and Kazimierz on the west). The Jews of the Diaspora had the good fortune to lead one of their kings (Bulan) to become a convert to Judaism (see Esther 8:17) in A.D. 700 [A.D. 740]. A later king (Obadiah) invited Rabbis into Khazaria to set up a ‘Supreme Court.’ It had seven judges; these judges were two Jews, two Christians, two Moslems, and one ‘heathen.’ (A fair and square set up if you ever saw one!).

In A.D. 970, Russian troops attacked Khazaria, and by 1016, they had overrun it and driven every Jew out of Russia or Byzantium (Constantinople) or to seaports on the Mediterranean in Greece, Albania, and Turkey. There is no historical evidence, whatsoever to prove that one single Jew in Europe or America is (or ever was) a ‘Khazar.’ If either case were true, it would mean nothing. Every ‘Caucasian’ in America today was certainly not from the Caucasus (A Caucasian) in his former ‘estate.’ Hundreds of thousands of them had been Germans, Irishmen, and Englishmen; and thousands of them had been Frenchmen, Slavs, and Italians. ‘Khazaria’ went out of business more than 900 years ago.”

Additional notes follow.

2010 Notes - ‘Khazar’ Jews

One of the main planks of anti-Semitism is that modern Jews are ‘Khazars,’ or descendants of converted Gentiles. This falsehood is used as a means of justifying Muslim terror in Israel.

However, Esther 8:17 states **“And in every province, and in every city, whithersoever the king’s commandment and his decree came, the Jews had joy and gladness, a feast and a good day. And many of the people of the land became Jews; for the fear of the Jews fell upon them.”**

The scriptural lesson here is that a mass conversion of Gentiles to Jews will only take place through fear.

No such circumstances have arisen amongst Gentiles, anywhere, at any time, during the Jewish Diaspora of the last two millennia.

Scripturally, therefore, it must be concluded that the supposed ‘Khazar’ ancestry of modern Jews is a lie - and all that derives from it, including support for the supposed ‘Palestinians’ against Israel.

Acts 3:19 and John Wycliffe 1320-1384, Friend of Israel

Introduction – A Disbelieved Scripture

Acts 3:19 reads **“Repent ye therefore, and *be converted*, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;”**

Neither heretics; JB, NJB, NWT, Greek editors; Nestle’s 21st Edition, Berry’s Edition of Stephanus’s 1550 Received Text, Farstad-Hodges ‘Majority’ Text nor professing evangelical fundamentalists; 1978, 1984, 2011 NIVs, NKJV believed the verse as it stands in the AV1611. They all changed it to read *“that times of refreshing may come from the Lord”* 1978, 1984, 2011 NIVs or similar. The NKJV has *“so that.”* The professing evangelical fundamentalists no doubt perceived the AV1611 reading as contradicting the doctrine of assurance of salvation or eternal security.

English Reformers Believed Acts 3:19

The English Reformers of the 16th century English Protestant Reformation all believed Acts 3:19 because the Tyndale, Coverdale, Great, Bishops’, Geneva Bibles all read with the AV1611, *as does Wycliffe’s 1385 Edition*. Note the following analysis.

John Wycliffe Believed Acts 3:19

John Wycliffe believed Acts 3:19. His belief is shown in his Bible and reveals that he was Israel’s friend. Compare Wycliffe’s 1385 Edition to the 1395 Edition for Acts 3:19, published long after Wycliffe’s death. See www.biblesofthepast.com/.

Wycliffe’s 1385 Edition reads, this writer’s emphasis:

*“Therfor be ye repentaunt, and be ye conuertid, that youre synnes be don awei, **whanne** the tymes of refresching schulen [shall] come from the siyt [sight] of the Lord.”*

Catholic Meddling with Acts 3:19

Wycliffe’s 1395 Edition reads, this writer’s emphases:

*“Therfor be ye repentaunt, and be ye conuertid, that youre synnes be don awei, **that whanne** the tymes of refresching schulen [shall] come from the siyt [sight] of the Lord.”*

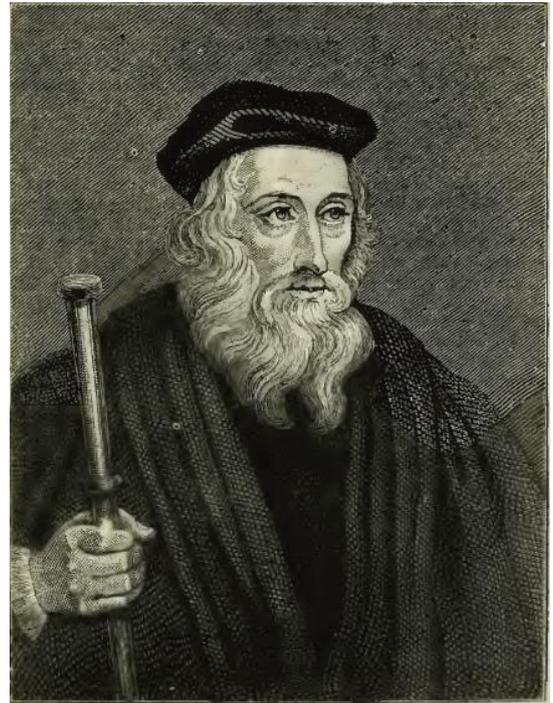
The 1395 reading corresponds to the 1582 Jesuit-Rheims and 1749-1752 Douay-Rheims readings, this writer’s emphases. See also:

www.studylight.org/ and www.hailandfire.com/1582RheimsTestament/index.shtml.

*“Be Penitent therfore & conuert, that your sinnes may be put out. **that, vwhen** the times shal come of refreshing by the sight of our Lord, and he shal send him that hath been preached vnto you Iesvs Christ”* Acts 3:19-20.

*“Be penitent, therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out. **That when** the times of refreshment shall come from the presence of the Lord, and he shall send him who hath been preached unto you, Jesus Christ”* Acts 3:19-20.

The 1395 Wycliffe and 1582 Jesuit-Rheims, 1749-1752 Douay-Rheims readings show a progression from the wrongful insertion of the word *“that”* to decoupling *“your sins may be blotted out”* from



John Wycliffe 1320-1384, Friend of Israel
www.tracts.ukgo.com/john_wycliffe.htm
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Wycliffe

the conditional word **“when”** as in the AV1611 *and in all its faithful precursors of the 16th century English Protestant Reformation.*

Fundamentalist Error in Acts 3:19

The next step appears to have been to remove the word **“when”** entirely from the text, 1881 RV, then re-couple the readings to give the modern wording to satisfy fundamentalist editors. They don't believe that Acts 3:19 refers to Israel's *national* salvation at the Second Advent. See *The Book of Acts* pp 149-154 by Dr Ruckman, the *Ruckman Reference Bible* p 1434 and the following verses:

“Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? *Shall a land be born in one day? shall a nation be brought forth at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children*” Isaiah 66:8.

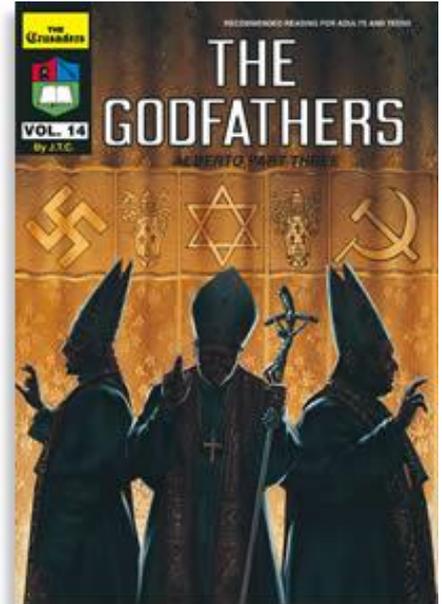
“For behold, the stone that I have set before Joshua; upon one stone are seven eyes: behold, I will engrave the graving thereof, saith the LORD of hosts, and I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day” Zechariah 3:9.

Those verses describe **“the times of refreshing”** for Israel as a nation. They and Acts 3:19 do not apply to the Church.

Israel's Worst Enemy

The 1395 insertion of **“that”** into Acts 3:19 would have been done by compliant editors i.e. John Purvey and Nicholas Hereford changing Wycliffe's text to suit Rome. See *Wycliffe VS Cloud* www.avpublications.com/avnew/downloads/PDF/WycliffVSCloud.pdf by Gail Riplinger.

Rome has always been Israel's worst enemy. She would resist any notion of particular **“times of refreshing”** for Israel and not hesitate to corrupt scripture 2 Corinthians 2:17 for that purpose. See *The Godfathers* www.chick.com/catalog/comics/0114.asp.



Israel's Worst Enemy

The 1395 change to Acts 3:19 in Wycliffe's Bible was just one word but **“A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump”** Galatians 5:9. Wycliffe had sought to counter that leaven as his correct 1385 rendering of Acts 3:19 shows, though with the inevitable backlash as the following extracts show. See *John Wycliffe The Dawn of The Reformation* by David Fountain 1984 pp 26, 47-48, 75.

John Wycliffe on the Pope

“Anti-Christ, the proud, worldly priest of Rome and the most cursed of clippers and purse-kervers (bag snatchers)”

John Wycliffe on the Scriptures

“As the doctrines of our faith are in the Scriptures, believers should have the Scriptures in a language familiar to the people...It is impossible for any part of the Holy Scriptures to be wrong. In Holy Scripture is all the truth; one part of Scripture explains another”

John Wycliffe to the World

Catholics exhumed Wycliffe's body in 1415, burnt it and cast the ashes into the River Swift.

“The little river conveyed Wycliffe's remains into the Avon, Avon into the Severn, Severn into the narrow seas, they into the main ocean. And thus the ashes of Wycliffe are the emblem of his doctrine, which is now dispensed all the world over”

“He shall cause them that come of Jacob to take root: Israel shall blossom and bud, and fill the face of the world with fruit” Isaiah 27:6.

Wycliffe helped. **“Go, and do thou likewise”** Luke 10:37.

Letter to Bro. Jack J. Riolo, Elmira Correctional Facility, New York State, December 5th 2016

Dear Brother Riolo

Thank you for your letter of November 26th. I haven't gotten to listen to Pastor Militello's broadcasts yet but thank you for the reminder. I continue to appreciate his articles in the bulletin. Thank you for the encouraging update on Glenda and yourself and of how the Lord has brought you together as I am sure that He will sustain you according to Proverbs 2:6 ***"For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding."*** I note your detailed remarks about heresies abounding today and the expectation that we will soon be out of here, which event I too earnestly hope comes to pass according to Song of Solomon 2:8-13 ***"The voice of my beloved! behold, he cometh leaping upon the mountains, skipping upon the hills. My beloved is like a roe or a young hart: behold, he standeth behind our wall, he looketh forth at the windows, shewing himself through the lattice. My beloved spake, and said unto me, Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away. For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land; The fig tree putteth forth her green figs, and the vines with the tender grape give a good smell. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away."***

Thank you for the additional information on Bro. Chick. Pastor Militello in the Bulletin last month described how much the Jesuits and Catholic bishops hated him. For that reason in addition to pp 85-86 of the Exodus file I've inserted some different studies this time that I think enlarge upon your remarks. The doxology of Matthew 6:13 ***"For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen"*** has been cut from modern versions under Catholic influence, I am sure. This led to particular suffering for the German people in WW2 as the book *Stalingrad* shows – that book was one that Dr Ruckman greatly favoured. The Catholic corruption of ***"the scripture of truth"*** Daniel 10:21 has resulted in untold suffering so I have included extracts from studies I have done on Matthew 6:13 and related material. Oddly enough saved folk always quote the doxology when they quote what is called the Lord's Prayer but they never face up to the fact that it has been cut from or disputed by the modern versions that they use to replace the 1611 Holy Bible. That of course impinges on final authority for what God said and where God's words are and most fundamentalists will never face that subject either, preferring to hide behind the heresy of 'originals-onlyism.'

Luke 2:14 ***"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men"*** is a verse that is attacked at this time of year and so I have inserted extracts from other studies that I've done on Luke 2:14. Concerning again your remarks on heresies and the nearness of the Lord's Return as Paul exhorts ***"And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed"*** Romans 13:11 and my remarks on final authority I've inserted the complete exhortation from Bro. Al Cuppett. I sent you the graphic from his site in 2013 but his complete exhortation says it all I think.

Concerning Sister Riplinger I haven't received any updates so I trust that she is comfortable and stable. We therefore continue with Zechariah 2:5 for Sister Riplinger ***"For I, saith the LORD, will be unto her a wall of fire round about, and will be the glory in the midst of her."***

All our prayer needs and the others listed are current exactly as I set out in my last letter, except that David has undergone a further stage of treatment for remission of the condition that has gone well and he remains well for which we greatly thank the Lord for His mercy to us all. ***"It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness. The LORD is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him. The LORD is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him. It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD"*** Lamentations 3:22-26. Gill and I continue to ask God for eradication of the condition according to Luke 1:37 ***"For with God nothing shall be impossible."***

Yours in the Lord Jesus Christ

From *Stalingrad*, by Heinz Schröter, pp 250-251 Pan Edition:

January 1943

Dr. Ludwig had given his services as a priest without stint, had administered extreme unction, had heard the last messages of the dying and had detached that half of the identity discs which was supposed to be delivered to the dead man's next of kin, though he had the gravest doubts whether they would ever reach their destination...

The padre was engaged in a hopeless attempt to deal with death as a mass phenomenon. He could no longer concern himself with individuals, but was forced to perform his duties almost as a drill. The extreme unction, the Lord's Prayer, the next man; for 30,000 dead lay in Gumrak.

There was a special room at the main dressing station for those with stomach or head wounds and the hopeless cases would be taken straight from the operating tent 'to the padre'. The stretcher bearers brought him a man whose face had already been covered with a shroud. The priest pulled back the covering, administered the last rites, for the hundredth time that day, and repeated the Lord's Prayer. When he had reached the end of the Catholic version, he saw the hands under the shroud clasp one another and heard the 'dead man' add the Protestant ending: 'for Thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory'.

Those sobering accounts illustrate that the best that men can do cannot avert God's judgement when He has determined that it should fall and men are helpless when it does fall as Zephaniah shows. ***"And I will bring distress upon men, that they shall walk like blind men, because they have sinned against the LORD: and their blood shall be poured out as dust, and their flesh as the dung"*** Zephaniah 1:17.

It may be of course that in an individual case like the 'dead man' ***"mercy rejoiceth against judgment"*** James 2:13, even at Stalingrad. The statement 'for Thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory' being the words of a dying man is a good testimony to Matthew 6:13 as it stands in the 1611 Holy Bible. See the attached study [www.timefortruth.co.uk/why-av-only/] 'O Biblios' - *The Book* pp 42-43] for detailed witnesses to the words ***"For thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen."***

Attached study:

Matthew 6:13

"For thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen" is omitted by the DR, RV, Ne, NIV, NKJV f.n., JB, NJB, NWT.

Fuller [*True or False? 2nd Edition* David Otis Fuller, D.D.] p 108, citing Burgon, states that of more than 500 relevant (Greek) manuscripts, all but nine contain the AV1611 reading. Hills*²⁰¹⁹ [*The KJV Defended*] Chapter 6, p 146 and [*Believing Bible Study*] Chapter 5, p 118, states that uncials B, Aleph, D, Z and 6 cursives omit the words, together with 9 manuscripts of the Old Latin and all of Jerome's Vulgate. *²⁰¹⁹The sites

[standardbearers.net/uploads/The King James Version Defended Dr Edward F Hills.pdf](http://standardbearers.net/uploads/The_King_James_Version_Defended_Dr_Edward_F_Hills.pdf)
www.scribd.com/document/298396396/Believing-Bible-Study-Edward-F-Hills-pdf *Believing Bible Study* are online versions of Dr Hills's books.

The TBS *The Power and the Glory* have an extremely detailed compilation on this text as follows:

Evidence for the authenticity of the AV1611 reading:

1st Century: 2 Timothy 4:18b (cross reference)

2nd Century: Didache (document of Apostolic Teaching, discovered 1875, [*Believing Bible Study*] p 117), Tatian's Diatessaron, Old Syriac version (Peshitta)

3rd Century: Coptic and Sahidic (i.e. Egyptian) versions

4th Century: Apostolic Constitutions, Old Latin manuscript k, Gothic (Ulfilas [*The Christian's Handbook of Manuscript Evidence*] p 208) and Armenian versions

5th Century: Uncial W, Chrysostom, Isidore of Pelusium ([*The KJV Defended*] p 147, [standardbearers.net/uploads/The King James Version Defended Dr Edward F Hills.pdf](http://standardbearers.net/uploads/The_King_James_Version_Defended_Dr_Edward_F_Hills.pdf) Chapter 6), Georgian version

6th Century: Uncials Sigma, Phi; Ethiopic version; Palestinian, Harkelian (Harclean) and Curetonian Syriac ([standardbearers.net/uploads/The King James Version Defended Dr Edward F Hills.pdf](http://standardbearers.net/uploads/The_King_James_Version_Defended_Dr_Edward_F_Hills.pdf) Chapter 6, [*The KJV Defended*] p 148)

8th Century: Uncials E, L

9th Century: Uncials G, K, M, U, V, Delta, Phi, Pi; Old Latin f, g; Cursives 33, 565, 892

10th Century: Cursive 1079

11th Century: Cursives 28, 124, 174, 230, 700, 788, 1216

12th Century: Cursives 346, 543, 1010, 1071, 1195, 1230, 1241, 1365, 1646

13th Century: Cursives 13, 1009, 1242, 1546

14th Century: Cursives 2148, 2174

15th Century: Cursives 69, 1253.

The TBS (ibid.) states that the majority of the “*very numerous*” Byzantine copies, including lectionaries, contain the AV1611 reading.

The evidence against the AV1611 reading is as follows:

2nd Century: Cyprian, Origen, Tertullian, who all fail to mention the words - as do later writers listed below.

3rd Century: Some Coptic manuscripts

4th Century: Aleph, B, Old Latin a, Caesarius Nazarene, Cyril of Jerusalem, Gregory Nyssa, Hilary

5th Century: Uncial D, Old Latin b, h; Chromatius, Augustine

6th Century: Uncial Z, Cursive 0170

7th Century: Old Latin l

9th Century: Old Latin g2

10th-11th Centuries: Old Latin ff.

12th-13th Centuries: Cursive 1, 118, Lectionary 547, Old Latin c

14th-15th Centuries: Cursives 131, 209, 17, 130.

Clearly, the available evidence vastly favours the AV1611 reading. See also Will Kinney's detailed article brandplucked.webs.com/articles.htm *Matthew 6:13 & Luke 11:2-4 The Lord's Prayer - Is your bible a "Catholic" bible?*

Luke 2:14

“**on earth peace, good will toward men**” is changed to “on earth peace to men on whom his favour rests” or similar wording by the RV, 1978, 1984 NIV, JB, NJB or to “towards men of good will” or similar wording by the DR, Ne, NKJV f.n. and NWT. [The gender-neutral 2011 NIV changes “men” to “those.”](#)

The evidence in favour of the AV1611 against the modern textual critics is cited by Burgon [*The Revision Revised*] pp 42-43, 422-423, by Fuller quoting Burgon [*True or False? 2nd Edition*] p 96 and the TBS [[article](#)] *Good Will Toward Men*. Only five codices (Aleph, A, B, D, W) support the mod-

ern textual critics, against “*every existing copy of the Gospels, amounting to many hundreds*” Fuller, *ibid.*

Although the Latin, Sahidic and Gothic versions support the modern textual critics, the AV1611 reading is supported by:

- 2nd Century: Syriac versions, Irenaeus
- 3rd Century: Coptic version, Origen, Apostolical Constitutions
- 4th Century: Eusebius, Aphraates the Persian, Titus of Bostra, Didymus, Gregory of Nazianzus, Cyril of Jerusalem, Epiphanius, Gregory of Nyssa, Ephraem Syrus, Philo, Bishop of Carpasus, Chrysostom
- 5th Century: Armenian version, Cyril of Alexandria, Theodoret, Theodotus of Ancyra, Proclus, Paulus of Emesa, Basil of Seleucia, the Eastern bishops of Ephesus collectively
- 6th Century: Georgian and Ethiopic versions, Cosmos, Anastasius Sinaita, Eulogius, Archbishop of Alexandria
- 7th Century: Andreas of Crete
- 8th Century: Cosmos, Bishop of Maiuma, John Damascene, Germanus, Archbishop of Constantinople, pope Martinus.

Berry’s Greek text supports the AV1611.

See also Will Kinney’s detailed article brandplucked.webs.com/articles.htm *Luke 2:14 “Good will toward men” or Vatican version “men of good will”?*

Luke 2:14 [“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men”]

[*Luke 2:14 is considered in more detail later, with a summary of manuscript evidence*]

An insightful comment on the AV1611 reading “*good will toward men*” emerges from the pen of the late General Sir Anthony Farrar-Hockley^{1 p 259-60}, 1924-2006². In 1950, General Sir Anthony Farrar-Hockley was a captain and adjutant in the Gloucestershire Regiment, when it was surrounded and taken prisoner by the Communist Chinese after sustaining heavy casualties at the battle of the Imjin River during the Korean War.

General Farrar-Hockley spent two and a half years as a prisoner-of-war and made these observations about a special ‘Christmas’ message delivered to the Allied POWs by a representative of Camp Commandant Ding named Chang on Christmas Day, 1952.

“He began to read from a page of typescript in his hand...It was in the worst possible taste; for after starting mildly, Ding [the camp commandant] had been unable to restrain his fanaticism for the Communist cause. He quoted – or rather, misquoted – the Scriptures, particularly the teachings of Christ. We heard the beloved Christmas words, for instance, rendered as follows: “Peace on earth to men of good will”; and the only men of good will, it seemed, were those who followed the policies of the Cominform group of governments. As Chang read on, the silence seemed to intensify. When he had finished, no one spoke; but I have neither felt nor seen before such profound disgust expressed silently by a body of men.”

[James] White’s ‘preferred reading’ in Luke 2:14 is the same as Commandant Ding’s, with slight variation (Calvinists might have to compete with CommUNists for favoured-species status). Little more need be said, except that, providentially, bible believers do not have to remain silent about their profound disgust with White’s ‘preference.’

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1. *The Edge of the Sword* by General Sir Anthony Farrar-Hockley, Star, 1981
2. news.independent.co.uk/people/obituaries/article351548.ece

Berry's 1897 Greek-English Interlinear Edition of Stephanus' 1550 Received Text and the Farstad-Hodges Greek-English Interlinear Edition of the 'Majority' Text (it's only an approximation) mostly agree with the AV1611 Text. Their English interlinear readings agree with the AV1611 in Luke 2:14.

Nestle's 21st Edition Greek-English Interlinear reads **"peace among men of good will"** i.e. the same as that of the Communist camp commandant officials Ding and Chang. Nestle's 21st Edition text is very largely that of the 1984, 2011 NIVs which read respectively **"peace to men on whom his favor rests," "on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests,"** the 2011 NIV doing its usual gender-neutral Apache dance to appease the pc contingent. Subject to a bit of paraphrase tweaking, the NIVs readings are clearly that of the Communist camp commandant officials Ding and Chang.

[The reds took "men of good will" to be kingdom-builders of their crowd i.e. 'making the world a better place etc.' The Calvinists on the NIV committee led by 5-pointer Edwin Palmer took "men of good will" to be those upon whom God's good will is bestowed i.e. Calvin's elect, those whom Calvin's God would exclusively favour i.e. Palmer and his crowd. Calvin's elect are of course yet more kingdom builders. AJO'R 22/12/14.]

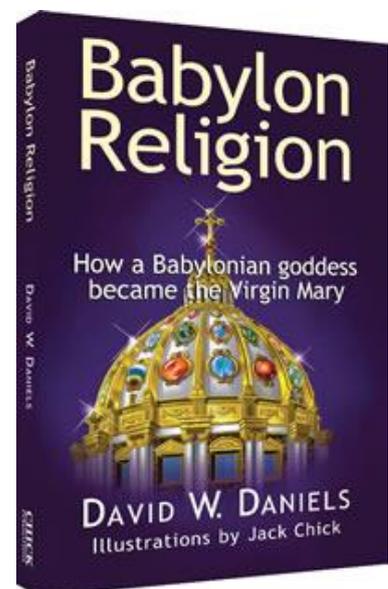
The reaction of hard men, i.e. professional soldiers who were the modern counterparts of the centurions of old, Matthew 8:8, 27:54, Acts 10:1-2, to the Nestle, NIVs readings for Luke 2:14 should prayerfully be noted. Gail Riplinger notes in *The Language of the King James Bible* p 115 that linguistic analysis of the literary style of the pre-2011 NIV shows that it was written either by a woman or an effeminate man. The increased gender-neutral trend of the 2011 NIV would no doubt reinforce that conclusion.

The relevance to persecution is that whatever their persuasion be it Marxist, Mohammedan, Hindu etc., today's persecutors are simply those of *Mama's Girls* i.e. of the Catholic Church descended from ancient Babylon **"And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH...And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth"** Revelation 17:5, 18:24 as the following items make clear.

www.chick.com/reading/tracts/1077/1077_01.asp
www.chick.com/catalog/books/0187.asp



Bro. Daniels shows in some detail how Mohammedans venerate Mary, pp 174-177 showing that they are definitely among *Mama's Girls*. (Bro. Daniels also shows how December 25th is the son god's birthday, pp 67-68, 120, 191-194, 206-207, 212. We know a lot more about Catholic attempts to infiltrate our belief system than the Allah gang think we do and we also know a lot more about the basics of their belief than even they do. Next time one of those



junior jihadists confronts you, ask him what the word “Allah” means. John 4:22 can then be put on him, though he won’t like it one little bit. **“Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews.”**)

Returning to persecution of Christians, it was not anything like it is today during the Philadelphian Church Age and the great missionary movement of the 19th and early 20th centuries. Note that as Dr Ruckman points out, the *Ruckman Reference Bible* p 1648, it was the Philadelphian Church, not the Apostolic Church of ‘the originals,’ that the Lord commended for keeping His word. **“I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name”** Revelation 3:8.

The Philadelphian Church of the great missionary movement of the 19th and early 20th centuries had ONE Book as the Standard and the Lord promised His protection when that standard was upheld. Note the missionary emphasis in what follows.

“So shall they fear the name of the LORD from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him” Isaiah 59:19.

That explains the great missionary strides of the 19th and early 20th centuries the like of which has long gone because the standard has been abandoned for the re-hashed Catholic Jesuit-Rheims version that the 1984, 2011 NIVs basically are as are virtually all modern departures from the AV1611 Text, including those of the NKJV **“falsely so called”** 1 Timothy 6:20.

It should finally be noted that consistent with the AV1611 reading ***“on earth peace, good will toward men”*** Luke 2:14 and contrary to the corrupt departures from that reading such as *“on earth peace to men/those on whom his favour rests”* NIVs or *“on earth peace among men of good will”* Ne God’s will is good toward *all* men, as Paul states. ***“For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth”*** 1 Timothy 2:3-4.

Doctrinal Studies:

Revelation 2:10 - TEN DAYS

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www.GraceBibleChurchBaytown.orgwww.gracebiblechurchbaytown.org/uploads/1/0/1/6/10165395/persecution.ten.days.revelation_2_10.pdf

PHLIPSIS – Great Pressure

Ten persecutions in the Roman Empire:

The survivors of Smyrna survived these persecutions because of their perception and their application of God's Word.

By 96 AD, Nero is dead, so the persecutions exclude his own:

1. *hemera deka* = 10 generations – 10 persecutions in the course of the Roman Empire.
2. These major persecutions covered approximately 300 years.
3. There were 10 emperors who administered the persecutions, which got the Church ready to evangelize the world.
4. Great persecutions began with Domitian, in AD 96, and terminated with the Edict of Milan in AD 313.

ROMAN EMPERORS OF PERSECUTION

- I. DOMITIAN – 96AD – Much physical torture
- II. TRAJAN – 98-117AD – A pastor named Phocus was placed into a pot of boiling water until dead. Ignatius, pastor of Antioch, was tortured to death, Polycarp was burned alive. A woman was tortured, [and] made to watch her 7 sons each killed before she was drowned in a river.
- III. MARCUS AURELIUS – 161-180 AD – A stoic philosopher, athlete and hunter, who after a plague blamed it on the Christians.
- IV. SEPTIMUS SEVERUS – 193-211 AD – Continued persecutions.
- V. MASXIMUS THRAX – 235-238 AD – A large man, 8' 6" tall, strong and brutal, who ordered Christian leaders to be put to death. He was eventually assassinated by a group of people fed up with his brutality, waiting in ambush for his [specially]-made chariot to pass by.
- VI. TRAJANUS DECIUS – 249-251 AD – Continued persecutions.
- VII. TREBONIUS GALLUS – 251-253 AD – Continued persecutions.
- VIII. PUBILIUS LICINIUS VALERIAN – 253-270 AD – A Persian invasion interrupted the persecutions, and he was eventually skinned alive by his enemies.
- IX. LUCIUS DOMINIUS AURELIAN – 270-284 AD – His own generals conspired and murdered him, after his many persecutions of Christians.
- X. GAIUS AURELIUS DIOCLETIAN – 284-305 AD – A great administrator, who reduced taxes and corruption amongst the taxation authorities, but he became a worshipper of the sun god, then afterward began many persecutions of Christians, ordering them to stop meeting and arresting many.

EDICT OF MILAN

The Edict of Milan followed Diocletian in 313 AD; it was a proclamation in June 313, which established religious tolerance within the Roman Empire. These persecutions followed by the Edict of Milan prepared the way for worldwide evangelization by the Church. This edict also directed the prompt restoration of property that had been confiscated from Christians. During the 300 years prior, many people who refused to turn their backs on their Lord Jesus Christ died as a result. This is the reason the Christians of the Church at Smyrna were warned in Revelation 2:10 of the coming 10 persecutions (ten days of suffering). Our Lord instructed them to “be faithful unto death” promising to give them the Crown of Life.

St George of Lydda

Patron Saint of England – and English Football^{16, 17}

“Then said St George: ‘Fair daughter, doubt ye no thing hereof for I shall help thee in the Name of Jesus Christ.’ She said: ‘For God’s sake, Good Knyghte, go your way, and abide not with me, for ye may not deliver me.’ Thus as they spake together the dragon appeared and came running to them, and St George was upon his horse, and drew out his sword and garnished him with the sign of the cross, and rode hardily against the dragon which came towards him, and smote him with his spear and hurt him sore and threw him to the ground...”

“And St George slew the dragon and smote off his head, and commanded that he should be thrown into the fields and they took four carts with oxen that drew him out of the city.”

Described by Jacobus de Voragine, Bishop of Genoa in *The Golden Legend*, 1230 AD, the above episode is apparently the basis of the familiar account of St George and the Dragon. Princess Sabra is the young lady mentioned but she appears to be an embellishment and sadly contrary to romantic expectations, St George does not win her hand in marriage in the original narrative - he had more pressing business to hand.



A ruined tower, situated north of St George’s Bay where modern Beirut stands on the southern arm, traditionally marks the scene of the conflict. It took place in approximately 303 AD, when according to historian Pliny, the area was infested with crocodiles.

George may therefore have killed one while on his way to the Eastern Court of Emperor Diocletian, located at Nicomedia¹⁸, now Izmit, about sixty miles east of Istanbul.

The deed comes as no surprise when we consider George’s background.

Noble Beginnings

George was born in 270 AD to Christian parents in Lydda, now Lod, located on the Plain of Sharon, Palestine. His father was Anastasius¹⁹, a distinguished Roman army officer who was appointed Governor of all Palestine at the age of twenty-five, with three thousand armed soldiers at his command. George grew up as a soldier-saint. A contemporary writer said of him²⁰:

“When St George had completed his twentieth year he was so exceedingly strong and valiant that he was the leader in battle and there was no one among all the company of soldiers who could be compared with him for strength and beauty. And the grace of God was with him, and He gave him beauty and strength that all those who saw him marvelled at his power and youth...and God was with him in all his ways.”

George was at that time a general in the Roman Army, in command of five thousand men. None other than Emperor Diocletian himself had conferred this honour on the young man, so greatly impressed was he by George’s bravery and leadership.

Imperial Treachery

But Diocletian was susceptible to less honourable influences. His subordinate and Emperor of the East, Galerius Maximus was a confirmed pagan and in 303 AD persuaded his superior to issue an Edict calling for the extermination of Christianity throughout the Empire. The persecution that followed was savage. Ten thousand Christians are said to have been massacred in Caerleon-on-Usk

alone, the organised centre of the British Church and thirty-eight thousand in the eastern half of the Empire. Possibly as many perished in the western half, including those in Britain²¹.

On learning of the Edict, George threw in his lot with the intended victims. He divested himself of his rank and worldly possessions* and journeyed to Nicomedia to intercede with Diocletian on behalf of his suffering brethren, to plead for their lives and obtain for them freedom of worship. He sought for this purpose to utilise his friendship with Diocletian gained on the field of battle but for others only, not for himself.

*Save for his personal arms, with which it appears he slew the crocodile.

Yet George knew that despite Diocletian's former regard for him, his mission could end in death. He said to friends before setting out for Nicomedia, *"If ye are alive and hear that I am dead, do me the kindness, for Christ's sake, to take my body to my native city and bury it."*

These wishes would be faithfully carried out.

A Bold Witness

By the time George reached Nicomedia, its bishop, Anthimus had been executed and many believers had been terrified into silence by the sight of instruments of torture publicly displayed but when George saw a copy of the decree posted up for public inspection, while both emperors were in the city, he was *"stimulated by a divine zeal, and excited by an ardent faith...tore it to shreds as a most profane and wicked act."*

The contemporary historian Eusebius states that, *"St George was the first of those at that time who thus distinguished himself, and...in his endurance of such results as naturally followed a daring act of this kind, he maintained an untroubled and undisturbed demeanour to his very last breath."*

His ardour was unabated when he stood before Galerius and his sixty-nine governors.

He boldly declared, *"I am a Christian, and I believe on my Lord Jesus Christ; whatsoever ye desire to do unto me, that do"* and St Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, 374-97 AD, states, *"George, the most faithful soldier of Jesus Christ, when religion was by others concealed, alone adventured to confess the name of God, Whose heavenly grace infused such constancy into him that he not only scorned the tyrants, but contemned their torments."*

Galerius and his governors sentenced George to death and Diocletian, sadly, acquiesced in the verdict. After a period of imprisonment and torture in an effort to force him to recant, the martyr was beheaded on April 23rd, 304 AD.

When he came to the spot where he would be executed, he asked leave of his guards to pray for his persecutors. Ever the soldier, he then turned to them said, *"Come with me, brethren, and fulfil your order and do what ye have to do."*

The date has of course gone down in history as St George's Day.

Association with England

According to The Royal Society of St George²², *"It was in the year 1415 AD that St. George became the Patron Saint of England when English Soldiers under Henry V won the battle of Agincourt."*

The Society states that George was officially beatified by the Roman Catholic Church but the term 'Saint' George may well have been coincident with the widespread mourning that followed his death, which has been further commemorated by the propagation far and wide of St George's 'device' or knightly emblem, the familiar red cross on a white background. It probably signified George's regard for the blood sacrifice at Calvary of the Lord Jesus Christ and the sinless purity of the Saviour's life on earth.

England's adoption of St George's emblem as its national emblem may therefore indeed pre-date St George, and derive from the arrival of the earliest Christians to these shores during the first century AD, including Joseph of Arimathea. The striking and simple symbolism of the St George Cross could well have appealed to many early believers.

England's association with St George is much more direct, however. He visited York during his military service and was welcomed by the Christian Empress Helena, mother of George's comrade-in-arms, Constantine, who later became Emperor. St George's visit is commemorated by the shield emblazoned with his emblem that hangs over the gate of York – one of many instances where the soldier-martyr's ensign figures in English heraldry, pomp and circumstance – though none more widely celebrated than on present-day football terraces!

But there is a greater cause.

Not in Vain

Like his Saviour, George achieved much in his death. By it, he slew a monster more dangerous than any saurian; the dragon of persecution. Diocletian abdicated in 305 AD and Imperial Rome's large-scale persecution of Christians ended.

It wasn't the end of persecution *per se* but in coming ages, God would raise up other men to stand, both against tyranny and for the witness of the Lord Jesus Christ, after the manner of St George²³:

*"I see you stand like greyhounds in the slips,
"Straining upon the start. The game's afoot:
"Follow your spirit; and, upon this charge
"Cry God for Harry, England and St George!"*

From *Henry V*, Act 3, Scene 1

Or in the words of St Paul, 1 Corinthians 16:13:

"Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong"

An Exhortation

God is still looking for men – and women - of stature who will stand and strive for the Lord Jesus Christ in these days of rapidly encroaching heathenism, as even God's enemy Pharaoh of Egypt recognized only too well, Exodus 10:11:

"Go now ye that are men, and serve the LORD; for that ye did desire"

Will you be among them?



3. List some of the amazing things done by faithful people in past ages (Hebrews 11:33-35a).

These things may be summed up in one word – victory:

- Victory over mortal foes, whether royal or rank-and-file; **“subdued kingdoms”** Hebrews 11:33, **“waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens”** Hebrews 11:34
- Victory over sinful ways; **“wrought righteousness”** Hebrews 11:33
- Victory over fainting hearts; **“obtained promises”** Hebrews 11:33
- Victory over ravenous beasts; **“stopped the mouths of lions”** Hebrews 11:33
- Victory over fiery trials; **“Quenched the violence of fire”** Hebrews 11:34
- Victory over **“unreasonable and wicked men”** 2 Thessalonians 3:2; **“escaped the edge of the sword”** Hebrews 11:34
- Victory over physical weakness; **“out of weakness were made strong”** Hebrews 11:34
- Victory over death itself; **“Women received their dead raised to life again”** Hebrews 11:35

Today’s believer can have victory in that **“Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me”** Galatians 2:20. As Paul states for today’s believers: **“But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ”** 1 Corinthians 15:57. See the example of arguably England’s best-known martyrs, Latimer and Ridley, murdered by Rome but certain to be manifest in glory.

“When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory” Colossians 3:4.



“Quenched the violence of fire”

Hebrews 11:34, being undaunted in devotion to **“the Lord of glory”** 1 Corinthians 2:8, James 2:1 despite the flames *‘Be of good comfort, Master Ridley, and play the man; we shall this day light such a candle, by God’s grace in England, as I trust shall never be put out’* – Hugh Latimer to his fellow martyr Nicholas Ridley, October 16th 1555. Their faith was vindicated, especially in the year 1611

www.manchesterorange.co.uk/Religion/hugh-latimer-reformer

Follow-Up Comment

See en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martyrs%27_Memorial with respect to the Oxford martyrs Hugh Latimer, Nicholas Ridley and Thomas Cranmer burnt at the stake near the spot of the memorial on October 16th 1555, Latimer and Ridley, and March 21st 1556, Cranmer.

The first photo shows the statue of Thomas Cranmer holding the Holy Bible. The inscription on the plaque underneath his statue refers to the errors of the Church of Rome. Statues of Hugh Latimer and Nicholas Ridley occupy two other sides of the memorial. On the Memorial, Cranmer faces north holding a Bible; Ridley faces east; and Latimer looks to the west, with his arms folded across his chest. See

www.oxfordhistory.org.uk/stgiles/tour/martyrs_memorial.html.

See also

familybiblelearning.com/ukchristianhistory/pages/oxford.html for a closer view of Cranmer holding the Holy Bible and the inscription on the plaque underneath his statue. Latimer is the figure on

Cranmer's left. The words *the errors of the Church of Rome* can be discerned about two-thirds of the way down on the plaque. The inscription reads in full:

“To the Glory of God, and in grateful commemoration of His servants, Thomas Cranmer, Nicholas Ridley, Hugh Latimer, Prelates of the Church of England, who near this spot yielded their bodies to be burned, bearing witness to the sacred truths which they had affirmed and maintained against the errors of the Church of Rome, and rejoicing that to them it was given not only to believe in Christ, but also to suffer for His sake; this



monument was erected by public subscription in the year of our Lord God, MDCCCXLI*.” *1841, the memorial was actually completed in 1843.

A strange incident occurred near the memorial on June 14th 2014. This writer and his family were in Oxford on that date. On the morning of June 14th this writer went to view the memorial. While this writer waited at the stoplights just across the street from the memorial, an individual quickly walked past behind. The individual was alone, not speaking into a mobile phone, male, bald, Caucasian, of average build and height and in a dark coat. No-one else was in the vicinity. As this individual went past, he spoke an obscenity quite distinctly but which only he and this writer could have heard. The obscenity was a demand to *Go away, now, and never come back*. It may well be that the enemy was so incensed to see someone else close by the place where he had brought about the deaths of those martyrs and who held to their Bible belief almost 500 years on that he prompted one of his minions to cast a fiery dart, Ephesians 6:16, even if of small calibre.

Psalm 27:1 therefore comes to mind. **“The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?”**

References

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- Believing Bible Study* by Dr Edward F. Hills, pp 40-41
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greek_minuscule_standardbearers.net/uploads/The_King_James_Version_Defended_Dr_Edward_F_Hills.pdf Chapter 8
www.theopedia.com/textus-receptus. This site is helpful but is wrong as is Dr Hills in an otherwise most helpful chapter of *The King James Version Defended*, see site immediately above, in stating that the King James translators used the Vulgate. See *Hazardous Materials, Greek & Hebrew Study Dangers* by Gail Riplinger, 2008, Chapter 18, *The Trinitarian Bible Society's Little Leaven, TBS Scrivener-Beza Textus Receptus*, www.avpublications.com/avnew/home.html
- ³ The Greek original script would have been a translation of John's 'original' original of his Gospel. See *Hazardous Materials* pp 1097ff and *The Hidden History of the English Scriptures*, by Gail Riplinger, 2011, p 3
- ⁴ *The Answer Book* by Dr Sam Gipp, *Question 5, Hasn't the King James Bible Been Revised?*, samgipp.com/werent-there-several-revisions-of-the-kjv-bible-since-1611/ Question 5
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- ¹³ *In Awe of Thy Word* by Dr Mrs Gail Riplinger, www.avpublications.com/avnew/home.html, p 31
- ¹⁴ *The Book of Job*, p 34, *Ruckman Reference Bible*, p 751
- ¹⁵ en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Rift_Valley
- ¹⁶ For graphic see www.visitengland.com/blog/things-do/april-2016/seven-things-do-st-georges-day .
- ¹⁷ *Saint George* by E.O. Gordon
- ¹⁸ en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nicomedia
- ¹⁹ George's grandfather, John, was the Roman Governor of Cappadocia, part of what is now Turkey. This accounts for the mistaken idea that St George was Turkish. St George, moreover, is not to be confused with the avaricious George of Cappadocia, Bishop of Alexandria, who was lynched by his own congregation in 362 AD.
- ²⁰ *George of Lydda* by I. Hill Elder
- ²¹ Between 67 and 303 AD, Imperial Rome instigated ten distinct persecutions against the early Church, of which Diocletian's was the last. The total number of victims must number in the hundreds of thousands. "Untold millions" more would die, according to *Halley's Bible Handbook*, p 793, under "the iron heel of the Papacy" when Imperial Rome metamorphosised into the present-day Papal Rome. See *Which Bible?*, edited by Dr David Otis Fuller, p 214.
- ²² www.royalsocietyofstgeorge.com/historyofstgeorge.htm. Note that this site locates George's birthplace as Turkey, which location is not borne out by other authorities. See above. However, the site agrees with these other authorities in other aspects of George's life and witness and overall is most informative.
- ²³ www.britannia.com/history/stgeorge.html