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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.

Curse of the Pharaohs

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“Even God could not sink her,” it was boasted. The Titanic was the biggest and the fastest ship in the world. It was also considered to be the most beautiful, Oh yes, and unsinkable.

Then on April 14, 1912, occurred the most spectacular ship catastrophe of the past 100 years. The Titanic, on her maiden voyage from Southampton to New York, collided with an iceberg and sank with a loss of fifteen hundred people.

The Titanic’s skipper, Captain Edward J. Smith, played a puzzling role in this catastrophe. Smith was a top-rate, experienced seaman. He was considered a logical choice for his post. But on that April day he acted quite strangely. It began with the course he steered, then the ship’s unusually high speed, followed by his singular reaction to asking for help, and it ended with a rescue plan announced only at the last minute. For such a first-rate seaman, such a pattern of behaviour is mysterious and not yet fully explained.

The mummy passenger

The Titanic carried on board 2,200 passengers, as well as forty tons of potatoes, 35,000 eggs, 12,000 bottles of mineral water and 7,000 sacks of coffee. But it had another item of cargo, an Egyptian mummy. Lord Canterville had asked for this to be shipped from England to New York.

This mummy was the carefully prepared body of an ancient Egyptian prophetess who had enjoyed popularity during the reign of Amenhotep IV, the so-called “heretic” pharaoh who took the name of Ikhnaton. A small temple had been built for

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her. It was known as the "Temple of the Eyes". Her grave had more recently been found in Tell el-Amarna.

The female mummy had been embellished with the usual amulets and artifacts. One of the artifacts was an amulet with the figure of Osiris and an inscription which said:

Awake from the swoon in which you sleep and a glance of your eyes will triumph over everything that is done against you.

This inscription had been placed beneath her head. The question has since been asked, was this a hint that the remains of the prophetess enjoyed special protection?

This priceless mummy was encased in a wooden crate. Due to its great value, it had not been placed in the hold of the Titanic but behind the Titanic's command bridge.

Now here is something odd. Quite a number of scientists who handled mummies are reported to have shown clear signs of mental derangement. Was this the result of some curse attending the mummies? In particular, one question that has been asked since the Titanic went down is this: Did Captain Smith, also, look into that mummy's fatal radiant eyes? Could he, also, have been the victim of a curse?

The strange fate of the "mummy handlers"

Here is an example of the misfortune that has attended "mummy handlers" over the years.

One inspector general of the Egyptian antiquities administration was a man named Engelbach. He discovered a tomb near the Medum pyramid. And in the tomb's antechamber he came upon a curse tablet with this inscription:

The spirit of the dead will wring the neck of a grave robber as if it were that of a goose.

Of course, the tablet referred to the spirit of one dead person only. However, Engelbach found two corpses in the chamber. The first corpse was mummified; that was the corpse for whom the tomb had been built. But the other corpse was not. The second corpse was that of a grave robber killed by a stone that plummeted from the ceiling just as he stretched out his hand to take the mummy's jewellery. Had he become a victim of the curse?

On November 11, 1925, at the Anatomical Institute of Cairo University, Tutankhamen's corpse was subjected to an autopsy. Tragic consequences followed. Two scientists who dealt with the pharaoh's mummy were Alfred Lucas and Professor Derry. Lucas died soon after from a heart attack, and shortly after this Professor Derry died of circulatory collapse.

The deaths of two scientists who had dealt so briefly with the mummy's corpse spread concern among scholars around the world. Up to this point, the curse of the pharaohs had been dismissed by many, as a matter of chance, but the sudden demise of Lucas and Derry made even sceptics sit up and take notice.

Another mysterious casualty

Let's fast-forward now to Wednesday, March 10, 1971. We are at Sakkara, on the edge of the desert 20 miles south of Cairo. Labourers on the huge archaeological digging grounds are getting ready to quit work. It is only two o'clock in the afternoon. But the workmen, grey with desert dust, noisily toss their baskets, made from halved truck tyres, into the sand.

Since seven that morning they have been bringing sand, dust, and rocks to the surface from 30 feet below. Although it is not an easy job, it is a well-paid one. And where else can a man earn good money, here at the edge of the Libyan desert?

The village of Sakkara has become an attractive place in the years since 1935 when all those crazy archaeologists began coming. The cemetery here has been identified as Memphis' ancient city of the dead. It stretches for 4 miles long and anywhere from 500 to 1,500 yards wide. Dominating it is the 4,000-year-old pyramid of King Djoser, the oldest still-intact building in the world.

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This afternoon, an English archaeologist stands at the edge of the shaft that is being dug. He is Walter Bryan Emery, an Englishman, professor of Egyptology, and head of the digging operations at Sakkara.

Emery holds in his hands a small statuette, perhaps 8 inches high. It is a statuette of the death god Osiris. Again and again, he examines the statuette from every angle; then, with his Egyptian assistant, he walks towards the village.

In Sakkara village the diggers have a small one-story house with an office and a washroom. However, this is not where the archaeologists live. As Emery and his assistant, Ali al Khouli, arrive in the office, Ali, exhausted from the heat, collapses on a couch. Emery strides into the washroom.

The assistant will later report:

"I sat here on the couch. Suddenly I heard moaning coming from the washroom. I looked through the door, which was ajar, and saw Emery holding onto the basin. 'Are you sick?' I called out, but the professor did not reply. He stood there as if paralyzed. I grabbed him by the shoulders and dragged him onto the couch. Then I ran for the telephone."

An ambulance is called. It rushes Emery to the British hospital in Cairo. The diagnosis: paralysis of the right side. Emery is unable to speak. Mary, his wife, who has been accompanying him on most of his expeditions, stays with him throughout the night. But the next day - Thursday, March 11, 1971 - Walter Bryan Emery is dead.

The next day, the Cairo newspaper *Al Ahrām* writes, "This strange occurrence leads us to believe that the legendary curse of the pharaohs has been reactivated."

Valley of the Kings

Let's now travel back in time about 3,500 years.

Some 600 miles up the Nile valley, south of Cairo, you come upon the Valley of the Kings. Here the pharaohs made secret tombs in the sides of mountains.

The Valley of the Kings is one of the most desolate spots on earth. Virtually nothing grows there, no tree, shrub or blade of grass. The sun beats down from an eternally cloudless sky whose brilliant blue is the only colour contrast to the monotonous, unrelieved dark gold of rock and sand, hills and valley floor.

All along the desert cliffs toward the Valley of the Kings are tunnels, some of them going back hundreds of feet into the mountain where the pharaohs were buried. The ancient Egyptians made them with many different branches, pitfalls and traps to keep people from finding the kings.

The valley itself is literally honeycombed with tombs, which, over the millennia, contained some of the richest treasures ever deposited by men to the honour of their dead.

Some 17 tombs may be visited, among which Tutankhamen's (the smallest of the tombs) is the only one not plundered during the centuries. The largest is that of Rameses III.

In the tombs, extensive wall paintings and inscriptions still show the original colours.

In July 1881, one of these tombs was found and opened. It contained nearly 40 mummies, including that of Rameses II.

Tutankhamen

Tutankhamen was a comparatively unimportant royal personage. He died at the age of about 18. He was not buried in his own tomb because it was not completed. It is thought that the tomb in which he was buried was the tomb of the high priest.

Modern analysis of a pin-sized piece of tissue has enabled us to determine Tutankhamen's blood group. It has been found that Tutankhamen and Ikhnaton shared the same rare A2 blood group, suggesting that Tutankhamen was an illegitimate son of the latter. Thus his father-in-law was also his father.

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Ikhnaton had three daughters, the oldest having been married off, the second daughter died young. That left the youngest, named Enhosnamon. It was determined that she should marry Tutankhamen. Thus Tutankhamen was married off to his half sister. She was only nine at the time of her marriage, which was extremely young for marriage even in Egypt. The child wife had to pay bitterly for it; she suffered two miscarriages.

Tutankhamen died suddenly, from a blood clot in the brain. That left Enhosnamon a widow at fifteen. There was no heir to the throne. This was a perfect situation for Ay, the high priest, to seize power.

So, the 15 year old widow was desperate. To carry on the royal line, she could not find a suitable man in all Egypt. In her despair she finally turned to Shuppiluliuma, the King of the Hittite Empire. She wrote to him:

My husband is dead, and I do not have a son. I am told that you have many grown sons. Send me one of your sons and I shall take him as my husband because I do not want to marry any of my subjects.

The Hittite king was at first baffled. This was a most unusual request, for one of his sons to marry her and become king of Egypt! So, he made an investigation as to the sincerity of the young widow. Satisfied at last, he sent one of the sons to Egypt. However, on his way that son was ambushed and murdered.

This crime was probably arranged by Ay. In any case, Ay forced Tutankhamen's widow to marry him.

In Tutankhamen's tomb, flowers had been placed. This was a common procedure. The leaves of wild celery (*Apium graveolens*), had been wound into wreaths.

Probably the most touching of all bouquets was the one placed on Tutankhamen's coffin, inside the sarcophagus. It was a small bunch of flowers. Tutankhamen's fifteen-year-old widow must have plucked these from the shore of the Nile River, to send as a last greeting to her beloved young husband.

Search for the tomb

The explorer Howard Carter was spurred to look for Tutankhamen's tomb by the discovery of a water-pot bearing his name, which indicated that his tomb was probably somewhere in the valley. Carter decided to start digging in the area in front of the tomb of Rameses VI (c. 1150 BC). This rubble pile had not been examined previously because it would have barred access to Rameses' tomb.

The only reason the tomb had not been found and robbed before, was that it was down in the bottom of a deep valley, and a number of pharaohs had their tombs cut in the cliffs above. Hundreds of thousands of tons of stone cut out of those tombs came rolling down, filling the whole valley, and covering several tombs below. Some of these had since been found. But Tutankhamen's tomb was down so deep that all through the ages it had been hidden from the Arabs and other tomb hunters who sought to rob them of their treasures.

But the men who were searching for Tutankhamen's tomb knew it was there somewhere. So, they kept digging. And finally, they came to a place where they could tell that the natural rock had been removed, regardless of how carefully the Egyptians had tried to conceal it.

Stairway, door, passage, door

And so, in this 'mountain' of rock below Rameses VI's tomb, a rubble-covered step was uncovered, then fifteen more forming a stairway which led to a door. **THEY WERE ABOUT TO MAKE AN EXCITING DISCOVERY!**

Behind the door, Howard Carter and his men found a 25 foot long passage driven far into the rock.

This ended at a second door, which had at some time been opened and resealed.

It appears that robbers had made two attempts to break into the tomb shortly after the burial, but were apprehended before they reached the burial chamber. And the passageway was then resealed. And, of course, later falling rubble from Rameses' tomb hid it all from sight, and from memory, until 1922.

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Ante-chamber treasures

This second door was the door of the antechamber.

Carter recalled later:

At last we had the whole door clear before us. The decisive moment had arrived. With trembling hands, I made a tiny breach in the left hand corner. Darkness and blank space, as far as an iron testing rod could reach then widening the hole a little, I inserted the candle and peered in. At first, I could see nothing. But presently as my eyes grew accustomed to the light, details of the room emerged slowly from the mist, strange animals, statues, and gold, everywhere the glint of gold. For a moment, an eternity it must have been to the others standing by, I was struck dumb; then Lord Caernarvon inquired anxiously, “Can you see anything?” “Yes,” I replied, “wonderful things”.

Carter was gazing into the antechamber of Tutankhamen’s tomb.

Carter got through it. And inside, piled up like furniture in a warehouse, (probably the result of hasty tidying up by surprised plunderers) were burst-open chests and coffers, and pieces of furniture.

Unbelievable wealth in gold

In the antechamber alone, the wealth was estimated at 6 million British pounds. The richness of it all was breathtaking, as many as 600 objects. Both gold and alabaster were freely used.

In front of a great statue of blackened wood was a magnificent painted timber chest, on the panels of which were depicted hunting and battle scenes. It was magnificently decorated with miniature work.

Also in the room were three couches encased with gold, and with animal heads. Golden beds! Around them were scattered boxes containing garments and personal belongings. And wooden cases containing mummified birds.

Against one wall lay a pile of four dismantled chariots. These were completely covered with gold: every inch decorated either with embossed design and scenes hammered into the gold itself, or with inlaid design made of coloured glass and stone, together with baskets, pottery, and alabaster vases.

Perhaps the most beautiful piece of furniture in the room was a dazzling gold, silver, and glass-inlaid throne, decorated with a design showing Tutankhamen and his wife.

Oh, and there was so much more, solid gold daggers, pendants, necklaces, miniature figures portraying daily life in Egypt, a golden table, two golden statues of Tutankhamen, his earrings, a model boat of alabaster, a triple lamp of translucent alabaster. I could go on.

Today the wonderful objects that stood in that tomb now occupy about a whole floor of the Cairo Museum. You can walk around and look at them. There is his golden chair and his golden table. There is his golden bed if you please. And his golden chariot. HE LIVED A GOLDEN LIFE.

How wrong were the critics!

Interesting, isn’t it? Before this discovery, critics were telling the world that the Bible could not be true history because it speaks of the Israelites, having so much gold when they fled Egypt, gold to make two golden cherubim to put on a gold-covered box called the Ark, and a golden table for the shew-bread, and a golden lampstand, and a golden altar of incense. “Impossible,” it was claimed. There wasn’t that much gold in all the world at that time.

But now, in this tomb alone was found enough gold to make probably half a dozen Israelite tabernacles!

Of course, all that was still unknown on February 17, 1923, when Howard Carter and Lord Caernarvon were ready to open the main chamber of Tutankhamen’s grave.

Warning over the last inner door

It was 2 pm on that hot February day. In the passageway of the tomb crowded twenty excited workers. None of them

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knew if they would find a pharaoh's mummy in it. And certainly no one suspected that thirteen of them would soon die.

The opening of the door leading into the burial chamber was almost as exciting as the entry into the antechamber.

As their eyes roved over this last inner door, they noticed a warning cut into the stone. In essence, this is what it announced:

“IF ANYONE GOES IN HERE AND VIOLATES THE SLEEP OF THE PHARAOH, THE CURSE OF THE GODS WILL BE ON HIM.”

And it is a fact that practically every man, but one or two, who broke down the final stone, died within a short while.

The man who was buried in a 6 million dollar coffin

As Carter removed the upper part of the wall, the crew members saw beyond it what seemed to be a wall of solid gold.

This was the mummy's casket or outer shrine. It measured 16 feet 5 inches long by 10 feet 10 inches wide by 9 feet high. The burial chamber was almost totally filled up by this great box. It had been built in sections, then taken in there and put together and covered with pure gold. This outer casket was of gilt wood inlaid with lapis-paste.

They opened the doors of this outer casket. And inside it they found a second casket, overlaid inside and out with gold. This one was decorated in relief with deities and hieroglyphics.

Within this, was a third casket, overlaid inside and out with gold. Around this were scattered ceremonial bows and arrows.

And inside this third casket was a final casket, which contained a sarcophagus of the finest yellow quartzite, with a lid of red granite. The lid alone weighed 1350 pounds (more than half a ton). Each corner of this great stone sarcophagus was decorated with a protective goddess.

The crew had a hard time trying to get it out. In fact, they had to break it, to get it open.

But they were to discover further wonders. For within this fourth, inner, casket were THREE SEPARATE COFFINS, one fitted within the other.

Yes, it was difficult to get these out, too, because the mass weighed several tons.

These coffins were made in the shape of the human body. They were - you guessed it, golden coffins. Each was set beautifully with lapis lazuli and turquoise.

The first coffin, made of a large log, fitted exactly. It was gilded over. They had to take that out. Then they had a most difficult job getting into it without destroying it. It fitted like a glove around the second coffin.

The second coffin was likewise made of wood covered with gold leaf and inlaid with multi-colored glass-paste.

Inside this was the third coffin of solid gold, an inch thick. The lid represented Tutankhamen in all his regalia, his garments encrusted with precious stones. This coffin was 6 feet long. It was embellished with turquoise, lapis lazuli and carnelian.

The value of this coffin alone is said to be 6 million dollars. But they had to literally cut it open.

And inside it they beheld the royal mummy itself, the mummy of Tutankhamen!

Over his face was a solid gold mask, one of the most beautiful portraits ever made, all of pure gold. It was polished and shone like the sun. It was an exact likeness of the young man's face when he was buried. The features revealed a serene, placid face. The face was refined, cultured and well-formed.

The mummy itself was covered with 22 layers of mummy cloth. Inside the bindings, 143 pieces of jewelry of various kinds

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were discovered.

The body was laid and wrapped in several layers of gold and precious stones.

But the naked body was sadly decayed, marred by the very unguents and ointments which were meant to increase its hopes of survival.

In the underground complex were two other rooms, the Annex (adjoining the antechamber) and the Treasury (adjacent to the Burial Room). Both these contained other treasures. There were signs that plunderers had been at work here. In the Annex, there were even ancient greasy fingerprints on some of the jars from which precious oils had been robbed.

Compared with other pharaohs, treasures

So here, in this tomb, was a teenager who was buried in a \$6 million coffin of solid gold. Not made like a box, but in the shape of the man himself! And not only that! Here were chests and boxes, thrones, beds, weapons, statues, jars, jewels, and gold, gold, more gold, a fabulous accumulation of treasure, bewildering in its variety, quality and quantity. And all this was buried with an almost unknown boy, for his enjoyment in the after-world.

You may well wonder, what did the tombs of the famous conquerors Thutmoses I and Rameses II once contain?

We shall never know, because practically all tombs discovered had been robbed thousands of years before, the mummies removed, and the rooms left in a wrecked condition.

Lord Caernarvon's death

It was just a few weeks later, early in April, that Howard Carter received word that Lord Caernarvon was seriously ill. However, Carter did not attach any great importance to the message.

It was only after he received a second telegram, LORD CAERNARVON GRAVELY ILL, HIGH FEVER, that Carter dropped everything to go to Cairo.

One morning at breakfast, the fifty-seven-year-old earl had simply announced, "I feel like hell."

The man already had a temperature of 104 degrees, and he was shaking with chills. The next day, however, his condition improved. But the high fever returned. And for twelve days, it kept doing this. A medical doctor suggested that Caernarvon had cut himself shaving, having probably opened an old wound with his razor. But would that have caused the fever to continue so long?

His son quickly came to his father's side.

"When I arrived in Cairo," he recalled later, "I drove at once to the Hotel Continental. My father was unconscious. Howard Carter was there, and my mother, Lady Almina. I was awakened during the night. It was ten minutes before two. The nurse came and told me Father had died."

Others begin to die

For the first time, whispers began to circulate about the curse of the pharaohs. There was mention of the tablet that had been found and then lost. Scholars and newspapermen started talking seriously. Other men connected with the Tutankhamen excavations began to die. Panic spread.

Carter had asked an American archaeologist by the name of Arthur Mace, to help open the tomb. Mace had ripped out the last chunk of wall blocking the entry to the main chamber. After Caernarvon's death, the American complained about growing exhaustion. Finally, he fell into a deep coma. Doctors were unable to diagnose the cause. Mace never came out of his coma. In fact, he died in the same hotel as had Lord Caernarvon.

Hearing of Caernarvon's death, a long-time friend by the name of George Jay Gould, travelled to Egypt. Gould was the son of the American financier. From Cairo, Gould travelled up the Nile to Luxor and out to the Valley of the Kings. Here he met Carter who showed him the sensational tomb discovery.

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The very next morning Gould came down with a high fever. By that evening he was dead. At first, doctors said they could not diagnose the fatal illness. However, later they concluded that the cause of death was bubonic plague.

Death after death followed, unabated. The mystery grew.

Howard Carter continued his archaeological exploration of the tomb. Joel Wood, a British industrialist, visited the tomb site. And after returning to England by ship, he died of a high fever.

A radiologist named Archibald Douglas Reid was the first to cut the cords around the mummy so as to X-ray the body. Shortly after that he suffered strange attacks of debilitating feebleness. Then in 1924, upon his return to England, he died.

By 1929, twenty-two individuals who had been involved with Tutankhamen and his tomb directly or indirectly, had died prematurely. Of these, thirteen had participated in opening the grave. Those dead included the archaeologists Garry Davies, Harkness, and Douglas Derry, and the assistants Astor and Callender, as well as Professors Winlock and Foucrat.

Lord Caernarvon's wife, Lady Almina, also died in 1929, from an insect bite, so it was thought. Richard Bethell, Carter's secretary, died that year too.

In this mysterious chain of events, the circumstances attending Bethell's death were strange indeed.

Bethell was found in his bed. Cause of death was stated as a circulatory collapse. His father, Lord Westbury, upon hearing of his son's death, plunged from the seventh story of his London house. Then, on the way to the cemetery, the hearse ran over a little boy.

Howard Carter himself died of inflammation of the lungs, although he lived much longer than his unfortunate colleagues.

Another man connected with the tomb discovery was Dr John Kinnaman. By the time he got back to the United States, he was seriously ill. He went to the Madison Sanitarium in Tennessee, to get help. Dr Sutherland told him, "We can't do anything more for you, but I am going to pray for you."

John Kinnaman told radio broadcaster H.M.S. Richards that he was convinced his life was saved by prayer.

DEATH WILL SLAY WITH HIS WINGS WHOEVER DISTURBS THE PEACE OF THE PHARAOH. So says the ancient curse.

So, what killed them?

Very well, how can we explain this set of events? What does the curse signify? Is it possible that dead men can really influence or even stop the life rhythms of others? Were there scientific secrets in ancient Egypt that are now forgotten? Could poisons have been used which retained their potency for thousands of years? Was deadly radiation the cause? Or is it just coincidence? chance - that so many died prematurely?

Traps to kill intruders

The ancient Egyptians may well have developed effective methods to protect their tombs against grave robbers.

It is probable that priests and magicians used their technical knowledge to retain power over the people - and fear of the curses. And so when a stone dropped from a tomb's vaulted ceiling when the mummy was touched, that would not be by accident. Rather, it might be as part of a simple yet effective trap to foil grave robbers.

They had scientific expertise

It is not easy to discover how much ancient civilizations such as Egypt knew of modern science. It is clear that in Egypt such knowledge was shrouded in secrecy, to be the heritage of the select few who practised it.

There was certainly a sophisticated state of medical knowledge. Bones and joints were set. Broken bones were put in

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splints. Sterilization concepts were understood. Tubes - reeds wrapped in linen - were used for artificial nourishment. Dental bridges fastened with gold wire, were used. And that's just for starters.

Medicinal prescriptions were many. They comprised juices, salves, powders, and suppositories. Instructions for taking pills and drugs produced by Egyptian doctors (which have survived and been translated) are similar to those of modern pharmacology.

For example, common directions were to "Take before going to bed," or "Take twice a day," and so on.

I dare say that wise men in Egypt had knowledge that would be of incalculable value for our world if we could only regain it.

Guess what the thousands of workers employed in the construction of the great pyramid at Giza were given to eat? If you didn't know, it was radishes, onions, and leeks. And with good reason. You see, a major problem with such huge numbers of men working together was hygiene. An epidemic could spread fast and kill many in a very short time.

So, the workers were given antibiotics - contained in leeks, onions, and radishes. These would prevent infections breaking out. Modern research has proved the effectiveness of such things against streptococci, staphylococci, pneumococci, and Bacillus coli.

It is evident that the ancient Egyptians did understand the physiological effect of bacteria. Staphylococci, as we know today, can produce pus able to infect skin, kidneys, and bone marrow, while streptococci can cause diphtheria, blood poisoning, and scarlet fever. And in ancient Egypt, all these diseases were treated with drugs derived from nature's pharmacy.

It should not surprise us, then, if scientific secrets are part of the explanation for the curse of the pharaohs.

Power in an amulet?

Carter found an amulet made of iron lying on the dead Tutankhamen's pillow. This was actually a semicircle atop a stalk, and believed to represent a neck support. But there was a symbolic meaning in its presence, as we see in Chapter 166 of the Book of the Dead:

"Awake from the swoon in which you sleep. You will triumph over everything done against you. Ptah has overcome your enemies. They no longer exist."

Radiologists have been puzzled concerning this strange amulet. And it is a startling fact that what may be interpreted to be a pronouncement of doom in the Book of the Dead came true so quickly for two scientists who officiated at Tutankhamen's autopsy.

A radioactive diadem?

Tutankhamen was the only mummy that still wore a diadem when his tomb was discovered.

Every pharaoh wore on his diadem the image of an asp. According to various ancient sources, the asp was believed to have "the power to destroy enemies".

The question has been asked, was the diadem a source of radioactivity? If so, that could certainly be one explanation as to why so many died who were involved in excavating.

Tutankhamen's skin was literally burned and blackened in spots. But that has been attributed to the unguents that were poured over the mummy before burial, which had triggered a chemical reaction and which, in turn, produced heat.

Fungus theory

The Egyptians knew of a type of nerve poison. Anciently, Egypt was the world's granary. Ergot is a grain fungus. It can spread illnesses such as the "cold fire". The victim first suffers strong itching or tingling sensations in the fingers. Other symptoms follow, such as numbness of the body surface, muscle cramps, paralysis, and mental derangement.

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Were the tombs of the pharaohs protected by narcotic fungi?

Over an extended period of time Dr. Ezzeddin Taha, a physician and biologist at Cairo University, examined both archaeologists and employees of museums. He found that many suffered from a fungus that caused feverish inflammations of the respiratory system.

He noted that for a long time archaeologists had suffered what was known as the "Coptic Itch. This itch was linked to skin rashes and laboured breathing. These strange symptoms had been observed only in people who had worked intensively with Egyptian papyri.

Taha worked at Cairo University's Institute for Microbiology, where he was able to prove the existence of a series of dangerous disease agents, among them *Aspergillus Niger*. The biologist did not think that this fungus was hardy enough to survive in mummies or grave chambers thousands of years.

On November 3, 1962, Dr Taha held a press conference, in which he claimed to have tracked down the cause of the curse of the pharaohs, or at least one cause.

"This discovery," he announced, "has once and for all destroyed the superstition that explorers who worked in ancient tombs died as a result of some kind of curse. They were victims of morbidic agents encountered at work. Some people may still believe that the curse of the pharaohs can be attributed to some supernatural powers, but that belongs to the realm of fairy tales."

He admitted, however, that infections might not be the only cause of the deaths of so many scientists.

Perhaps more concrete results to Dr Taha's research might have followed had not the scientist himself, soon after his press conference, become a victim of the curse he thought he had demystified.

That day, Dr Taha and two of his co-workers were driving on the desert road between Suez and Cairo. It was fairly empty of traffic. About 70 kilometres from Cairo, on a straight road, Taha's car suddenly swerved to the left, right into the path of an oncoming car. In the crash, Taha and his companions died instantly. The occupants of the other car were injured. According to the autopsy Taha had suffered a circulatory collapse.

Some possible poisons

Dr Kinnaman, whose story we told earlier in this book, said that he did not believe his illness was the result of the curse of the Egyptian gods, but was caused by a very strange poison that the priests of the pharaohs had put in the tombs. After the setting up of everything in the tomb was completed and all the workmen went away, the priests sprinkled this poison all over everything in the tomb. The result was that anybody who might break in would breathe it and die.

After the door had been closed for the final time, it was covered with plaster. Then, seals were either stamped all over the wet plaster, or roll seals were rolled over it.

Judging by the wording found in the curse inscriptions, it appears that the curse of the pharaohs was specifically designed to protect the royal tombs. This being so, we can safely assume that the matter of such protection would not have been left to chance. For this reason, the use of poison is a plausible and realistic theory.

The use or knowledge of poison is as old as civilizations. In fact, over 4,000 years ago the very first pharaoh, Menes, grew poisonous plants. He also had their effects recorded.

Unfortunately, there has been no botanical classification of these plants. However, from later ages we know that hemlock, henbane, opium, monkshood and arsenic, were in use. And 2,500 years ago, prussic acid was used for executions in Greece, just as it has been used in the United States during the twentieth century. And it is reported that Mithridates, ruler of Asia Minor, motivated by constant fear that someone would poison him, swallowed daily a small dose of poison so as to increase his tolerance to it. (This is the principle behind modern vaccination.)

Cleopatra was an expert mixer of poisons. In her brews she drew upon ancient tradition, which described the

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effectiveness of various poisons in great detail.

A little known fact is that Cleopatra regularly tested poisons on slaves. In fact, Mark Antony feared her witch's art; so much so that unless a taster was present, he would not eat with her.

Cleopatra regarded Antony's caution as an insult. The self-confident lady met her lover's distrust with dramatic flair. She plucked a flower from the garland that was in her hair, threw it into Mark Antony's wine cup, and asked him to drink the wine as a sign of his love.

Seeing this as a seductive gesture, Antony put the cup to his lips (he knew the taster had already drunk from it). However, Cleopatra quickly seized the cup from Antony. Then she called over a man who had been brought out from prison and handed to him the cup to drink. The prisoner drank from the cup - and dropped dead.

She turned to Mark Antony and said, "I poisoned the blossoms. I only wanted to show you that if I wanted to, I could kill you despite your taster."

Dioscorides, the Greek doctor and pharmacist of the first century, who studied Egyptian culture, wrote, "Poison prophylaxis is difficult because those who work secretly with poisons make sure that even the most experienced are deceived."

The reason we know so little about the preparation of poisons in ancient Egypt, is due to the fact that toxicology was a secret science taught only to a select few.

Aware of the Egyptian achievements in toxicology, the Roman emperors acquired most of their poisons from Egypt. Caligula, Claudius, Nero and Caracalla allegedly possessed large collections of poisons.

Closely related to plant poisons are snake and insect poisons.

Dr M. Martiny, the Parisian toxicologist, reported that the shrivelling of poisonous glands and even the drying up of poisons themselves does not decrease their potency. Of course, insect poisons can be neutralized by ultraviolet rays. Nevertheless, the pharaohs' tombs, which ultraviolet rays cannot penetrate, would have made ideal places for storing such poisons and keeping their effectiveness unimpaired.

Today, many snake and insect poisons are used as healing drugs. It is known that small doses can result in some immunization. Howard Carter, who spent half his life shut up in the tombs of various pharaohs, must have built up bodily resistance against their poisons. Despite this, he did suffer his share of pain, as well as hallucinations, headaches, a sudden rush of blood to the head and paralysing attacks of dizziness and weakness. Toxicologists such as Martiny attribute all these symptoms to animal poisoning.

An archaeologist need not have oral contact with a poison. To become effective, some poisons need only to brush or penetrate the skin. In pharaohs' tombs, such powerful poisons as aconite, arsenic, and conium were used to paint walls and artifacts. None of them lost their potency even when dried. Poisonous gases and vapours, in precipitated form, were most likely present in the pharaohs' tombs.

As a means of eliminating "unwanted" persons in the Middle Ages, the precipitation technique was popular. One of the easiest methods was to soak a candle wick in arsenic. When the candle was lit, the vapours would be deadly. Both Pope Clement VII in 1534 and Emperor Leopold I of Austria in 1705 are said to have been murdered by this method.

In the airtight chambers of a tomb, such vapours could precipitate and never disappear.

We may well ask whether poisons can retain their effectiveness for thousands of years. Undoubtedly, ordinary poisonous substances lose their potency under the impact of light, air, and sun in a matter of years. But stronger poisons can retain potency for centuries. This is particularly so if they are stored in airtight compartments.

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Bats theory

In the search for a scientific explanation of the curse, many scientists have pursued the possibility of an infection.

Dr John Wiles was a South African geologist. One day in October 1956, Dr Wiles clambered into the subterranean grottoes of the Rhodesian mountains. He had no suspicion in the world that he might be exposing himself to mortal danger.

His job was to examine the practical application of bat excrement. Bat excrement is similar to guano. The idea was that the many thousands of tons stored there might be used as fertilizer.

When he was some 450 feet underground, Wiles was startled by a sudden noise, as the pitch-black roof on the grotto came alive into a swarm of ten thousand bats that had hung there squeezed close to one another. He got out of the cave as fast as he could.

Within a few days Wiles was suffering from indigestion, aching muscles, and high fever. His doctor diagnosed the problem as pneumonia and pleurisy. But when the ‘appropriate’ treatment did not work, Wiles was admitted to Geoffrey Hospital in Port Elizabeth.

Dr Dean, the hospital's director, recalled that recently a disease had been discovered among explorers who had worked in Inca caves in Peru. Dean took a blood sample from the now seriously ill Wiles and sent it to the United States. It was found that the geologist was suffering from histoplasmosis, a disease caused by an infectious fungus which grows in bat excrement and other rotting matter.

Wiles was given antibiotics, and he survived. But the question now occurred to Dr Dean, might this very disease also be a cause of the puzzling deaths connected with the pharaohs' tombs?

Bacteria death theory

Rock tombs of the pharaohs would be ideal breeding grounds for bacteria. In fact, the combustion seen on most royal mummies has resulted from bacteriological processes. As fats, oils, and resins covering the mummy decomposed, they produced heat. This led to a charring of the corpse. For decades, archaeologists wondered why mummies were black. We now know that the cause was bacteria.

So how long can bacteria stay alive? Can their death-bearing qualities continue for thousands of years? Is it possible that the curse of the pharaohs is simply a biochemical infection of the royal graves, which was initiated thousands of years ago?

Indeed, say chemists and bacteriologists, this could be one plausible explanation for the curse. Types of bacteria can, under the right conditions, live for centuries.

It is not inconceivable that the ancient Egyptians used bacterial cultures that would produce poisonous gases to protect the royal tomb.

Nerve poison?

Royal Air Force Lieutenant William Cockayne was working at the British defence ministry's research facility for chemical and bacteriological warfare. One evening in 1953, he reached for a bottle to take a closer look at its contents. The capped bottle, he had just been told by a chemist, contained nerve gas, which “could kill a man in seconds.” Just as he reached for it, Cockayne collapsed.

For the rest of his life, this man, who had always been brimming with life, now suffered deep, periodic depressions. Three times he attempted suicide. He now showed symptoms similar to those that plagued Egyptologists.

It is a fact that numerous Egyptologists became victims of deep depressions. Howard Carter constantly suffered depressions. He even gave up archaeology several times, only to resume it. We noticed earlier that Lord Westbury, the father of Carter's secretary, who often accompanied his son to Egypt, leaped out of a window, during a depressive phase.

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And five years after that his widow, also, committed suicide.

Another participant in the Tutankhamen's tomb excavation, Dr Evelyn White, suffered such terrible nervous depressions that he would not let a doctor see him, seriously ill though he was. "Don't bother, he told every doctor, "I know what the matter is." Another example among many was Dr Zakariaj Ghoncim, chief inspector for the antiquities department of Upper Egypt, who in 1959 committed suicide. He had suffered from depressions for many years.

Poison vapours theory

One of the most closely guarded secret poisons in ancient Egypt was quicksilver (mercury). Because it evaporates easily, even at very low temperatures, it is a dangerous poison. All the more so, because its vapors are odourless. One dangerous effect of such vapors is that they can damage the nervous system.

Prussic acid is a colourless liquid, which causes death from internal choking.

The Egyptians isolated this deadly poison from peach pits. Some have contended that mummy bandages were soaked in a mixture of prussic acid and volatile oils. This would account for the widespread decomposition of royal mummies.

Not only that. The tombs were sealed airtight. Did the Egyptians who placed the curse on the grave door know that the prussic acid would evaporate its deadly vapor upon contact with oxygen, when the door was opened?

Here is something else that suggests poison vapours may have been used as a device to protect mummies against grave robbers.

The evidence shows that in almost every tomb that grave robbers attacked "including Tutankhamen's" thieves had drilled a hole about the size of an arm. Now, this opening was too narrow to allow them to fish out any treasures. So why was it designed? The obvious use was to let poisonous gases seep out. The robbers must have been aware that others of their kind had died horribly in other tombs, because air had not been allowed to neutralize the poison.

Some other cause?

Quite possibly, there were other scientific secrets used to trigger the curse. Indeed, it is even likely that a security system was in place, in which something deadly was dispersed among the mummies and grave artifacts - so that mere possession of such objects could have dire results.

Uranium theory

In 1949, archaeologists were astonished when the well-known atomic scientist Professor Luis Bulgarinis announced, "I believe that the ancient Egyptians understood the laws of atomic decay. Their priests and wise men were familiar with uranium. It is definitely possible that they used radiation in order to protect their holy places."

So, this curse of the pharaohs, is it a lethal package of death rays? According to Bulgarini, we should not exclude that possibility.

Said he: "The floors of the tombs could have been covered with uranium or the graves could have been finished with radioactive rock. Such radiation could kill a man today or at least damage his health."

In 1895, Wilhelm Conrad Roentgen proved the existence of a "new type of rays". And the very next year French physicist Henri Becquerel discovered that uranium salts emitted radiation similar to X-rays.

We might now ask, were these men simply "rediscoverers" of something the ancient Egyptians had known and used? Did the Egyptians preside over a greater body of knowledge than these two men (who were both Nobel Prize winners)?

I ask that question because at the beginning of the twentieth century Henri Becquerel handled radioactive substances with no protection whatever, as if uranium was a wonderful toy to play with. The story is told that Becquerel travelled to London to deliver a scientific lecture, with loose radium in his vest pocket. As a result, he suffered serious burns.

In the 1920s, not long after it was discovered that radioactive substances glow in the dark, a luminous-clock-face industry

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was started in New Jersey. Female workers were paid to put radiant paint onto clock faces by means of tiny brushes. Some workers, in order to put points on their brushes pressed the tips with their mouths. Within two years the first died from feverish inflammations.

This awakened the industry into organising better care of on-the-job control. Yet, despite this, over ten years forty-two women died prematurely, mostly from cancer, as a direct result of radiation exposure.

Back to Egypt. And here we discover that many Egyptian scientists and explorers died without any doctor being able to determine a precise cause of death.

A number of archaeologists did complain about excessive fatigue. There were some who demonstrated clear signs of brain damage after working in Egypt. And others who suffered no apparent damage.

Radioactivity is not predictable

Does radioactive decomposition of the nucleus take place at a constant pace? No, according to The Swiss radiation specialist Dr Jacob Eugster, of the University of Bern. Radiation is subject to outside influence.

To prove this, Dr Eugster carried out an unusual experiment. He took a radioactive substance and divided it. One piece he exposed to ultraviolet rays on the top of the Jungfrau. The other half he deposited in the Simplon rail tunnel.

Do you know what he found? The uranium in the tunnel decomposed much more slowly than that on the mountaintop. The evidence was that materials remain radioactive much longer underground.

The effects of radiation may be so slow as hardly noticeable to outsiders. Or radiation can kill quickly.

On March 1, 1954, when the U.S. detonated an H-bomb in the Marshall Islands, the Japanese fishing boat Lucky Dragon was caught in a rain of radioactive ash. The results were horrendous. All twenty-two fishermen suffered radiation damage. Forty-year-old crew member Kubojama, died within six months.

His physician stated that death was directly attributable to radioactivity. The immediate cause of death was diagnosed as circulatory collapse, resulting from radioactive liver damage. Kubojama's liver had shrunk to a third of its normal size.

Kubojama's wife, Suzu, recalled her husband's last words: "I'm so tired. It hurts a lot.?"

It is interesting to note that most Egyptologists, likewise, complained of excessive fatigue shortly before they died.

Whatever the "mysterious illness" was, doctors could not readily identify any external symptoms. This also raises the possibility that radiation sickness cannot be excluded. Also, the fact that its effect varied greatly is additional evidence for the radiation theory.

Among those who began working in the tombs or with the mummies, some suffered from physiological changes soon after. In others these changes took months or years. Some scholars died unexpectedly and fast. Others demonstrated brain damage. While still others showed no adverse effects from their work.

Such varied reaction to radiation damage is reminiscent of the radiation effects seen for twenty years after the 1945 atom bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Various survivors did not begin to show signs until many years later. As late as 1964, some people were showing symptoms of radiation damage for the first time since their exposure to the bomb.

I recall the news report of a young woman who was just a baby when the bomb fell on Hiroshima. Now, 20 years old, she was to all appearances a fit and healthy bride-to-be. Anticipating the joy of life with her young husband, she was enthusiastically preparing for the wedding. Suddenly, it happened? The deadly symptoms of radiation struck her. Within a short time, she was dead.

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Any such comparison between this and any possible radioactive rays in Egyptian tombs is, of course, exaggerated. The point I wish to make is simply this: radiation can have very different effects on different people. Furthermore, damage from lengthy exposure to weak radiation can produce the same results as from a higher but shorter dosage.

It has been theorised that some artifacts placed in tombs contained deadly radioactive elements, designed to carry out the death formulas and curses.

The Egyptians mined gold. And since gold and uranium are found in the same rock, we need not doubt that they also mined uranium. For that matter, uranium is still mined in Egypt today.

Several papyri speak of the ancient gold mines. In the Umm Garayat region, about 40 miles east of the Nile, are several of these mines. It is estimated by mining engineers that in antiquity some 100,000 tons of rock were extracted from them.

Around 1900, several mining companies examined old Egyptian mines with a view to possible renewed activity.

In February 1903, in the area around Umm Russ, the chief engineer of the Egyptian Mines Exploration Company, C. J. Alford, discovered ancient quartz veins that contained gold and uranium. The seams branched over an area of four-square miles. He also came upon the ruins of hundreds of stone huts which had housed miners.

Egyptian Sudan Minerals prospected to the south of this area in the region known today as Derekib.

The prospectors found gold-veined rock. At the end of one ancient tunnel, they came on a wall of heavy stones. On the wall were weathered hieroglyphics. In their report, the mining engineers wrote that they considered this "most strange". However, since they could find no explanation, they sealed up the gallery and a nearby vertical shaft.

Southeast of Umm Garayat lies Wadi Ungat. And here too Nile Valley Company engineers discovered hieroglyphics. No one has been able to decipher them. Archaeologists have to this date been able only to identify the author.

The last line says: "Amenhotep, the scribe".

So, we might well wonder, what did a scribe do in a mine? What was it that persuaded him to scratch hieroglyphics into the underground rock? Whatever caused the Egyptians to wall up mine galleries and slap inscriptions on them?

We noted earlier Dr Kinnaman's claim that intruders into Tutankhamen's tomb were killed by the dust that came up just like white flour. If a dust did arise into their nostrils, was it radioactive dust scattered in there deliberately?

What do archaeologists think?

You ask any archaeologist what he thinks of the curse of the pharaohs. Some will dismiss it as plain nonsense. Others will refuse stubbornly even to walk into a pharaoh's tomb. A Munich archaeologist, when asked what he feared, simply replied, "The gods."

Three main causes of death

The accounts of Egyptian archaeologists who died mysteriously during the past 100 years seem to be endless. However, three causes of death appear to crop up more frequently:

1. fever with delusions and premonition of death,
2. circulatory collapse, and
3. sudden cancers that were quickly terminal.

Science doesn't know it all

We pride ourselves on knowing so much more than our early ancestors. But I would like to share something interesting with you. In 1969, the Cairo physicist Dr Amr Gohed conducted a computer analysis of radiation experiments that had been conducted inside the Cheops pyramid.

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What he discovered shocked him! The radiation impact inside the royal chamber had been recorded on magnetic tape. The impulses were reproduced both acoustically and visually. The photometric strips showed very clearly line structures and geometric forms. But what startled and perplexed him was this: The symbolism and geometry changed from day to day, even though the same measuring instruments were used under ideal working conditions.

Dr Gohed told the *New York Times*:

"There is a force at work inside the pyramids that contradicts all scientific laws."

Obviously, there is a huge body of lost knowledge that we still don't understand. How much did the ancients know, and achieve, which we still cannot fathom?

To summarise

I have not attempted in this small book to solve this mystery of the curse of the pharaohs, nor to even prove it exists. Rather, I have endeavoured to submit to you the known facts, along with some possible answers.

Did the ancient Egyptians deliberately arrange their pharaohs' tombs to become death traps?

If so, how did they set it up? Did they plant inside the tombs some poisons with long potency? Did they use radioactive materials? Did they utilise some other secret?

Does the answer to the curse of the pharaohs lie in one of the solutions we have proposed, or is there a more sinister explanation? This much is certain. The secrets of ancient Egypt still reach across the centuries to tantalize, confound, and humble the arrogance of modern science.

See Jonathan Gray's other articles at:

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

Timelines of Revelation

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With the approach of the autumn Holy Days, it is good to review the prophetic events which they picture and the **Timelines** found in the Book of Revelation.

In the short video by the Living Church of God linked below, their teaching on the Feast of Trumpets (Rosh Hashanah which means "head of the year") is presented. This teaching comes from the late Herbert W. Armstrong, founder of the Worldwide Church of God.

Mr. Armstrong's booklet, "The Book of Revelation Unveiled at Last!", is still the basis of prophetic teaching on the Book of Revelation which nearly all WCG spin-offs follow today. I first read it back in the early 1970s and was fascinated by it. Mr. Armstrong correlated the events given by Christ in Matthew 24 with the symbolic events that Christ later gave in Revelation six. It made perfect sense to me. Here is a link to his booklet: **[The book of Revelation unveiled at last! : Armstrong, Herbert W : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming : Internet Archive](#)**

However, there were some things in Mr. Armstrong's prophetic **Timeline** which began to nag at me over time. In Matthew 24, Christ's discourse ends with His return and the gathering of His Elect **immediately** after the tribulation (verse 29). The tribulation at that time will be so great that all life will be destroyed if not **cut short** (verses 21-22). And what will cut short the tribulation? The heavenly signs described in Matthew 24:29 and Revelation 6:12-13.

Matthew 24 then describes the coming of Christ who sends His angels to gather His Elect from the **four winds**. If

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Matthew 24 correlates with the opening of the first six Seals, then Revelation should also describe Christ's return to gather His elect **immediately** following the heavenly signs. It does. Revelation seven depicts Christ's return and the gathering of His Elect from the four winds.

But Mr. Armstrong and many others have failed to see what Revelation seven is depicting because of the symbolic language used. Without recognizing that Revelation seven is depicting the return of Christ and the **resurrection** of His Elect, any timelines presented by any minister of God will contain a major error which could lead God's people astray.

Jesus WARNED: "Take heed that no one deceives you" (Matthew 24:4). The apostle Paul also gave the same warning: "Let no one deceive you by any means" (2 Thessalonians 2:3). Deceive us about what? About the events leading to Christ's return. Jesus wants us to understand the correct Timeline of prophetic events so that we will be prepared for His return and not caught off guard. Why? So that we don't miss out on the first resurrection. This is what the Thessalonians were concerned about, which Paul addressed.

Jesus said that His return would be from the **East** (Matthew 24:27). What do we see in Revelation seven? An angel coming from the **East** (verse 2). This angel from the East cries with a loud voice to the four angels holding back the **four winds** (verses 1-2). This angel from the East must be an Archangel since he is **shouting** a command to the four angels. This fits perfectly with what Paul said in I Thessalonians 4:16:

"For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a **shout** [loud command], with the voice of an **archangel**, and with the **trumpet** of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first."

Revelation seven is describing the **First Resurrection** as verified by Matthew 24 and I Thessalonians four. Since Revelation seven depicts the First Resurrection, this means that the Seventh and Last Trumpet has also sounded. This is where many have fumbled the "prophetic football" for failing to recognize the significance of Revelation seven by assuming that the seven trumpets sound **after** the sealing of the 144,000.

This 144,000 are later mentioned in Revelation 14:1-4. It says that they have been **redeemed** from the earth and that they are the **firstfruits** of God. Ephesians 4:30 says that the Holy Spirit **seals** us unto the **Day of Redemption** which is the Day of the Resurrection when our bodies are changed from flesh to spirit making our sealing complete. It also reveals that the Day of our Redemption will be on the Feast of **Firstfruits**, Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit first came to God's church.

Thus, the last Trumpet will sound on a future Pentecost heralding Christ's return to resurrect and gather together His saints from the four winds of heaven. Christ will then take His Elect to heaven to present them before the throne of His Father for the marriage of the Lamb. See Revelation 7:9-17 and Revelation 19:1-9.

When did God enter into a covenant with ancient Israel? It is believed at the time of Pentecost or Firstfruits. And what happened at that time? Did a trumpet sound on that Pentecost?

"Then it came to pass on the third day, in the morning, that there were thunderings and lightnings, and a thick cloud on the mountain; and the sound of the **trumpet** was very loud, so that all the people who were in the camp trembled" (Exodus 19:16).

Many have assumed that the last or seventh trumpet will sound on the Feast of **Trumpets** falsely concluding that the Resurrection will take place on a future Feast of Trumpets. That Day is a "memorial of blowing of trumpets (Leviticus 23:24). It is not called the "Feast of the Last Trumpet."

There are **seven** trumpets depicted in the Book of Revelation. When will each one sound? Will all seven sound on a future Feast of Trumpets? Not likely by the description given in Revelation. Why then is the first day of the seventh Hebrew month called a "memorial of blowing of trumpets" aka the Feast of Trumpets or Rosh Hashanah?

Not only does the Feast of Trumpets mark the **beginning** of the Jewish Civil New Year, but it also marks the **beginning** of the sounding of the seven trumpets of Revelation. Thus, the first trumpet will sound on a future Feast of Trumpets. The second trumpet will sound on the Day of Atonement. The third trumpet will sound on the first day of Tabernacles. The

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fourth trumpet will sound on the Last Great Day. The last three trumpets will sound in the Spring with the seventh and last trumpet sounding on Pentecost.

Pentecost is also known as the Feast of Weeks. Seven weeks or Sabbaths are counted to determine the one day that is celebrated as an annual Sabbath. As the day of Pentecost marks the end of the 50-day count, so will the Feast of Trumpets mark the beginning of the sounding of the seven trumpets in Revelation which will conclude on Pentecost with the Resurrection. The Feast of Trumpets that follows the Resurrection on Pentecost will mark Christ's return to earth with His saints to do battle against the armies of the Beast.

As Zechariah 14 reveals, Jesus with His saints will stand on the Mount of Olives on that Feast of Trumpets. They will retake Jerusalem as described in Joel 2:1-11. The seven vials or bowls of God's wrath will have been poured out between Resurrection Pentecost and the Feast of Trumpets when Christ comes to do battle. With Christ and the 144,000 then dwelling on earth at Mount Zion (Revelation 14:1), the armies of the world will gather near Megiddo in the Jezreel Valley. They will march toward Jerusalem where they will be crushed like grapes in the Kidron Valley on the Day of Atonement (Revelation 14:19-20, Joel 3:1-16). It will be a literal bloodbath.

The Seals Timeline: The opening of the first six seals describes the same prophetic events that Jesus listed in Matthew 24. This Timeline concludes in Revelation seven with Christ's return and the Resurrection of the Elect which includes the 144,000 and an innumerable multitude which come out of great tribulation. This Timeline spans a period of about two thousand years from the days of the early church in the first century to the end-time church existing at Christ's return. See Matthew 24 and Revelation six and seven.

The Trumpets Timeline: This Timeline is only a year long. It will begin on a future Feast of Trumpets and end a year later on the Feast of Trumpets when Jesus comes to make war with all nations that come against Jerusalem. This Trumpets Timeline begins with the opening of the Seventh Seal. Because the **description** of the Seventh Seal (the Seven Trumpets) follows the description of the Sixth Seal, it is mistakenly assumed that the Seven Trumpets sound after the Sealing of the 144,000 as previously noted.

To indicate that the seven trumpets are not a continuation of the Seals Timeline, Revelation 8:1 says, "When the Lamb opened the seventh seal, there was **silence** in heaven for about half an hour." This was a heavenly break in the story flow to signal a new timeline of events had started at a different point in time than the opening of the first six seals. Yet both Timelines lead to the Resurrection which is critical for those of us living at the end-time to properly understand and thus be among the wise virgins.

After the sounding of the Seventh Trumpet and the Resurrection on a future Pentecost, the pouring out of the seven bowls of God's **wrath** upon the earth takes place which is a continuation of the Trumpets Timeline and even the Seals Timeline. Notice how Revelation 6:15-17 describes the earth's reaction to God's intervention to cut short the tribulation: "For the great day of His **wrath** has come, and who shall be able to stand?"

Likewise, Revelation 11:17-18 quotes this exclamation at the seventh trumpet: "You have taken Your great power and have begun to reign. The nations were enraged, and Your **wrath** has come. The time has come to judge the dead."

The 1,260 Days Timeline: Revelation 12 is considered an inset chapter between the sounding of the seven trumpets and the pouring out of the bowls of God's wrath. It depicts a woman (Jerusalem) which must flee into the wilderness for 1,260 Days (verse six). These are days not years. It is the same time period that the Two Witnesses will prophesy (Revelation 11:3).

This future fleeing into the wilderness by the inhabitants of Jerusalem and Judea will be the **KEY** event that will allow us to know how close is Christ's return. As we now see happening in the world, many nations are turning against the State of Israel since the vicious attack on October 7, 2023. We are headed for a time of latter-day persecution as revealed by the Fifth Seal. A future nuclear attack will likely occur near Jerusalem causing a mass fleeing to avoid radiation poisoning. The Two Witnesses will arise on the scene by divine power.

I see this future attack happening in the autumn as did the October attack and the Yom Kippur attack in 1973. This means the 1,260 Days will conclude about three and a half years later just before Passover in the Spring. The Seven

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Trumpets will have begun sounding the previous autumn. The first four trumpets describe a major attack against America.

The Fifth Trumpet will then sound about six months later on the first day of Unleavened Bread. Jerusalem will have been re-inhabited by then. The Fifth Trumpet pictures the armies of the Beast (King of the North) invading the Middle East and capturing Jerusalem causing a second fleeing of the woman for a "time, times, and half a time" (Revelation 12:13-14). This phrase does not mean three and a half years as nearly everyone believes. It is the time between Passover and Pentecost or about **seven weeks**.

This is where **Daniel's Seventy Weeks** prophecy also comes into play (Daniel 9:24-27). Sixty-two weeks before the Fifth Trumpet sounds, the rebuilding of Jerusalem will commence. With the sounding of the Fifth Trumpet at Passover and the Beast's capture of Jerusalem, the Abomination of Desolation will be set up. This will precipitate a counter-offensive by China, Japan, and perhaps India who are heavily dependent on Mideast oil. This is depicted by the Sixth Trumpet.

With a massive army of 200 million threatening the Beast, atomic weapons will be his only option. This is the time of Great Tribulation which could destroy all life if not cut short by God's intervention which happens with the Seventh Trumpet on Pentecost seven weeks after Passover. Christ will then come for His Bride, the church. He confirms the covenant with many for one week in heaven. Recall that when Jacob married Leah, her father asked Jacob to fulfill her **week** (Genesis 29:27).

I have written similar details in previous articles. I do consider the prophetic views of others. I learned something new from a protestant minister's video just yesterday. He explained something in Zechariah that had puzzled me for a long time. I am thankful for the input and inspiration of others.

You may not agree with all that I have said in this article. Nonetheless, I do hope that you will keep it on the "back burner" of your mind. When you see future events not falling into line as portrayed by your favorite prophecy teacher, you may then become confused and disenchanted to the point of losing faith in God's Word. "Let God be true and every man a liar" (Romans 3:4).

There are a few who are seeing some of the prophetic things that I have described. Perhaps more will come to a better understanding of prophecy as we get closer to the end. Certainly, the coming time of trouble will help many to see more clearly and let go of entrenched prophecy error and misunderstanding. It may mean the difference between sitting at the marriage table of the King of the Universe or sitting at a table at Burger King.

Here is the video link to a teaching on the Feast of Trumpets held by many. If this video is what you currently believe, it is vital that you carefully consider the alternate explanation given by this article.

Trumpets teaching of WCG spin-offs: <https://youtu.be/ksIbN2GyoAA?si=ksA9bIJJ4S2HDseD>

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

A Bride Prepared (Chapter 6)

(Copyright) by Warren Zehrung (Little Rock, Arkansas)

[Chapter 6: Only one Bride](#)
A Bride Prepared

Only one Bride

When God created Eve from Adam's side, she was physically perfect in every way. Eve became Adam's wife. She was

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beautiful, healthy, intelligent, and fertile – she was the mother of all living. (Genesis 3:20) God used Eve to make of **one blood** all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth. (Acts 17:26) These attributes of Eve are prefigures or types given to us so that we might comprehend the purpose of the Bride of Christ. This clearly shows us the incredible objective Christ has in taking a wife. The purpose of the Church is nothing less than to ultimately bring all mankind to be of **one Spirit** – bringing the entire world to salvation. “He that is **joined unto the Lord is one Spirit** [with the Lord].” (1 Corinthians 6:17)

The Bride is the Church

Jesus Christ has only **one spiritual Body** with many members. Right now, they possess a token [earnest guarantee] of the Spirit of God and are scattered all over the face of the earth. “As the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are **one Body**: so also is Christ. Jesus Christ has only one body of believers – that is the one true Church – the Church of God. For by **one Spirit** are we all baptized into **one Body**, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into **one Spirit**. That is God's Holy Spirit. For the **body is not one member, but many** [brethren]... But now hath God set the members every one of them in the Body [the **spiritual Body of Christ**], as it has pleased Him... But now are they many members, yet but **one Body** [the **one spiritual Body of Christ**] ... Now you are the **Body of Christ**, and members in particular.” (1 Corinthians 12:12-14, 18, 20, 27)

If we expect to be the Bride, we are obligated to extend our realm of brotherhood, fellowship, and service to include all who have the earnest of God's Holy Spirit. We cannot hate, despise, neglect, or reject any of the saints, as that behavior will disqualify us from the Kingdom of God. Those who are only interested in preparing themselves, while neglecting the spiritual welfare of their brethren, have fallen for the deception of Cain, who asked in Genesis 4:9, “Am I my brother's keeper?”

Discern the Body

Are we able to discern who our brothers and sisters in Christ are? Can we distinguish between the world and the Church? Taking Passover – while refusing to be reconciled to others – renders the Passover service contemptible in God's sight. We must recognize all **true Christians**, without exception, counting them as brethren – our very salvation is at stake. “He that eats and drinks [the Lord's Passover] unworthily, eats and drinks damnation to himself, **not discerning the Lord's Body**. For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep.” (1 Corinthians 11:29-30)

Let us analyze the meaning of this verse. The heart of the matter is that they were: “**not discerning the Lord's Body**.” The Lord's Body is the Church – the saints – the elect children of God – the Bride – the brethren – members of the Lord's Body (1 Corinthians 12:12). Keep in mind that Paul is discussing the **lack of discernment** – the division taking place (1 Corinthians 11:18). Those participants did not regard everyone there equally – as all members of Christ's Body. **This division was going on at the Passover service in question.** “**Discernment**,” means understanding and perceiving that all the brethren, regardless of organization, comprise the one Body of Christ. “**Discernment**,” means realizing that God places the members in the Body as *He chooses* – and none are to be excluded from our fellowship.

When we do not understand that all the brethren constitute the Church – look at the terrible consequences that follow – “For this cause [**lack of discernment**] many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep.” Spiritually, we will be weak, sick or dead [damnation is loss of salvation] because Christ's sacrifice, the Passover, is taken unworthily. This same division going on today is why the Church is so weak and sick spiritually.

Jesus is the head of His Church; and converted Christians are individuals in His spiritual body. Paul wrote: “[God the Father] has put all things under [Jesus'] feet and gave Him to be **the head over all things to the church, which is His body**” [the one spiritual body of Christ]. (Ephesians 1:22-23)

Jesus Christ has only one body – thus, He has only one Church – **one Bride**. Every part of the body (each one of the brethren) is indispensable to the whole body. “There is **one body**, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling... For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the **body of Christ**... From whom the **whole body** fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, makes **increase of the body** unto the edifying of itself in love. (Ephesians 4:4, 12, 16)

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Again, the Bible reveals that the one spiritual body of Christ is composed of Church brethren. "[**Christ**] is the head of **the body, the Church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence... Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his **Body's sake, which is the Church.**" (Colossians 1:18, 24)**

Jesus prayed for the unity of the Church just before He died (John 17). He inspired Paul to send us these words of 1 Corinthians 1:10: "Now I beg of you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there **be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.**"

When we read that we are *members of His body, of His flesh, and of His bones*, let us understand the obvious reference to the new covenant **marriage** of Christ and the Church. Marriages fail because of unrealistic expectations. But the new covenant marriage of Christ will never fail because Jesus has made it clear what He expects of His Bride. Are we up to the task – are we equal to the challenge? God the Father would not have called us to become the Wife of His Son if we did not possess the potential to acquire the essential attributes that are required. We have a lot to accomplish – and time is short – even at the door.

See Warren Zehrung's other articles at:

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

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Two-Steak Solution

(Copyright 09-25-2024) by Dwight Fleming (Oroville, California)

The Two-State Solution is being promoted by Kamala Harris and the Biden Administration as the solution for peace in the Middle East. But that solution has been rejected by the Palestinians time after time. They only want one Arab state to occupy the land of Canaan and for the Jewish state to disappear.

Consequently, the ancient struggle between Jacob and Esau over birthright promises continues to this day without any viable solutions being presented for consideration. Until now. David Friedman, former Ambassador to Israel under President Trump, has presented the only possible solution for Israel until Christ returns. It too will be rejected by any Palestinian leadership. But Ambassador Friedman makes good sense with his proposal that would eventually bless Israel as well as the Palestinian people.

Of course, if Friedman's proposal is eventually adopted, it would not end the deep-seated hatred of certain nation-states, such as, Iran. That is because Iran and others are controlled by an evil spiritual entity that wishes to destroy anyone or anything that supports the plan of the true God, the God of Israel. It will take the return of Christ to completely deal with God's arch enemy, Satan the Devil.

In the meantime, Ambassador Friedman's one Jewish state proposal presented in his new book, "One Jewish State," is worth considering and working toward. I have just ordered his new book to learn specific details. Some of the details are covered in a recent interview, linked below, with the Ambassador. Friedman explains what he thinks Donald Trump's response will be if Trump should return to the White House. I urge you to watch this interview.

What Ambassador Friedman is proposing is based on Biblical principles. The Bible says, "If your enemy is hungry, feed him" (Romans 12:20). Jesus said, "Whoever forces you to go one mile, go with him **two**" (Matthew 5:41). This is where we get the phrase, "go the extra mile."

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This is where the "Two-Steak Solution" comes into play. Don't just feed your enemy one steak but give him two. By the time he is done eating that second steak, he will be so full, he will only want to take a nap rather than sharpen his sword (or make bombs). If it were only that simple. Yet any efforts to turn an enemy into an ally are worth trying.

Remember the time when Jacob came back to the land of Canaan (Genesis 32). Jacob had left 20 years prior to escape his brother Esau's revenge on Jacob for stealing Esau's blessing. What did Jacob do upon his return to soften or lessen his brother's anger toward him? He did the "Two-Steak Solution."

Jacob sent multiple gifts for Esau on ahead before actually meeting his brother. The night before, Jacob wrestled with an angel who was God Himself. The Jewish people today are going through a major "wrestling." We too must "wrestle" with spiritual wickedness in high places (Ephesians 6:12). Yet Jacob prevailed with God, as we must also do. God blessed Jacob by changing his name to Israel. Jacob learned a hard lesson. What happened when Jacob met his brother? See Genesis 33.

We can't "trick" or "deceive" our way into God's kingdom. Rather, it is through much "tribulation" or "wrestling" that we enter God's kingdom (Acts 14:22). This doesn't mean that we don't pursue peace with others and lessen the likelihood of trouble coming our way. Even when we are doing what is pleasing to God, there are those who will hate us for it.

A personal example of the "Two-Steak Solution" happened with me many years ago in 1976. I was training a gentleman who had escaped from South Vietnam before the communists took over. One day after work, Peter wanted me to stop by his house to show his appreciation for my efforts in helping him learn his new job in America. He also wanted to make new friends. He offered me a beer which I accepted to be polite. I'm not a drinker so I seldom have more than one drink. I was enjoying my visit with Peter and decided to have a second beer.

Peter became ecstatic when I accepted the second beer. He knew the first beer was for politeness. But the second beer told him that I really wanted to be a friend. The next day he was telling everyone at work, "Dwight had **two** beers with me." I guess this was actually the "Two-Beer Solution" to making friends.

With the hard lesson learned from Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip in 2005, there is no way that Israel will allow another Palestinian state to occur on their land to become a platform for Israel's destruction. So, it appears that the way forward is being prepared for Israel to someday annex the West Bank area which is land that God gave to Abraham and the descendants of Jacob. The Bible says to feed your enemy but not to give your inheritance or birthright away as did Esau.

"Pursue peace with everyone, as well as holiness, without which no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God, and no root of bitterness springs up to cause trouble and defile many. See to it that no one is a fornicator, or a profane person like **Esau**, who for **one** [steak not two] morsel of meat sold his birthright. For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected. He could find **no place for repentance**, though he sought the blessing with tears" (Hebrews 12:14-17).

Jews today (as well as Christians) must be willing to give **Two Steaks** not one to prevent engendering hatred toward them. The hard heartedness of their fathers toward their fellow man was the spiritual nakedness that Jesus exposed time and time again. The modern State of Israel is faced with the problem of survival as a nation that desires to live at peace with its neighbors who want its destruction. The fighting won't completely end until Christ returns.

What happens with Jerusalem in the days and years ahead will provide signs that we need to watch and discern. As things continue to develop in the Middle East, we need to carefully and diligently be overcoming our own sins and weaknesses that hinder us from fully serving God and growing in Christ (Hebrews 12:1-2).

Here is the video link to Ambassador Friedman's interview. You can skip to minute 10:45 to see the interview if you don't want to watch the entire 25-minute video:

Friedman, "One Jewish State": https://youtu.be/4wtpnPogZCE?si=jB0qNm2iUDjM_7o0

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

Chicago’s Death Camp Thrives Outside of DNC Convention (Copyright 09-21-2024) by Richard Markland (London, Ohio)

The difference between the Democratic and Republican Conventions couldn’t be more glaring. It is not a partisan perspective to state this, but a glaring reality. Abortion is the number one campaign issue for Kamala Harris, Tim Walz, and the Democratic Party. Radical Socialist economic policies are part of the Democratic Party agenda, as well as anti-Trump speeches, but abortion is the one issue that both Kamala Harris and Tim Walz “proudly promote.” It’s a tragic agenda, but is not surprising when everything about the Democratic Party is coming from a spiritually bankrupt stance.

Abortion is a theme that Kamala Harris expresses in campaign speech after campaign speech. What the Democratic Convention shows is just how the life of a baby is not valued in any way. A death camp is operating just outside the convention hall, while shouts of support for speaker after speaker doesn’t dare say a word about what is taking place. No one has the right to tell a woman what she can do with her body, is the motto of pro-abortionists. It is open rebellion against God who has created each and every person, but because the Bible is rejected, abortion is justified. **Roman 8:7** states that the natural carnal mind holds animosity towards God. It’s a stubborn attitude in which self is always right.

It is mind boggling how far gone the country is. The only true explanation for what is taking place is that when a nation disobeys God, the end result, when all is said and done, is death. The Bible backs up such a view. **Proverbs 16:25** – “There is a way that seems right to a man (woman), but the end thereof are the ways of death.” Abortion is completely justified and has resulted in the **death** of millions of innocent children.

God is taking note, and He sees exactly what is happening at the death chamber in Chicago, as well death centers located in city after city across the country. Just how aware is God? **Jeremiah 2:34** – “**Also in your skirts is found the blood of the poor innocents (aborted babies): I have not found it by secret (it’s openly being done before God), but upon all these (God knows who the people are that are pro-abortion).**” Why is abortion blatantly done? **Verse 32** – “...my people have forgotten me days without number.” He also states in **Deuteronomy 5:29** – “...Oh, that they had such a heart in them that they would fear Me and always keep all My commandments, that it might be well with them and **with their children forever!**”

Planned Parenthood centers are the nation’s concentration camps for the unborn. God is taking note, whether the nation realizes it or not. Punishment is coming because of the nation’s sins. It will be beyond what anyone can imagine. It’s called the Great Tribulation **Matthew 24:21-22**.

Every person is being given a choice between life and death. God presents the choice before everyone. **Deuteronomy 30:19** – “I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: **therefore choose life that both you and your seed (children) may live.**” The vast majority of people are making deadly choices, with abortion as just one of many glaring examples with deadly consequences. God states, however, that the day is coming when hearts and minds will be completely changed when repentance occurs. **Ezekiel 36:26-27** – “I will give you a new heart and a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh (the removal of a hardened and rebellious attitude). I will put my Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.”

The day is soon coming when there will be no more abortion. The lives of the “poor innocents” stated in **Jeremiah 2:34** will be restored when the resurrection occurs in **Revelation 20:12**. God will make sure aborted children will be reunited with their mothers, and grow into adulthood, when the Kingdom of God is established on the Earth. Everyone will come to see that the slaughter of poor innocent children is murder.

This day cannot come soon enough.

See Richard Markland's other articles at:

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

America has Lost Its Collective Mind (Copyright 09-21-2024) by Richard Markland (London, Ohio)

If there is any proof that America has lost its collective mind, a person doesn't have to look far. Disagreeing with being transgender involves great personal risk. Anyone speaking out against such a lifestyle is viewed as a bigoted pariah.

Any person who can justify that it is fine if a boy wants to become a girl, and a girl a boy, has a state of mind that is straight out of Satan's handbook. Such a mindset is an immoral condition on a gutter level, and a rot in the nostrils of God. The nation's spiritually bankrupt condition is destroying families and the nation. How any parent can leave it up to a child as young as 4-years-old to make such a life-altering decision to change its gender can only be described as insane. It shows just how morally bankrupt and unhinged any given parent is who allows such a horrendous life altering change to take place. What kind of parent can simply agree and not take into consideration the damage it will do to a child the rest of its life?

Today's schools are godless indoctrination centers. To view schools as places where children are to learn reading, writing, and arithmetic is outdated. Instead, children are being held hostage by godless teachers and school officials who are feeding poison to young impressionable minds. Why would parents want their children to be held hostage with such perverted indoctrination? How can a parent allow such poison to be taught in this way? It's beyond tragic, yet millions of parents are allowing their children to drown in such filth every day.

The Bible condemns the nation for its acceptance of sexual perversion. **Isaiah 3:9** – "The show of their countenance (their true defiant attitude) does witness against them (condemns them); **they declare their sins as Sodom, they hide it not (it is paraded for everyone to see)**. Woe unto their soul! For they have rewarded evil for themselves." The word "WOE" is a warning from God that serious deadly consequences will take place if such an attitude is not repented of.

The **vast majority** of the nation's churches will not speak out and condemn the transgender lifestyle. Why? Because they don't want to ruffle the comfort zones of attending members. Since the Bible is God's mind in print, the clergy is commanded to speak out against the sin of sexual perversion but is failing miserably in its responsibility. **Isaiah 58:1** – "Cry aloud, spare not, lift up your voice like a trumpet, and show my people their transgression (their blatant disobedient attitude against God) and the house of Jacob their sins (the sins of Americans, the British descended peoples, and the Jews of the Middle East)." Instead, today's clergy preach leftover feel-good messages that are exactly what has been taught for decades. The vast majority of today's clergy are spiritually asleep, and members are equally as complacent. The Bible also indicts today's messages accepted by members on any given Sunday. **Isaiah 30:10** – "...Prophecy unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things (feel good messages), prophecy deceits." Is it any wonder that God is viewed only as a God of love, and not of anger towards sin?

God sees what is taking place in today's classrooms. He is completely aware of the tragic state of the nation's families, the nation's clergy and the open acceptance of the transgender lifestyle. He warns against taking his mercy for granted. **Galatians 6:7** – "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man sows, that shall he also reap."

See Richard Markland's other articles at:

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

In Need of Bibles and Study Materials (Copyright 09-21-2024) by Obed Mambwe (Unknown)

Dear brethren in Christ,

Warmest Christian regard to each one of you, your beloved families, and all the dear brethren at your Ministry. I want to thank God for how He's using your Ministry to bless and reach out to many souls the World over. The Bible says in Amos 8:11 "Behold, the day come, saith the Lord.....nor a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but hearing the words of the Lord. Compare Ezekiel 33:6-9, Mat 24:14. The demands are so great right now to share the gospel unto nations. Kindly I am really to appreciate with you in Jesus Name to start send us many books as you can, e.g. Bibles in our local language only 185 copies, some books and tracts for free distribution to unsaved souls. Thank you, and we look forward to hearing from you soon. May God watch over and protect you as we labor together for salvation of the precious souls!

By His Grace and for His Glory,
Mambwe Obed

Editors Note: First of all, in order for anyone to send you anything we would need an address that can be published. Second, no one knows what language you speak so no one would be able to send you anything in your language if it is different from English. If your language is English, you can email or print and send our newsletters to people in your congregation.

Just to clarify, we do not collect money from anyone and if we spent our own personal money to send things to you, then we would have to do it for others and we do not have that kind of money or that kind of ministry for us to do that. There are only two of us here.

We publish a weekly newsletter which is distributed via email. The money we use to have a website and whatever expenses we have in regard to this newsletter come from our own personal money. We are not rich. Our newsletter is free to you and anyone else in your congregation who wishes to receive it. People can sign up on our website to receive our newsletter via email each week for free. Laura Lee

Why Four Gospels? (Copyright 09-22-2024) by Rod Reynolds (Wentzville, Missouri)

Have you ever wondered why there are four "gospels," or four accounts of the life and ministry of Jesus Christ of Nazareth in the New Testament? Actually, there is a significance to this fact that many are not aware of.

Each of the gospel accounts, as they are called, has a particular bearing on the nature of God, Jesus Christ, and God's government, and on the kingdom of God destined to be established in the future on this earth. The gospel accounts provide insight into major aspects of the nature and character of the government of God that will be established on the earth and of the one who is to be at its head, Jesus Christ. The Father has set Jesus Christ "far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. And he put all things under his feet..." ([Ephesians 1:21-22](#)).

The gospels are about Jesus Christ the Messiah, the King, who is at the head of a government that will one day rule all nations and will encompass the entire world. And even beyond that it's a government that has authority over all creation, everything that exists whether physical or spiritual. The gospels are a message about both the king and the kingdom. They are about what kind of ruler he is and what kind of government he will administer.

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Sermon Link: [Why Four Gospels? | COGMessenger](#)

See Rod Reynolds other articles at:

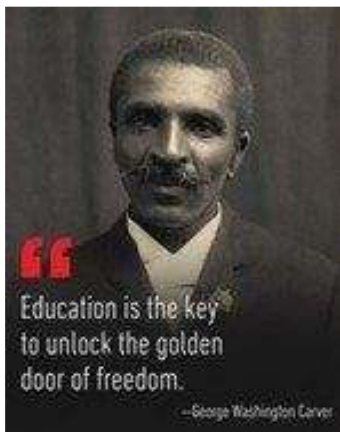
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Knowledge is the Key to Rise Above Poverty

(Copyright 09-21-2024) by Gary C. Miller (Pocahontas, Arkansas)



THE RIGHT KNOWLEDGE LIBERATES

FROM SLAVERY TO GREATNESS:

Born into slavery, American scientist George Washington Carver rose above it to invent more than 300 uses for the peanut, revolutionizing agriculture along the way. A true trailblazer, Carver proved anything is possible, if you keep trying.

IGNORANCE IS NOT BLISS:

"My people are destroyed for lack of Knowledge: because you have rejected Knowledge, I will also reject you....seeing you have forgotten the Law of Your Mighty One..." (Hos. 4:6)

THE WISE HEAR, RECEIVE KNOWLEDGE:

"A Wise man will hear, and will Increase Learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto Wise Counsels:..." (Prv. 1:5)

"...when the Wise is instructed, he Receives knowledge." (Prv. 21:11)

"Yes, if you cry after Knowledge...if you seek her...then shall you understand the Fear of Yahweh, and find the Knowledge of Elohim." (Prv. 2:3-5)

HAVE A DREAM:

"Where there is no Vision the people perish: but he that keeps the Law, happy is he." (Prv. 29:18)

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DREAM DREAMS THAT NEVER WERE

"Some men see things as they are and ask, 'Why?' Others dream things that never were and ask, 'Why Not?'" — George Bernard Shaw

INSURANCE AGAINST POVERTY:

Regardless of our financial circumstances, there is an insurance policy that guarantees we will not lack: "He that gives to the poor shall not lack..." (Prv.28:27)

See Gary C. Miller's other articles at:

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

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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