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**1Co 14:26** How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying.

## A Bride Prepared (Chapter 4)

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### Chapter 4: The Door is Closing

#### *A Bride Prepared*

#### **The Door is Closing...**

Let us take very careful notice of Christ's words spoken to the foolish virgins because His words are for now – and they are for us! *“Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man comes.”* (Mat 25:13) The ironic thing is that these words are meant as an **urgent warning to us** – so that we will not be foolish virgins, as others who have already missed out on the wedding supper! It is too late for some – but it is not too late for us!

Could it be that much of the Church of God is not heeding the obvious warnings that God is directing to His end-time Church? Please realize that we face the same spiritual threats that endangered the first century Church. *“Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that you should earnestly **contend for the faith** which was once delivered unto the saints.”* (Jude :3)

Do not take it for granted that we already have the full measure of faith spoken of here. It is clear that Jude is admonishing the brethren who should have been striving mightily to hold on to the original pure truth that was given to them. They were the true Church, and they had lost the knowledge and the practice of the true faith they once held and cherished. How could they have lost faith? Can it happen to us? Are we so arrogant as to presume that we are doing everything right – thinking we are spiritually *rich and increased with goods, and in need of nothing?* (Revelation 3:17)

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Paul warned against this kind of arrogancy. *“For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, **not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.**”* (Romans 12:3) The context of Paul’s warning is that we are all members of the one Body of Christ.

Like so many in the Church today, those early brethren had ceased living up to the moral excellence that true faith demands of us. And so it is happening again today with too many brethren only warming a seat at services and going through the motions. They are the five sleeping virgins of Matthew 25 who lacked oil for their lamps. They are not exercising God’s Holy Spirit in their day-to-day activities. That is the very reason that God exhorts us today to *earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints*. Faith demands action!

**Time is Short**

*“While the [foolish] virgins went to buy [oil], the Bridegroom came; and the [wise] virgins **that were ready** went in with Him to the marriage: and the **door was shut**. [The door is permanently closed.] *Afterward came also the [foolish] virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. But He answered and said; truly I say unto you, **I do not know you.**”* (Matthew 25:10-12)*

When Christ returns, the opportunity to be firstfruits will have elapsed. It will then be too late to prepare to meet the Bridegroom. Make no mistake about it, now is the only time to prepare. When the end comes upon us, will we be firmly founded and rooted in Christ and able to withstand the final trials? Could it be that **the door is about to close** on us? We know that an acceptable faith among the brethren will be rare indeed. *“When the Son of man comes, shall He find faith on the earth?”* (Luke 18:8)

Could it be that Jesus finds little faith when He returns – due partly to the lack of spiritual meat the brethren are receiving? *“Faith comes by hearing, [good sermons from the Bible] and hearing by the Word of God.”* (Romans 10:17) God describes the final spiritual famine as one in which the brethren **do not even know** what they are missing. *“You say, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and **know not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.**”* (Revelation 3:17)

We live in the very last days. The time of the marriage supper is very close. Jesus Christ will soon knock. *“Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will **sup with him, and he with me.**”* (Revelation 3:20) But the Scriptures are clear – many of the Church brethren will be spiritually unprepared to meet the Bridegroom at the time of His return. Jesus says that His return will catch some of the saints – possibly half of the brethren – **unprepared**. Verse 13 is a warning given in love, *“Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man comes.”*

Why does God call them foolish virgins? It is because they foolishly believe that they **have it made**. In their spiritual slumber, they do not remain vigilant until the return of Christ. They are not doing what it takes to have a Christian relationship with their Creator God and their fellow brethren. They assume that they are prepared, or they think that they can get ready at the last possible moment.

**A Spiritual Relationship**

How could Jesus possibly say to the five foolish virgins, *“I know you not?”* The answer is that they take for granted that they are just as entitled and prepared to marry the Bridegroom as the five wise virgins, who have **a truly spiritual relationship** with God.

It is not only the members who fall into this deceptive trap. Ministers are just as likely to consider themselves to be the elite – perhaps more so. Some think, *“Because of my rank and years of service, I am uniquely qualified and closer to God.”* Many came into the Church when there was an over-emphasis on church government and hierarchical authority over the members. With all due respect, much of the ministry thought of themselves very much like European royalty – not subject to the same rules as the rank and file. Yes, those in the first resurrection will be royalty in the Kingdom of God, but now is not the time to practice or exhibit a holier-than-thou elitism.

Those “privileged” ministers would not be seen in public until they were well coiffed, manicured, and in their three-piece suits. This is not being critical – that is just the way it was, and still is for some. You might say, *“What is wrong with that*

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picture?” What is wrong is that Jesus taught and exhibited just the exact opposite!

### **The Bride is a Servant**

Contrast that depiction of the well-groomed ministry with the factual picture of Jesus Christ; without His coat, on His hands and knees, washing the disciple’s feet as an example of how ministers should be **servants**. “[Jesus] rose from supper, and laid aside His garments; and took a towel, and girded Himself... and began to wash the disciples’ feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded... For I have given you an example, that **you should do** as I have done to you.” (John 13:4, 15) “For who is greater, he that sits at meat, or He that serveth? Is it not he that sits at meat? But I am among you as **He that serves**.” (Luke 22:27) Jesus set aside His glory and power to come to earth for the purpose of serving mankind.

Jesus lowered Himself from God the Father’s presence – and lower than the angels – even lower than mankind. He became the **servant of mankind** to save us. And, He said that we should do the same! Unfortunately, Satan’s mind-set of being totally unwilling to lower himself to serve, prevails all too often with self-serving mankind. When Satan realized that he would be subservient to men – he rebelled and fell from his first estate as one of the covering cherubs over God’s throne (Jude:6, Ezekiel 28:16). Are we able to lower ourselves beneath everyone – in order to serve as Jesus gave us example? Do we even understand what the foot-washing entails? There is a deeper meaning in the foot-washing than humbling ourselves for a few minutes down on the floor.

### **The Bride Washes Feet**

The meaning behind the foot-washing ceremony is so important that Jesus made it a requirement for our salvation. The foot-washing symbolizes our renewed commitment to walk in the newness of life that we made at our baptism. And more than that, God also requires us to help other brethren to be clean before Him. When a brother or sister has strayed and allowed a serious sin to enter their life – we must serve them by going to their spiritual rescue – no matter what it takes – that is laying down our lives for the brethren.

How do so many miss that clear lesson? Even those who speak of servant leadership continue to perform in the same old ways. In contrast to Jesus’ positive example for us, why does so much of the ministry continue to believe that it is necessary to put on an air of preeminence and sophistication? Is it more important to maintain that pretentious appearance than to follow Christ’s pattern of humble service? Jesus’ example was to lay aside His true preeminence and become **the lowest servant** – even laying down His life for us. “Jesus Christ, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Himself the **form of a servant**.” (Philippians 2:6-7)

This is not a new revelation – almost every one of those ministers would say that they understood that concept of serving. It is just that they insisted on serving from a position of superiority. That is specifically what Jesus taught against! “[Jesus] sat down, and called the twelve, and said unto them, If any man desires to be first, the same shall be **least of all, and servant of all**... Whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be **servant of all**... For even the Son of man came not to be served, **but to serve**, and to give His life a ransom for many.” (Mark 9:35, 10:44-45)

Over and over, Jesus taught His disciples that they were not to be the ones catered to, but rather that they should dedicate their lives to the self-sacrificing service of the brethren. Sadly, even after so many years, some in the ministry still twist Jesus’ words, and conclude that they are better able to serve so many more from their high positions of dominance. Their lofty perch places them in a rather awkward position to teach the ordinary “lowly” brethren. Ministers can be foolish virgins, too.

But, learn to serve and love one another, we must – ministers and brethren alike! Jesus did it. So must we. That is why God the Father has called us into His Church at this time. “For even hereunto were you called: because Christ also suffered for us, **leaving us an example**, that ye should follow his steps.” (1 Peter 2:21) Are we able to lower ourselves to be servants of all?

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**See Warren Zehrung’s other articles at:**

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**My most unusual column:  
Why the English capitalized the word "I"**  
(Copyright 09-07-2024) by Curtis Dahlgren (Stephenson, Michigan)

"I AM, said I, to no one there." – Neil Diamond

"I AM THAT I AM." – God (to Moses, 1491 B.C.)

"God forgives; man sometimes forgives; nature never forgives." – author unknown

TO ME, "I" STANDS FOR THE "INDIVIDUAL" – *the right to what's in your heart*. Down through history no group on earth has done more for the freedom of the individual than the English-speaking peoples. Contrary to what you may have been told in college, no one has done more to fight the oppression of the individual. *COINCIDENCE? I think NOT!*

The German word for "I" is "ich." The Dutch word is "ik." The Greek is "ego." French is "je." Russians say "ja." The Swedes, "jag." The Danes, "jeg." I forget the Spanish word, but they all have one thing in common: their personal pronoun starts with the lower case. The English capitalize the word "I" (and – so far – I haven't come across another language that does that)!

That's why Thomas Jefferson, at the tender age of 33, had it in him to write the Declaration of Independence, as in:

"When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation. We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness. . . ."

And the operative term there is "ONE PEOPLE" – not "diversity," two Americas, nor a "glorious mosaic"! And he capitalized words such as *Laws of Nature*, and *"Life"* – even as the King James Bible capitalized *"I AM THAT I AM"*!

In "21st Century Academia," Jefferson would probably get a D-minus or an F for his "antiquated" writing, but people who come here from oppressed parts of the world understand the meaning of "certain unalienable Rights" better than native-born Americans tend to do. In a "morning update," Rush Limbaugh told about a Kuwaiti student who came here to study at a college in California: in one class, the assignment for his final paper was titled "America was not founded by the people, but by wealthy elitists." The Kuwaiti argued the opposite premise, and he told how grateful he was to America for saving his country from Saddam Hussein (who had killed some of his relatives).

The professor gave his paper an F and told him that he needed "psychological help"! He especially criticized the student for implying that America is "God's gift to the world!" This is SO typical. That is the Academe into which America is sending its precious sons and daughters – at great personal and government expense.

Academics have an obsession with sexualized politics, secularism, and "racism." They forget, 1) America was the first colony to win independence from the "Empire"; 2) in the long run, that Empire did a lot of good for the world population's general well-being, including providing a common business language upon which the sun never sets, which facilitates medical care and other developments in third world countries.

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General MacArthur said the solution to the human problem must be "of the Spirit," but eighty percent of believing freshmen lose their faith before they graduate. In his farewell address to the United Nations, President Reagan spoke of Washington's farewell address to the Nation, and how the case for "inalienable rights," the notion that conscience is above compulsion, can only be made in the context of a Higher Law. Washington also said education alone does not produce a "civil society." We are not evolving into a Utopia; we are devolving into Dante's worst nightmare.

P.S. The column you just read is unique. It came from original thought by an *individual* (me), and I had never seen "the theory of I" taken up before. As I said recently, "If your professor taught you *what* to think but not *how* to, you was robbed." I had a mini-debate this week with a young person in college who was offended by a politically incorrect joke I posted on Facebook. She said political correctness is simply the Golden Rule. O would that that were true, but I was reminded of a quotation from my March 19th column, in case you missed it: Years before the term 'political correctness' was coined, there appeared a prophetic article entitled 'Moral Dishonesty'" (*National Review*, 12/19/1975) by Gerhard Niemeyer:

"Evidence disturbing to attitudes of good will toward the Soviet Union is simply read out of court. . . . The truth is conceived as an enemy of international goodness. . . . Self-will may govern our actions, but it does not sit easy in our souls. Moral dishonesty, by contrast, not only considers itself guiltless but positively glows in self-righteousness while heaping moral condemnation on those who disagree. . . .

"Traditional morality – either the Ten Commandments, Aristotle's list of virtues, or Christ's double love of God and neighbor [He kept it simple] – can never pass off falsehood as the necessary price of goodness. That possibility belongs exclusively to modern progressivism. . . . More than Tartuffe, who knew he was lying, they suppress reason by not allowing the voice of Truth to be heard even within their own hearts. . . . It goes without saying that in the process, not merely reason but morality itself is lost. For where reason and knowledge are *despised*, there Mephistopheles can easily snare Faust in the net of hell."

I hate to have to be the one to point out the obvious, but that is political correctness: lies, redefining words such as morality, suppression of dissent, and forced conformity. Orwell called it Group Think.

PPS: "If everybody is thinking alike, someone isn't thinking." – General George Patton

"It is better to debate a question without settling it than to settle a question without debating it." – Joseph Joubert (1754-1824))

"If you can't change your mind, are you sure you have one?" – author unknown

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**See Curtis Dahlgren's other articles at:**  
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**Time Square Attack:**  
**Psychologically Paralyzed Police Disarmed**  
**(Copyright 2024) by Richard Frates (Easley, South Carolina)**

Danger for police and New York residents - freedom for criminals: Police were violently attacked by 8 young criminal illegal aliens, near Times Square in New York City. Why didn't the police use their firearms to defend themselves? **That would send this message to all criminals - respect police.** Alvin Bragg: That kind of "criminal training" is what New

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York really needs. Not regulations, laws and policies that restrict police. **“Criminal Training” is more important than “police training” stupid New York officials.**

Must New York police fight violent mobs with their hands and risk being killed or seriously injured. Police have been effectively disarmed: Fearful of Democratic party snakes, pandering for black votes, prosecuting them for “excessive force.” And Devil-Media slobbering love for criminals, especially the black ones.

Alvin Bragg New York DA is bringing charges against some of the eight criminals who attacked police because the police were - **dutifully beaten** - instead of using their weapon to defend themselves. What if the police avoided the danger of fighting and wrestling on the ground, with criminals by shooting two or three. The others would scatter, and - **CRIMINALS WOULD BE EDUCATED.**

Would Alvin Bragg be delighted to accuse police of “excessive force”? Yes. Especially if the attackers were black? The black DA, for political advantage, promotes black victim psychology, justifies black racism and crime, to lock blacks into the democratic party “Hate White America Plantation.

Black criminals and border jumpers, are - **free to use “excessive force” against police and everyone and not be charged with “excessive force.” Police being charged with “excessive force” is unconstitutional, unequal treatment in law.** Charge police with assault if police assault someone without reason. Police, when violently attacked, must be - freed to use overpowering force - to control the criminal immediately. Being nice to criminals violently attacking you is Not “self-defense” wise.

The evil motive for **making up the charge of “excessive force” that only applies to police** is, isolate blacks, promote black victim psychology, justify black racism and crime. Many blacks today are so racist today that in their - hate your white neighbor minds: Innocent or guilty -Irrelevant - black or white is all that matters.

Police need - immunity - from prosecution when criminals attack them. A New York resident who legally carries a weapon if someone punches him or her violently have the right of self-defense. If they use deadly force to defend themselves and the attacker is killed - New York streets will be a little safer.

Police must have the same right of self-defense in situations like that and - **immunity** from prosecution. But New York City democratic party snakes are constantly seeking opportunity to pander for black votes. Therefore, **innocent, or guilty irrelevant** - black or white is all that matters in state official's dark minds.

But if police use deadly force to protect themselves from a black criminal violently punching them. **Devil-Media reports: “Unarmed black killed by police.”** Devil-Media would never report truthfully “black man violently punched police with his fist is shot and killed. That truthful report would send a message and reduce violent crime. Anyone who violently attacks police must be - **legally considered armed.** And Devil-Media must be - required by law - to report what initiated a police shooting - **first** - in any report.

If police are supported with “immunity from prosecution” by state officials and Alvin Bragg DA of Manhattan: The result would be “Disarm Criminals” instead of paralyzing and disarming police. Safe neighborhoods for black and white on the way. Resident would be safer, business would prosper, and jobs for the unemployed.

Alvin Bragg - God's word is the answer to racism: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” As yourself means **consider your white neighbor as black “as yourself.”** Sadly, Democratic party snakes, and Devil-Media, will never set blacks free to “love your neighbor as yourself.” That would free blacks from the democratic party “hate white America plantation” where everything in white America is racist.

Black church leaders have abandoned God's word “Love your neighbor as yourself” has been replaced with hate and **“racist profiling” all white America Instead.** Racism is 95% of blacks voting democratic party for a racist policy advantage. Truth, reality and “Love your neighbor” is the enemy of Devil-Media.

See Richard Frate's other articles at:

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## A World at War

(Copyright 09-11-2024) by Joseph B. Baity (Charlotte, North Carolina)



Global conflict is on the rise.

In 2023, the world experienced the highest number of state-based conflicts since 1946, while the past three years (2021-2023) were identified as the most violent in the last three-plus decades, dating back to 1989. While the number of countries involved in violent engagements fell from 39 in 2022 to 34 in 2023, the total number increased due to multiple conflicts in various states.

According to Siri Aas Rustad, Research Professor at the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO):

Violence in the world is at an all-time high since the end of the Cold War. The figures suggest that the conflict landscape has become increasingly complex, with more conflict actors operating within the same country.

In June 2024, PRIO released a research paper entitled "Conflict Trends: A Global Overview," for which Rustad was the



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lead writer. In it, he states that nearly 600,000 people died in battle-related conflict between 2021 and 2023. The number of fatalities represented a massive increase over the prior six years, from 2015 through 2020, when the world enjoyed a significant decline in such deaths.

Three larger wars spurred the increase: the conflict between the government of Ethiopia and the Tigray People's Liberation Front, in which more than 286,000 people died; the Russia-Ukraine war, which has reportedly killed more than 160,000; and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which reports indicate has taken more than 23,000 lives in less than three months. Sadly, the latter two of these conflicts are ongoing in 2024, with many more thousands of battle-related casualties anticipated.

In 2023, Africa was home to a world-leading twenty-eight state-based conflicts, followed by Asia with seventeen and the Middle East with ten. Not surprisingly, Islam, as it broadens its operations and influence across Africa, Asia, and the Middle East, is a significant driving force in the number of state-based conflicts. Additionally, transnational Islamic non-state actors, like *Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin* (JNIM) and the Islamic State (IS), are injecting their malicious efforts into ongoing state-based and non-state conflicts around the world. Not only does their presence add to the violence, but it also impedes the efforts of peacekeepers and aid groups to ease the tensions and improve the outlook for resolution.

War refugees who flee their countries seeking refuge from violence and displaced persons who flee within their nation's borders also play a role in the rise in global conflict. Their heartbreaking plight increases the economic and political instability of a given country. Such nations are more prone to trouble because of the enormous draw on human, military, and financial resources to care for their most basic needs and to tend to the inevitable outbreaks of violence and disease that often accompany them.

While the current global situation is troubling, the near future is equally frightening. Defense spending among NATO countries rose to \$2.2 trillion in 2023. Excluding the United States, this amount represents a 32% increase. But, amid this colossal spending boost, Western military readiness still suffers. In addition, strong political leadership in NATO countries is dangerously lacking, especially in light of heightened concerns that states like China, North Korea, and Iran may soon attempt to impose their wills on their neighbors and beyond.

Perhaps even more disturbing is the lessening of political support among many nations, especially in the West, for the state of Israel and its struggle to combat the assault on its borders, citizens, and Jews around the globe. Antisemitism and violence against Jews are reaching epic proportions not seen since World War II. Even within the U.S., college campuses teem with a bewildering level of support for global Islamic aggression against Israelis everywhere.

Without a dramatic turn of events, the outlook for peace continues to wane while the prospects for war intensify. Still, the timing of end-time events remains unknown to all men ([Matthew 24:6](#); [Acts 1:7](#)). Faithful and observant Christians are wise to pay attention ([Luke 21:29-30](#)) and prepare for the possibility of more significant turmoil ([Matthew 24:7](#); [II Chronicles 15:5-6](#)), [praying always](#) for the hope and [patience](#) needed to endure the challenges of the times ([Jeremiah 29:12](#); [Romans 12:12](#)).

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## Along Came Jones (Copyright 09-08-2024) by Dwight Fleming (Orville, California)

Gary Cooper departs from his usual hero movie character in this 1945 film, "Along Came Jones." The movie starts out with a stagecoach shooting and robbery of \$40,000 by the notorious gunslinger, Monte Jarred, played by Dan Duryea.

Melody Jones (Cooper) and his sidekick, George Fury (William Demarest) stumble into a town which mistakes Jones for the famed gunslinger. Melody spots an attractive lady and is smitten at first sight. She turns out to be the real Monte's girlfriend, Cherry (Loretta Young). When Cherry realizes that everyone has mistaken Jones for her boyfriend, she takes advantage of the situation and plays along in hopes of sending any posse after Jones so that her boyfriend villain has a better chance of getting away.

Melody Jones is dazzled by Cherry's unexpected attention toward him and falls for her scheme. After helping Melody and George escape from danger in town, Cherry directs them to head south from her ranch outside of town. Melody and George ride south but Melody begins to get wise to Cherry's using them as a decoy for her boyfriend, Monte. This is where the story not only gets more intriguing but portrays the age-old drama of a man's attempt to win the heart of a woman who is already devoted to another man.

At some point in the movie, Cherry has to decide which man is more worthy of her affection and loyalty. The movie is not only filled with humor and good entertainment, but also illustrates a profound challenge presented to the whole world.

"**Choose** for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the Euphrates River, or the gods of the Amorites . . . 'No!' Replied the people. 'We will serve the Eternal' Then Joshua told them, 'You are **witnesses** against yourselves that you have **chosen** to serve the Eternal [and only true God]'" (Joshua 24:15).

This same challenge is later echoed by the prophet Elijah: "How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Eternal is God, follow him. But if Baal is God, follow him" (I Kings 18:21).

Who is the true God? Is it Allah which Islam worships? Or Buddha? Or modern technology?

The true God is the God of Israel and of the Bible. He proclaims to the world:

"Gather the nations together! Assemble the peoples of the world! Which of their idols has ever foretold such things? Which can predict what will happen tomorrow? Where are the **witnesses** of such predictions? Who can verify that they spoke the truth?

"'You are my **witnesses**,' declares the Eternal, 'and my **servant** whom I have chosen, so that you may consider and believe and understand that I am He [the true God]. Before me there was no God formed, nor shall there be any after me'" (Isaiah 43:9-10).

Just as Cherry had to **choose** which man to follow, so must the world **choose** which God to follow.

And what choice did Cherry make?

To learn the answer, you must watch the movie.

Which God will the world choose to follow? For the answer, read the Book of Revelation.

Enjoy the movie and stay true to the high calling of our merciful Creator, the only true God.

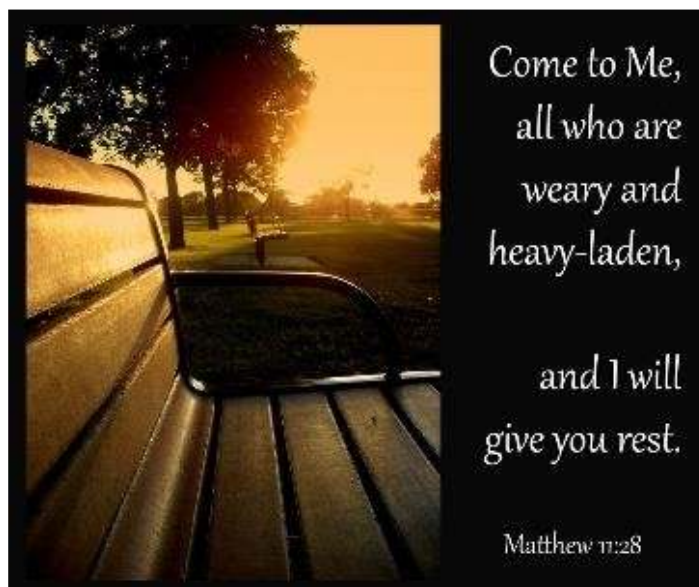
Introduction: <https://youtu.be/Vpo0o8fw6wM?si=O8ma2k8nRwVklscv>

Along Came Jones: <https://youtu.be/uNTgy1I1D8A?si=2PEQFsCF4ke8gkd9>

See Dwight Fleming's other articles at:  
[Fleming, Dwight – Church of God, Bismarck \(church-of-god-bismarck.org\)](http://church-of-god-bismarck.org)

## The Sabbath was Made for Man

(Copyright 09-07-2024) by Gary C. Miller (Pocahontas, Arkansas)



### COME TO YAHSHUA ("Yah is Savior")

"Come to Me, *ALL* who are Weary and Heavy-Laden, and I will give you Rest." (Matt. 11:28)

### REST FOR YOUR SOUL

"Take My yoke upon you, and Learn from Me, for I am Gentle and Humble in Heart; and *you shall find Rest for your souls. for My yoke is Easy and My burden is Light.*" (Matt. 28:29-30; NAS)

### WHEN TO REST: 7th DAY SABBATH REMAINS

"There must still be a Seventh-Day Rest reserved for Yahweh's people." (Heb. 4:9; "God": New Jerusalem Bible) "...and He rested on the Seventh Day from *ALL* His work which He had made." (Gen. 2:2-3)

### A SEASON AND A TIME

"To everything there is a season, and time to every purpose under the Heaven." (Eccl. 3:1). *A time to rest.*

### LAY DOWN THE BURDEN

"Humble yourselves...that He may exalt you in due time; casting *ALL your anxiety upon him, for He cares for you.*" (1 Pet. 5:7; "Yahweh" for "God"; NAS)

### LET YAHWEH KNOW OUR NEEDS

"**Ask** [again], and it shall be given; **Seek** [many places], and you shall find; Knock [again], and it shall be opened...: For every one that **Asketh receiveth**; and...**Seeketh findeth**; and...that **Knocketh it shall be opened.**" (Matt. 7:7-8)

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"...your Father which is in heaven give(s) good things to them that **Ask Him.**" (Matt. 7:11)

"...for your Father knows what you need, before you **Ask Him.**" (Matt. 6:8); Even so, *we have to ask Him.*  
"The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man *avails much.*" (Ja. 5:16)

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See Gary C. Miller's other articles at:

[Miller, Gary C. – Church of God, Bismarck \(church-of-god-bismarck.org\)](http://church-of-god-bismarck.org)

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## **History's Hidden Hand**

**(Copyright 2023) by Dwight Fleming (Oroville, California)**

Eric Metaxas interviews Michael Medved, author of "The American Miracle: Divine Providence in the rise of the Republic" and the sequel, "God's Hand on America: Divine Providence in the Modern Era."

Michael shares some amazing stories from his two books. Take an hour to hear a few examples of God's Divine Hand working at pivotal points in U.S. history. It will leave you inspired and wanting to hear more.

I found the story about California particularly interesting. To add some local history to it: Here in Oroville, we have a street named "Lincoln Street." It was named after President Lincoln's nephew who had the first newspaper in the county back in the 1800s. President Lincoln was intending to visit California during his second term.

The first president to visit California was Rutherford B. Haynes in 1880. He visited the town of Cherokee, just north of Oroville, which was booming at the time with hydraulic gold mines. Not much left of Cherokee these days. There is a history plaque there noting President Haynes visit.

Oroville got its name because of the gold found here in the river. It was first proposed to name the town, "Ophir," but another town in California had already claimed that name. "Oro" is Spanish for gold. So, Oroville means "Gold Town."

Here is the link to the interview: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-KZ9EsiLTG0>

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See Dwight Fleming's other articles at:

[Fleming, Dwight – Church of God, Bismarck \(church-of-god-bismarck.org\)](http://church-of-god-bismarck.org)

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## **The Foundation of Godly Faith**

**(Copyright 09-08-2024) by Rod Reynolds (Wentzville, Missouri)**

Have you considered the question of what is the foundation of your faith? Or what is the proper foundation of godly faith according to Scripture? The faith of many is on a weak or flawed foundation. It may be on a human personality, on false teachings, on confidence in one's own opinions or rationalizations, on popular opinion, or what others among their friends and acquaintances believe. It may be in an organization, perhaps a Church.

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The faith of one who would be a genuine disciple of Jesus Christ must not be founded on any of the things mentioned above.

In our message titled "The Foundation of Godly Faith" by Rod Reynolds is explained clearly from the Scriptures what your faith must be founded on and how having the right foundation is essential to your relationship with God and how it is of benefit to you spiritually, and how you may go about building and maintaining your faith on the proper foundation.

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Sermon Link: [The Foundation of Godly Faith | COGMessenger](#)

See Rod Reynolds other articles at:

[Reynolds, Rod – The "New" Church of God Messenger \(church-of-god-bismarck.org\)](https://church-of-god-bismarck.org)

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## Letters

**Letter from Rebecca Wise (September 7, 2024)**

I appreciate the newsletter and all the articles and editorials. I know it takes a lot of effort to gather material and put it all together. I also enjoy the personal updates.

Thanks for including Bill's latest donor letter and photos and for prayer reminders for them (and Israel).

**Letter from Ken Nagele (September 11, 2024)**

You have a great site!

You might want to link my site. I'm the last of Dr. Martin's Pasadena students and I host the ASSOCIATES ONLINE:  
<http://ernestmartin.com>

Thank you and best wishes.

## Announcements

**Announcement from Craig M. White (September 14, 2024)**

**Mrs Armstrong-Handmaid and Servant of God**

This document has now been found and is attached. It has also been uploaded

[https://www.friendsofsabbath.org/iframe/ABC/Pioneers&Researchers/Loma\\_Armstrong/Loma\\_Armstrong.html](https://www.friendsofsabbath.org/iframe/ABC/Pioneers&Researchers/Loma_Armstrong/Loma_Armstrong.html)

## **Holy Days 2024**

**Passover – April 23, 2024 (Observed at Sunset the Evening Before)**

**Passover/Unleavened Bread – April 23-29, 2024**

**Pentecost – June 12, 2024**

**Trumpets - October 3, 2024**

**Atonement – October 12, 2024**

**Tabernacles –October 17, 2024, to October 23, 2024**

**Last Great Day – October 24, 2024**

## **Notes**