

Today's sermon is *Part 3* of the sermon series entitled *A Witness of 6,000 Years*. We've been focusing on some of the different uses of the word 'witness' as it's used in scripture and how we are living in a period of time, the final 3½ year period of a final witness that's a reflection of the past 6,000 years. And that's an awesome thing when you understand what this is all about, what we're doing. God reveals things to us at various points in time to help us better understand what He's doing, to be more excited about what's taking place and certainly this sermon series goes along with that.

So this sermon today is indeed about a witness of 6,000 years, of mankind and how mankind has consistently responded to God during that period and now how that entire period of time is being reflected in a witness of this final 3½ years. And I especially think of the mercy of God and of six periods of time of the 'Half a Time's' we've been through already, and how God's mercy has been so great upon us in the Church and upon this world as well. But that's the way God has dealt with man, really, over the past 6,000 years; He's been very, very merciful. There are times, obviously, because of what Judah did, because of what Israel did and what He did in allowing them to be taken into captivity but as a whole very merciful in those things that God has done through time.

Let's pick up today where we left off last Sabbath. I want to back up to one set of scriptures here in John 8 because we were looking at a witness concerning Jesus Christ, of those things spoken of about Him, and a witness of what He was doing at that particular time. Because throughout time, candidly, for 144,000 with whom God has worked, moulded and fashioned, they are all witness of that particular age, of that particular time; and yet it says far more about Jesus Christ and His life and the things He did. But let's notice here where we left off last Sabbath.

John 8:12 - Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, I am the light of the world: he who follows Me shall not walk in darkness but have the light of life. And of course, people didn't understand so much of what He was talking about. They didn't grasp what was being said, and even the disciples, all the things He spoke of, they didn't always understand and grasp until later on, until the time God poured out His spirit upon the Church on Pentecost 31AD.

Verse 13 - The Pharisees therefore said to Him, You bear witness of Yourself; Your witness is not true. And again, by *their* judgment, by what they felt, by what they believed, and **Jesus simply answered them and said, Even if I bear witness of Myself, My witness is true: for I know where I come from and where I am going; but you don't know from where I come and where I am going.** So again, speaking in terms that obviously they didn't understand, but still making it clear here that there was a particular judgment of theirs that was wrong, as it goes on to say...

Verse 15 – You judge according to the flesh; I judge no one. There are a lot of people, even in God's Church in times past, who've not fully understood what some of these verses mean. You have to take things in context because you can look at other places where He talks about how He does judge. But again, this is a matter of context. He's saying here in essence, **you judge according to the flesh**, but when He says, **I judge no one**, it's in the context according to the flesh. He doesn't judge anyone by the way something appears, how He thinks about it of and by Himself and so forth. It's a matter of judgment that's based on inspiration of God's spirit, based upon God's Word.

And that's what He goes on to say in essence. He says: **And yet if I judge, My judgment is true, for I am not alone, but I and the Father who sent Me.** It's one of the things I try to encourage people to do, especially within the ministry when it's a matter of judging things, making judgment – because we all have to judge. There are things we judge all day long in our lives. But we want to make sure it's a right judgment, not just based on our prejudices which we have a great deal of in life – it's just the way it is – just like the sermons we've been going through in times past, in the last couple of years, especially at the Feast this year again, talking about the differences between men and women. There are prejudices there that people have and they don't even understand them oftentimes. They. Are. There! They're very much a part of society, they're very much a part of this world and they affect us. And it's difficult for the human mind to judge in this manner – as a matter of fact, you really can't, you have to have God's help. You have to have God's help to judge according to those things that come from God, because it's just like agape, God's love, the source is God. It's a matter of God's spirit. And so you have to cry out to God for help, for His spirit to lead and guide and direct you in the things you make judgment of, especially if it requires certain action or response on your part.

But He said, **My judgment is true, for I am not alone, for I am with the Father who sent Me. It is also written in your law that the testimony of two men is true...** or two people, that's what it's really talking about here. **I am one who bears witness of Myself, and the Father who sent Me bears witness of Me.** But obviously they couldn't receive that, couldn't accept that, didn't understand that.

Then said they to Him, Where is Your Father? Jesus answered, You know neither Me nor My Father: if you had known Me you would have known My Father also. Powerful words of what Jesus Christ is giving here. And that's why I want to mention also that God does things according to those things that are written in the law, those things that are written throughout the Old Testament, that which comes from Him He lives by, obviously, and what He gave to mankind and how to even judge certain things, if it was done truthfully, if it was done without prejudice, if it's done because it's a true witness. He makes comment here about how it is written, as it says here; **it's written in your law that the testimony of two is true.** Again, if they're being truthful, if they're being right in what they have to say; but the point being is it takes two. And that's why I mention last Sabbath, which I hope everyone caught, that's *exactly* why God says at the end-time there are two witnesses that are focused upon – because of this, because of what He says here. And so, because of God's spirit and because of God's spirit living in our lives God focuses upon that but it's really about all of us, it's about the Church, it's about everyone in the Church...but it's focused upon two and a specific job given at that time, at the end-time.

Then it goes on to say here, **These words Jesus spoke in the treasury as He taught in the temple: and no one laid hands on Him for His time had not yet come.** It wasn't there yet. So again here, awesome things that took place throughout time.

Let's turn over now to John 18; just wanted to go back to that again and pick it up from where we left off last Sabbath – but going on to **John 18:33 - Then Pilate entered into the judgment hall again and called Jesus and said unto Him, Are You the King of the Jews? And Jesus answered him, Do you say this thing of yourself or did someone else tell it to you?** Is that why you're asking? **And Pilate answered, Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered You unto me: What have You done?** Why are they doing this? Why are you here? **And Jesus answered, My Kingdom is not of this world:** He didn't deny that He had a kingdom, He didn't deny that He was a King. And that's, frankly, the reason why finally He had to be put to death as far as Pilate was concerned, because the Jews challenged Pilate on that. They challenged him, "What are you going to do if this gets back to Caesar and someone who claims to be a King...what does this say about you, Pilate? ...Someone who

claimed such a thing, someone who has such recognition, what's the penalty for that?" Well the penalty was death, obviously. There's only one ruler at that time; that was Caesar.

So Jesus answered and said, My Kingdom is not of this world. If My Kingdom were of this world, then would My servants fight that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is My Kingdom not from here. And Pilate therefore said to Him, Are you a King then? Are you then a King? And Jesus answered, You say that I am a King. To this end was I born, and for this cause I came into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Powerful! His whole life was a witness to the truth, especially throughout His ministry. And it's going back to the same thing we're talking about throughout this sermon here. It's about man's response to God, it's about man's response to His own Son and we live through it too. We live through the same things, that's a part of the witness, it's how mankind responds to God, responds to the truth of God. And as we talked about in the first series, the truth is just foolishness to people, it really is. They think you're a little strange.

Every one that is of the truth hears My voice. Beautiful verses there because that's how within God's Church we know when someone's being drawn, someone's being called. That's how the ministry can know and understand when someone's of the same mind, because of what they hear, they respond in a certain way, they're able to carry on a conversation. You can know very quickly if someone's being drawn by God's spirit, as a whole, because of their response, because of what they're hearing and what they're *repeating* back. There's only one way they can do that, it's with God's help.

Let's go over to an example now in 2 Kings 17, because through the ages, over the past 6,000 years God has sent His servants into the world, prophets and apostles, and even His own Son as we just completed here, and again, the witness has always been the same. That's why it's such a powerful witness of what God's doing in a 3½ year period as a whole for the end-time that is a reflection of 6,000 years of what's taken place on this earth.

2 Kings 17:6 - In the ninth year of Hoshea the king of Assyria took Samaria, and carried Israel away into Assyria, so again here, it talks about how the king of Assyria took Samaria and carried Israel away into Assyria, and placed them in Halah and in Habor by the river Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes. When the captivity of Israel took place here, the way the Assyrians did it, German background, German people today; the way they did it when they conquered an area is that they would take someone out of one region and take them into a totally different region away from their homes, away from that which they were familiar with and bring in a different people to their former homeland. And so when it talks about here, Samaria, those are the ones they brought into the area north of Judah to what was referred to as the area of Israel before, and they were from Samaria because they transplanted them, the Assyrians did, and then they took the people of Israel into other areas, as it talks about here, and they spread them out in areas that they had not known. That was just their common practice of taking away power and having greater control in people's lives.

And then it goes on to say, **For so it was that the children of Israel had sinned against the Eternal their God, which had brought them up out of the land of Egypt and under the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and had feared other gods, and walked in the statutes of the heathen, whom the Eternal cast out from before the children of Israel, and of the kings of Israel, which they had made.** So again here, some of the same old story over and over again here of what's happened, frankly, with Israel through time, starting here.

Verse 9 - And the children of Israel did secretly those things that were not right against the Eternal their God, and they built them high places in all their cities; same thing. It's amazing, you look through history, and the reason why God took Israel captive; it's going through and discussing what had taken place. Here is God working with a people, the people of those northern areas. And it says, **the children of Israel did secretly those things that were not right against the Eternal their God, and they built them high places in all their cities, from the tower of the watchmen to the fenced city. And they set them up images and groves in every high hill, and under every green tree:** It's an awesome thing when you look back, in the sense of thinking what has been with the people for so long, that they have carried with them through time, certain habits, certain proclivities, and a part of it still was what they picked up when they were in the area of Israel and some of those things that just changed names, or changed practices.

I think of when it talks about on every high hill, some of the worship that they did. There is a custom in a lot of cities where churches are built. Do you know where they build them? As a whole they try to build them in the highest place they can so they can be seen for a long distance around. It was the same thing back then. That's what they did; they would build them on high areas so that they could be seen from a long distance away. It says, **And they burnt incense in the high places, as did the heathen whom the Eternal carried away before them;** Incredible! Here the Israelites come in and take the land from people that before them had lived in wrong practices of what they did, some of the kinds of things that Israel finally began to pick up in time such as worship of Baal, and that's what God's condemning here.

He's going through a story flow here, of that which the former people of the land did, Israel finally began to do as well, and so they began to worship Baal – same old stuff – on the day of the sun, sun-day. And it's an awesome thing when you go back in time and you think about how people have migrated, of what they continued to do, not even knowing in some cases what it was all about – an example Jesus Christ – connecting that with the Sabbath didn't begin for a long time, even after this here took place, because they were already doing something that had been done by what is referred to as the Gentiles, or the heathen, or whatever terms are used in the English language here, but again here, anyone else other than Israelites. And as it talks about here in the story flow, and if you go to other places as well – they began to worship Baal, they began to worship on Sunday.

And it says **For they served idols, wherefore the Eternal had said unto them, You shall not do this thing. Yet the Eternal testified against Israel and against Judah by all the prophets,** and again that word is used in the same way, even in the Old Testament, 'testify' – it's a witness because of what they've done, **testified against Israel and against Judah by all the prophets,** and so God sent the prophets to...again, always doing the same thing, telling them what they were doing that was wrong, that didn't agree with God's way of life and then telling them what would happen.

Yet the eternal testified against Israel and against Judah by all the prophets and by all the seers saying, Turn you from your evil ways and keep My commandments and My statutes according to all the law which I commanded your fathers and which I sent to you by My servants the prophets. And so I think back about the time of Mr. Armstrong; people didn't respond in droves. Only those whom God called! And the Church became large through time, not large compared to churches in the world...we think of the size maybe of 150,000 people or 140,000 including children, worldwide. And that's small for a church in the world. And yet we see the same thing happening then, people don't care as a whole unless God's drawing them and calling them...and the same thing has been true since Mr. Armstrong's death and all the things we've seen since.

Verse 14 - Notwithstanding they would not hear but hardened their necks; people don't care, people don't listen. You witness that in your life by family, by relatives, by people you work with, and they really don't want to talk about this, they don't want to talk about the Sabbath, they don't want to talk about the Holy Days, they don't want to talk about this time of year, about Christmas, and they don't want to hear that it's bad or that it's wrong and God condemns it. And so it says, **Notwithstanding they would not hear but hardened their necks like the neck of their fathers and did not believe in the Eternal their God.**

And they rejected His statutes, and His covenant that He made with their fathers, and His testimonies which He testified against them; and they followed vanity, and became vain, and went after the heathen/the Gentiles, other nations and their practices **that were around them, concerning whom the Eternal had charged them that they should not do like them.** And yet that's exactly what they did over and over again, that's what they embraced – anything but God, anything but the truth of God and the ways of God.

And they left all the commandments of the Eternal their God, and made them molten images, and two calves, and made a grove, and worshipped all the host of heaven, and served Baal. Incredible what they did from the moment they came across the Red Sea, they began to do it, and then it just got worse and worse through time. And that's what God is explaining here, an entire story through a large period of time until the time He had them taken captive by the Assyrians – because that's where the story begins. And so there's this synopsis here of all the history of Israel, which I know we know well, but again, good to review and good to understand that the same things that they dealt with back then are the very same things we deal with today.

...and they worshipped the host of heaven, and served Baal. The sun god. You'd think that would be a simple thing for the world to understand – sun-day, the day of the sun – why that day? Whatever happened through time? Whatever happened to the time that Jesus Christ kept and to the time that the apostles kept, Saturday, the seventh day? Because they don't want God.

And they caused their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire, that's how far man went. That's incredible when you think about some of that, that they even offered their own children on the fire to Moloch, but spiritually people do the same thing today. They truly do. Today, because of society and because of what the world does, they don't understand by not obeying God, not listening to God, not hearing what God says, that they give their children to this world. They give their children, that are passed down generation after generation after generation – because these children that were actually offered up, a horrifying thing that took place – but it's not in their mind. There are things that their minds can be worked with, that when they're resurrected that some, all through time, their minds become so distorted and so perverted through time.

And they caused their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire and used divination and enchantments and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the Eternal, to provoke Him to anger. Therefore the Eternal was very angry with Israel and removed them out of His sight: and there was none left but the tribe of Judah only. And so again, he's talking about the first captivity here, of what happened to Israel, that they were taken by the Assyrians captive, and then the area of Judah to the south, they remained faithful for a time, longer than what Israel did. And the reason they weren't taken captive is because they still had the Sabbath and they still had the Holy Days; but Israel had turned away from the Sabbath, they'd turned away from the Holy Days, they turned to the same kinds of periods of time like Easter/Ishtar and the worship of that time of year.

And Judah kept not the commandments of the Eternal their God, but walked in the statutes of Israel which they made. So it came to the same time – Judah did exactly the same thing in the sense of not keeping the commandments, **but walked in the statutes of Israel which they made. And the Eternal rejected all the seed of Israel, and afflicted them, and delivered them into the hand of the spoilers until He had cast them out of His sight.** And so again, what was done back then is something that's getting ready to be repeated again in history, because that's what God said the prophets were to teach, things of Ezekiel and others.

For He rent Israel/tore them away from the house of David; and they made Jeroboam the son of Nebat king: and Jeroboam drove Israel from following the Eternal and made them sin a great sin. For the children of Israel walked in all the sins of Jeroboam which he did; and they departed not from them; I've gone through this story so many times; we know it well in the Church. Some who are newer may not know it well, but again, he gives us example here of when the nation was one under David, it was one under Solomon, and then as soon as that ended there was Jeroboam and Rehoboam and the nation split up. And the nations in the north, Israel, were separated from Judah, Jeroboam in the north. It shows what he did and he began to change the Holy Days, he began to change the Sabbath, especially the Holy Days, because he didn't want Israel to go down to Judah, to Jerusalem during the Feast times, and so he had to change those times. And what he adopted were the very same thing - different names in different periods of time, obviously...some of them were, some of them were right on, but as far as the winter solstice, as far as what took place in what we call Christmas and the period of time called Easter, and they turned away from the Holy Days, the High Days.

It says every king that followed, it mentions it over and over again for Israel, it says **they followed the ways/did the things of Jeroboam the son of Nebat.**

Verse 23 - Until the Eternal removed Israel out of His sight as He had said by all His servants the prophets. So was Israel carried away out of their own land to Assyria unto this day... well, when it was written. So again here, talking about the captivity of Israel, those who were taken north into Europe. They migrated farther north into Europe and finally westward and we know the rest of the story, of what took place through time.

Let's go on to Jeremiah 7. When I go through a story like this I think of this time of year especially, and I think especially this year I am so thankful it's the last time I have to listen to this music. I hate it with all my being. Doesn't matter where you are, you hear Christmas music and thinking this is finally it, finally the last time. All of that started clear back here. Something that Israel carried with them for hundreds and hundreds of years. That's why I think about that pole so often with the serpent on it and what happened to them when they were in the wilderness – still with us to this day, a symbol of healing that can be seen on an ambulance.

Jeremiah 7:16 - Therefore pray not for this people... Something interesting here: I've made comments in sermons going back a few years here, about how there are some things you're not to pray for if it's against God's will. You have to be careful how you pray sometimes. You want to make sure you're praying according to God's will, and there are things you can pray for about this world, but to understand what that means. You can't ask for blessings of people in their sin. That's not God's purpose. God's purpose is not to bless mankind in His sins, in His rebellion, in His ignorance even. If it's a matter of those who keep wrong days and wrong times and so forth and oftentimes they may be family members and others. The greatest blessing of all is a desire to see them come to repentance,

because that's what the blessings are to people. We went through that here recently when we discussed some of this in sermons going back to the early part of the year. Again, preparation for those things that are yet to come; but I was thinking about that this morning. How we went through various sermons here as you were asked in a similar sort of way as you were asked on the Last Day of the Feast of Tabernacles this year – to look into your mind, to look into your life, and to make that comparison about 'are you at one with God?' Are you at one with God when it comes to understanding why this world has to go through what it does? Its one thing to think we believe certain things but to come to understand, and this would affect your prayers then, of how you pray, not a matter of wanting to see people suffer but wanting to see them blessed! But to see people blessed means they have to go through what so many of us had to do when God called us into the Church.

My calling was not an easy one, it was hard, it was difficult. Now, some may not have the same experiences, but oftentimes you have that experience where you have your...well, I refer to it as a 4X4 upside the head more than once in order to get my attention, so that when God began to give me the truth I would listen to it. Because if I hadn't have gone through the horrible things, the trials that I did, I wouldn't have listened to God when the time came. I know myself; I know myself now, at the time I didn't. And so God got my attention, He chastened me, brought me down to a point of being very low so that when the truth came along I was willing to listen and He could work with me then. And that's what God has to do with the world, the same exact thing.

And so we talked about that in the beginning of the year, especially around March and April, I believe it was, maybe even February and March, in through that period of time. We went through and discussed what was happening in the world, and again, the thrust of those sermons was a matter of your searching out your heart and your mind about whether or not you're in agreement with God, that these things have to come and why. Not to hurt the world – God says over and over again, but in essence summing it up – He has no pleasure in seeing those who disobey Him die or suffer. There's no pleasure in any of that, but it is a reality, that's what man has to come to in order to be brought low so that they *will* listen.

But they haven't listened for 6,000 years so nothing is different in the world. Israel was taken captive, they didn't repent. Judah was taken captive later on, nearly 200 years later, and they did repent. They still kept God's Sabbath, they still were seeking to keep the Holy Days, it's just that they had polluted the Sabbath so God took them away captive because of what they were polluting and their lifestyles and so forth. But they repented and God only kept them in captivity for 70 years. It's an awesome story, it truly is, of what God did.

But to understand that the whole world has to be changed, to understand that before Jesus Christ can return, to understand what man has to come through...to me it's an incredible thing to look into your own mind and to say, "Yes God, I understand. Not out of vengeance, not out of wanting to see people suffer." I think sometimes, if we're not careful, in the Church, in times past, it's almost been a matter at times in some people's lives depending on where you are, that it's this desire to see things happen to the degree that it's almost a matter of vengeance, to see (now we can call it judgment)... but sometime we have to be careful that there's not any sense of vengeance at all in our minds – instead, mercy, a desire for mercy. But understanding even in mercy... it was a merciful thing God did in removing Israel out of the area they were in. It was a *merciful* thing God did in taking Judah into captivity. It was a *merciful* thing because nothing else can get through to them as a physical carnal nation, truly. And so it is with the world at the end-time. 6,000 years, and this period of time we're looking at right now is intensified because God was working with nations, with a nation of people.

Going on here, **verse 16**, let's read this - **Therefore pray not for this people, neither lift up cry nor prayer for them, neither make intercession to Me: for I will not hear you.** What does that mean? It means if God is punishing, if God is correcting and you see suffering you can't pray to God that, in essence, they don't have to go through this, that it be removed fully from them – if you understand what's being said here. It comes to a point when God finally intervenes to bring about His judgment; that we have to examine ourselves and ask if we're in unity and oneness with that, because of the outcome, because of what's going to happen as a result of it. And that's what God is telling them here. He said, "Don't pray to me about this..." when the time came, in other words, to remove them, "Don't pray they not be removed. Don't pray that the military or those things don't happen because it must happen now." This is God's judgment and God is righteous. God is righteous. When it says He has something done it's for a purpose and it's righteous. God has the power to resurrect and to bring people back to life. Those things are hard for us as human beings to grasp. So it's not a matter of *our* will and things happening *our* way, it's a matter of God's will and things happening His way and our being in agreement, "Yes, Lord. There is no other way."

It goes on to say here, **Do you not see what they do in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem? The children gather wood, and the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead dough to make cakes to the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto other gods that they may provoke Me to anger.** Easter. Isn't that amazing? Later in time after Jesus Christ came, after the Catholic church did what it did in 325 in bringing this custom here into a so called 'Christianity' calling it Christian, but it's the same period of year, it's talking about the 'queen of heaven', it's talking about what they did and I think they call them 'hot cross buns', kneading the dough. It's a custom of what they did, kneading the dough and anyway, the same sort of thing here, **to pour out drink offerings to other gods that they may provoke Me to anger.**

Do they provoke Me to anger? says the Eternal: do they not provoke themselves to the confusion of their own faces? They don't know what they're doing to themselves. People are ignorant; because they're ignorant of God's truth and God's way of life and they don't realize what they're doing to their own minds and to their own children, what they're passing along to their children, making something look good. Just like Christmas time, rabbits and eggs, trees with lights on it – they're not ugly – and so people are drawn into it, getting gifts. You do it with a young child and they grow up with it and they look forward to the time they can give gifts then to their children. It's just passed down generation after generation after generation.

Verse 20 – it goes on to say then - **Therefore thus says the Eternal GOD; Behold, My anger and My fury shall be poured out upon this place, upon man, and upon beast, and upon the trees of the field, and upon the fruit of the ground; and it shall burn, and shall not be quenched.** Sounds harsh, but it's not when it's done by God. And that's hard sometimes for human beings to understand, because human beings tend to think that we have things owed to us, or that something isn't fair. What's not fair about it? What isn't fair about a righteous God saying, "Live My way of life! Love each other." That's what the law is about, it's about... "Love Me," God says. But people didn't want to love Him and obey Him. "Love each other! Don't commit adultery!" Think about this nation alone, if people didn't commit adultery how much of a better world this would be for marriages! But people can't control themselves and so they go out and commit adultery. Sick, sick world! Marriages that end, children then that go through horrible... different ages, it's a traumatic thing for children, and then they grow up and repeat the same things because that's all they know, because their minds become distorted and confused. That's the society, that's the world we live in! Don't kill, don't take life.

We live in a sick, sick world, especially in this country of all nations. We have far more crime in our cities. You have to get into some pretty bad areas of the world, some countries that are in pretty bad shape before it gets as bad as it does here in this country...in Chicago, in Detroit, in New York city, in Los Angeles, gangs and gang wars, things with drugs that could be stopped if people really wanted to stop it, lock up the borders if they really wanted to lock it up, close it down in Afghanistan.

I get so sick and tired of some of the stuff. I hope you do too. All the junk that's coming out of Afghanistan because we've enabled the war lords to be able to become powerful again. Things are upside down. The Taliban that almost brought some of those things to an end because it was against their religious beliefs concerning God, that those things *shouldn't* be done and go out into the world and make profit off of all the opium and poppy and poppy plants and so forth. And here we go back in with our military so that we can reinforce it again and get them started again, and they're thriving and drugs are going into Europe like mad! Sick, sick world! And do you hurt inside? And it's like when it talks about righteous Lot; it says he vexed his righteous soul day by day. Do we see that these things have to be stopped for children's sake, for people's sake? People that grow up in some of these areas, they don't have a chance! They really, some of them, don't even have a chance! They're in captivity. They're going to grow up and repeat the very same things that they've learned from their parents, or haven't learned from their parents.

You don't have a murder rate in places in Europe, not even close to what this country has... It'd be kind of interesting just to find out throughout the entire continent of Europe how many murders take place. I doubt if they'd beat Detroit, one city in the United States. I remember one time being over there in Antwerp, first trip over there and we were invited over, the Dalrymples were there, he was working over there for Proctor and Gamble, and we went in to an area of Antwerp there one night, he was taking us through this one area to look at, and we went through these really narrow dark areas in the city. You wouldn't *dream* of doing something like that in the United States in a big city. And it was kind of a weird feeling to us because it was safe compared to over here. Incredible! And we're one of the nations of Israel, this nation, one of the tribes that *should* know about God, that *claims* to know about God, that *claims* to know about Jesus Christ, but where is He? And the closest they get to Him in this time of year is a scene they think is a scene that is true (which is a false thing) a little manger and this little baby out there with some lights around it. Sick, sick world! We're overdue for the return of Jesus Christ, truly!

And this is what God is going through here explaining. Those things have happened back then! And God is explaining something here that sometimes is hard for us to grasp – how displeasing, how sick this is, and even in the verses here the way it's brought out, He brings it out in such a way to say it's a matter of what they're doing to themselves. They don't grasp how they're hurting themselves and their own children and their own families. And that's the way it is today, people don't grasp how they're hurting their own children and their own families and how they're destroying their minds in the way they think, and there's no soundness of mind. I think about leadership today. We have gone so far!

Verse 21 - Thus says the Eternal of hosts, and so if we talk about an end-time, we believe in an end-time, and we recognize that things must happen on this world, people get to where they loathe you and hate you. It's like they think maybe you take some pleasure in it. No, that should be the farthest thing from anyone's mind. What we rejoice in is what's going to happen at the end, because we recognize there's no other way, that this world has to suffer for us to have a different world. Every war that's ever come along by mankind, supposedly, is to have something better at the other end. There's only one that will work and that's what God's going to do as He intervenes to save man from himself.

I want to read some articles here. This world, as I mentioned in a previous post, is so asleep, and yet for us it's at the doorstep and it's *incredible* what's taking place in the world! And people think, even in the scattered Church, think that it's *years away*! You think, "Can't you see? Wake up! Don't you understand what's happening with leaders in the world right now? ...the timing of events?" I mentioned this last Sabbath – here's one from the 'dailymail.co.uk' in the United Kingdom. The headline...

Nuclear war could erupt along Russia's borders with Europe, warns Kremlin commanderⁱ

By Daily Mail Reporter

Last updated at 12:13 PM on 18th November 2011

Russia's top military commander has warned of nuclear war on its borders with Europe.

Why talk that way? ...unless it's in your mind. He is the top one put there by Putin himself! The top military commander in Russia, and are we paying any attention in the United States? Pshew... maybe the cold war all over again coming in time and sloughing it off like it's far away. It's not far away, it's on our doorstep.

It goes on to say in the article here a little bit later:

Among those countries who have swapped the Warsaw Pact for NATO are Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania. Russia is also at odds with the U.S. over plans for an American missile defence shield in Europe.

'The European missile shield problem is quite serious today,' General Makarov, 62, said.

Quote: 'In certain conditions, I do not rule out local and regional armed conflicts developing into a large-scale war, including using nuclear weapons.' General Nikolai Makarov

Now, if a major General of a nation of people says that and you know he has the backing of the one who's coming into power - whether some don't want it or not he's coming - Vladimir Putin. And this man was put here by him. You think that's an accident? You think the words that come out of his mouth don't mean something? It's incredible what's happening right now!

Another article:

Putin prepares the Russian empire to strike backⁱⁱ

Simon Tisdall – Thursday 1 December 2011

guardian.co.uk

Little play on words on some of that stuff there, anyway, this is from 'theguardian.co.uk'. It says in this article here from just two days ago:

As prime minister for the past four years, Vladimir Putin never really went away. But his looming reincarnation as the all-powerful, executive president of Russia – the country's

"paramount leader" in Chinese parlance – poses a stark challenge for which the US, Britain and other beleaguered western powers seem ill-prepared. As president, potentially until 2024...

That's what he's prepared for himself by what he's doing.

...potentially until 2024, Putin has one overriding objective: the creation of a third, post-tsarist, post-Soviet Russian empire.

Putin famously described the collapse of the Soviet Union, the "evil empire" of Ronald Reagan's imagining, as "the greatest geopolitical catastrophe of the century".

Now, that's his feelings, so what do you think he's trying to do? What do you think he wants to do when he talks about a group of nations there in that part of Europe and Asia that can come together now, somewhat like a United States of Europe on the other side, because of what's in his mind.

His aim, once this weekend's heavily managed parliamentary elections and next March's presidential coronation are out the way, is to put this disaster to rights.

In other words, He has a desire. If people understand; why is he doing what he's doing? What is his objective? What is he trying to accomplish? ...and how old is he? And does he want these things to happen when he's maybe 80 or 90, or would he like to see some of this stuff happen rather soon, especially if world conditions present the opportunity. That's exactly how people think in other countries and different places in the world and we don't get it!

Another, here's one from Reuters:

Russia delivers anti-ship missiles to Syria: reportⁱⁱⁱ
MOSCOW | Thu Dec 1, 2011

And we don't hear much about what's happening over there. Incredible! It says in this article:

....

"This weapon allows coverage of the entire coastline of Syria from possible attack from the sea," Interfax quoted the source as saying.

Russia teamed up with China in October to veto a Western-backed U.N. Security Council resolution condemning Assad's government. Russia said the resolution could have opened the door to Western military intervention like in Libya...

They're not going to allow in Syria what happened in Libya. What does that mean? How far can nations go? Does the United States and NATO understand? Do they grasp that they can't pull off what they did in Libya in Syria because Russia and China aren't going to allow them to this time because this could itself be a nuclear war? That's exactly where we are! That's *exactly* where we are...and the world is asleep to it. So it said:

Russia said the resolution could have opened the door to Western military intervention like in Libya, where it says NATO overstepped its Security Council mandate.

And they're not happy with that and they're not going to allow the same thing in Syria.

Earlier this week, Russian newspaper Izvestia reported that Russia planned to send its aircraft carrier and other ships to Syria.

Crazy world! Another one here:

Explosions Rocking Tehran Spark Warning Of 'Big Event'^{iv}

WORLD NET DAILY

Posted: November 28, 2011

By Reza Kahlili

I want to read it to you; I want to take the time to do this in this sermon because things are happening all around us and we can see it and the scattered Church sees some things but they can't piece it together. They think when they read some of these things that it's far away but interesting stuff, but this is so close! This article goes back to November 28th, which wasn't too long ago, but it goes back to a story of something that happened November 12th that just came out by this time.

Two massive blasts on Nov. 12 that hit near Tehran, the Iranian capital, and rocked the city may have been an attempt to assassinate the supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who had been scheduled to be there at the time of the explosions, sources suggest.

So there are two different explosions that took place.

....

At the time of the explosions, Iranians found themselves wondering if Israel had attacked.

Because this is kind of in the back of their minds and they're kind of preparing for that. And it goes on to say in the article:

...

The simultaneous explosions, which hit the Iranian Revolutionary Guards' base 28 miles west of Tehran, not only shook the surrounding area but were heard and felt throughout Tehran, even breaking car and building windows.

Revolutionary Guard officials soon announced that the explosions occurred at one of their ammunition depots...

There were two explosions far away from each other, but this is their story when it first came out.

... that the explosions occurred at one of their ammunition depots while ammunition was being moved and claimed at first that 15 people were killed.

Iran's state-owned media rapidly changed the story multiple times on the number of fatalities and the cause of the incidents, but they all ruled out the possibility of a plot and stated that the explosions had nothing to do with Iran's nuclear program. Then they announced that Brig. Gen. Hassan Tehrani-Moghadam, the "architect of Iran's missile program," was one of those killed.

Amazing! You hear about this stuff over here?

The shock was palpable among the Iranian leaders, and soon sources within Iran revealed that the correct number of casualties was well over 100. It also was reported that right after the explosions, tanks and armoured vehicles mobilized in and around Tehran and in other provinces.

Photos reveal that at the site where the explosions happened, there was an image created on the ground that referenced the "Madhi," the "12th imam" expected by Shia Muslims who describe him as their "Islamic messiah." They believe he will appear at the end of time to reign.

You know, things we've talked about in times past, their belief about something that's going to happen at the end-time, and it goes on to say....

Further, the belief is that Muslims can hasten the appearance of the Madhi by bringing about cataclysmic violence on earth.

The "Madhi" reference, therefore, at the site of the still-unexplained explosions raises an ominous possibility that Iran may believe its best next move is violence, Western observers note.

Khamenei attended the funeral of those killed and described the severity of the incident: "The bloody incident, which resulted in the martyrdom of some of our best, including the superior commander and scientist Hassan Moghadam, is truly bitter and sad."

Although Iranian officials claimed the explosions were accidental, their statements later indicated that there was more to the incident.

It goes on to say here that Iran, of course, they're coming to a point in time where it says...

....Referring to Israel, Guards Gen. Masoud Jazayeri said the "Zionist regime" should expect shocking explosions in Tel Aviv and other cities.

So it goes on to say....

Iran is blaming the explosions on Israel.

Interestingly, might be. Going on...

....Interestingly, a little more than a week later, a similar explosion occurred at a weapons' depot of the terrorist group Hezbollah in southern Lebanon. And there have been subsequent reports of more explosions.

But most revealing was the statement reflected on the Revolutionary Guards' media outlet, Javan Online, by Mehdi Taeb, the head of the Ammar Garrison and one of the most fanatical figures in the Islamic regime. He stated that "a big event will take place after the martyrdom of Hassan Moghadam." He added that the deceased general was working on a project that, despite his absence, will soon come together and result in the "big event."

They want nuclear weapons *so much* and they want to use them *so much!* We are so insane!

As reported in May, Khamenei ordered the Guards to arm their missiles with nuclear warheads before the end of the Iranian year – March 2012 – and that the Guards were already in possession of two nuclear-capable warheads.

According to the agreement between the Revolutionary Guards and the Ministry of Defence, eight more nuclear warheads will be produced and delivered to the Revolutionary Guards within the next several months.

They will use them. That's where we're headed; we're headed to a nuclear war, whenever it starts. But it's not just in Iran, things are happening all over the world.

I'm going to take the time to read these because they're timely, they're meaningful, they have everything to do with where we are, and people are so asleep to it all. Here's one from Spiegel online.

The World from Berlin:

'Never Before Has the World Been as Close to War with Iran'

12/02/2011

SPIEGEL ONLINE

It's going on here telling about the pressures of what's happening with Europe and the rest of the world, because with Iran comes China and their influence there and so forth and what's happening with Europe and the United States and Israel; it brings in the nations of the world – Megiddo. Powerful!

Western pressure on Iran over its nuclear program continued Thursday, as the European Union moved to tighten some sanctions against the country, and laid the groundwork for a possible EU oil embargo.

And they're reporting what's said by different newspapers, different ones write.

.... The center-left Süddeutsche Zeitung writes:

"Iran's power in the region is eroding. The USA may have removed Iran's biggest enemy, Saddam Hussein, from power and is leaving Iraq, and soon will be leaving Afghanistan...."

But the Arab Spring revolutionaries, cheered on as they were by Tehran, want nothing to do with a theocracy on the Khomeini model."

And then it goes on to say in the same article....

....Iran's government is paralyzed because of an inner power struggle, coming to a head in the parliamentary elections in March 2012 and the presidential elections the following year."

So again, Putin – elections, and power, people forcing, pushing for power. The same things happening here because of the timing, they're pushing for power, they want in. People will do some strange things when it comes to staying in power.

"Therefore, it is of utmost importance that the issue is not reduced to a choice between the Iranian Bomb and bombing Iran.

And then this is from the Financial Times Deutschland; it says...

The Financial Times Deutschland writes:

"An oil embargo will worsen the social and economic situation in Iran. The revenues from the country's chief export don't flow just to the nuclear program. They also finance the salaries of teachers, doctors, and garbage collectors. The sanctions will affect everyone, the Iranian people and the government."

"But an oil embargo could also hurt the West..... Higher oil prices would be poisonous for the European economy that is already likely standing on the edge of a recession."

And then it says here:

The left-leaning Berliner Zeitung writes:

"The Israelis know that attacks on Iranian nuclear facilities would, at best, slow down the Iranian government's development of a nuclear bomb, and not halt it. The Americans can still hope that the Israelis will hold back.

And they talk in these terms! It's like, "We hope they'll hold back." They know they're not going to hold back forever! This is common knowledge – at some point something's got to give. When is it?

Now there is the chance that the Europeans will agree on stronger sanctions against Iran, effectively leading to a stop in Iranian oil imports to Europe. That would hit the fifth largest oil exporter hard, though it could make gasoline [prices] more expensive. But if countries like China or India don't take part, then Iran could survive a European oil embargo."

"There is still no threat of a war with Iran, though the world has never before been so close to one. Negotiations with Iran over its nuclear program are now likely over. Until

now, it has been enough to apply pressure on Iran. Now, more efforts have to be taken to keep Israel from firing the first shot."

Different people, what they're feeling in Europe, feeling in Germany and so forth. Here's another one from yesterday:

Chinese General Threatens US with World War 3 over Iran^{vi}
EU Times Online

I told you a few weeks ago that throughout Europe, from Sweden on the way down, different ones throughout Germany, throughout different parts of the world, they're talking about a World War and they're talking about *nuclear* war; and people are fast asleep. Incredible, incredible! That's why it's going to shock the world when these things begin to hit the scene.

Going on here, this is from two days ago.

A military General from the Chinese National Defence University says that China should not hesitate to protect Iran, even if it means launching world war three, as more US warships are dispatched to the region amidst heightening tensions.

And so it talks about what this individual made comment of.

Major General Zhang Zhaozhong commented that, "China will not hesitate to protect Iran even with a third world war," remarks described as "puzzling to some".

It's not puzzling to me. Why is it puzzling to some? He means what he says.

There is so much to read, so much happening in one week's time, papers around the world, you get the news, there's so much taking place, so much happening that's being put into place. It won't happen until it's time but it's being put into place.

Here's another one:

Germany and France Examine Push for Eurozone Integration^{vii}
By Luke Baker and Julien Toyer
BRUSSELS | Sun Nov 27, 2011

This is a marvel, watching Europe come together like this, and they're being forced solely out of the economy and they know there's only *one* answer. Because they know they don't have power right now, they don't have the power to have Eurobonds, which is what some want, but they can't do that without nations giving up their sovereignty and giving it to a central power, and that's where they are and that's what they're going to do.

(Reuters) - Germany and France are exploring radical methods of securing deeper and more rapid fiscal integration among euro zone countries, aware that getting broad backing for the necessary treaty changes may not be possible, officials say.

Going on down here:

.....

But in meetings with EU leaders in recent weeks, it has become clear to both German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Nicolas Sarkozy that it may not be possible to get all 27 countries on board, [you suppose?] EU sources say.

Even if that were possible, it could take a year or more to secure the changes while market attacks on Italy, Spain and now France suggest bold measures are needed within weeks.

See, that's the problem, they realize they only have weeks to do this in, a few months at the maximum, not years. They're already taking bets in places. How? They're putting odds on when the Euro is going to collapse out there; by the end of 2011, will it happen in 2012? I think in 2012 it's right now at 1 to 3. The odds are very much against the Euro surviving.

As a result, senior French and German civil servants have been exploring other ways of achieving the goal, one being an agreement among just the euro zone countries.

... Another option being explored is a separate agreement outside the EU treaty that could involve a core of around 8-10 euro zone countries, officials say.

Amazing, amazing, amazing! I thought this headline was interesting, from the Associated Press:

Europe, facing abyss, embraces German Might^{viii}

What an amazing word to use, because it talks about a being who's going to come out of, basically, the abyss, the bottomless pit that's referred to in Revelation and it talks about this being given power and it's about Germany. Awesome! 'Europe, facing abyss, embraces German might'.

BERLIN (AP) – For more than half a century, the legacy of World War II has meant that the mere mention of a new rise of German power sent shudders through European nations. Now, Germany is increasingly calling the shots for the entire continent — and few seem to mind...

It goes through and talks about what Poland is saying, what Sweden is saying, what Italy is saying, what Spain, the new leaders of Greece and Spain are saying, and they're saying, basically, Germany is the only one that can get us out of this, because they have the strongest economy and they're the only ones...and they're even talking about how this new system is very likely to have the exact same kind of government set up that Germany has. That's what they want, that's what they're talking about. And you think, that means they're going to give up their sovereign power! That's absolutely incredible what's taking place.

And this is a real lulu here then. I'm just going to end with this one here. If there isn't enough bad stuff going on....

'Anthrax isn't scary at all compared to this': Man-made flu virus with potential to wipe out many millions if it ever escaped is created in research lab^{ix}

BY: Daily Mail Reporter

28th November 2011

How *dumb* can mankind be? And what they want to do, they're arguing over a desire to push that the reports get printed. You think anyone would use them? And if they have their way they're probably going to publish it. It says '5 tweaks' to make it many times worse.

The current strain of H5N1 [bird flu strain] has only killed 500 people...

...to date. But this tweaking of it, 5 little tweaks, can kill millions quickly. Amazing!

Anyway, going back to the story here: over and over again God has warned and people haven't cared and people haven't listened. And that's what this story of Jeremiah is about. Let's go on with the story here picking it up in verse 20.

Verse 20 - Therefore thus says the Eternal GOD; Behold, My anger and My fury shall be poured out upon this place, upon man, and upon beast, and upon the trees of the field, there comes a time, God says, finally, when He talks about not just happening to a nation but happening to the world. And the world basically in the beginning is doing it to itself anyway. It's just at the end God says He's going to destroy those who are destroying the earth on that last day.

Then it goes on to say in **verse 21 - Thus says the Eternal of hosts, the God of Israel; Put your burnt offerings into your sacrifices, and eat flesh. For I spoke not unto your fathers, nor commanded them in the day that I brought them out of the land of Egypt concerning burnt offerings or sacrifices: But this thing commanded I them, saying, Obey My voice.** It wasn't about the offerings, it was about a way of life. He says, **Obey My voice and I will be your God, and you shall be My people: and walk you in all the ways that I have commanded you that it may be well unto you.** That's what Gods wanted of mankind, just to obey Him so that your life is better. Don't commit adultery - your life will be better. Don't kill others - your life will be better. Don't bear false witness about others - your life will be better. Everyone's life will be better if people just speak the truth; if people are truthful life will be better. Amazing! All those laws, if man would just live by them how much better the world would be. But God says you don't want that, that's not what you want.

Today the news is so rotten out there everywhere you turn, whether it be in religion, religious leaders, leaders in having to do with, anything to do with, if you want to look at corporations, the garbage that's going on out there, political leaders! It's sick! And the world is even picking up on it and *mocking* this country here for how disgusting it all is over here and everything that's in our newspapers. They laugh at us! Because we're the head of it all, we lead it all.

Verse 24 - But they would not listen nor incline their ear, but walked in the counsels and the imagination of their evil heart, and went backward and not forward. It's an expression used over and over again like in Hosea where it talks about their backsliding, always going back farther away from God, not toward God. That's what the world has been doing for a long time.

Verse 25 – it goes on to say - **Since the day that your fathers came forth out of the land of Egypt until this day I have sent unto you all My servants the prophets, daily rising, it says, up early and sending**

them: Yet they listened not unto Me, nor inclined their ear, but hardened their neck that they did worse than their fathers. So the world just gets worse and worse and worse.

Therefore you shall speak all these words unto them; but they will not listen to you: God has to draw people by the power of His spirit before people can begin to hear. Because of our own normal carnal human nature, people will not listen to anything that God says, instead they'll make God after their own image, after their own...whatever they want. **...you shall also call upon them; but they will not answer you.**

Finally, **verse 28 - But you shall say to them, This is a nation that does not obey the voice of the Eternal their God, nor receives correction:** the margin is 'instruction'. It's a matter of instruction of how to live life. **...truth is perished and is cut off from their mouth.** There's only one way to bring truth into the world and that's what God's getting ready to do.

Let's go over to 2 Chronicles 36; incredible story here. Israel was taken captive and became known as the lost 10 tribes because of what they did, totally turning away from the Sabbath, totally turning away from the Holy Days of God. Judah was different; they were taken captive for seventy years because they began to pollute the Sabbath and began to disobey other of God's laws, but they continued to know the day and observe it in their own way.

2 Chronicles 36:11 - Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he became king, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. So now we're down to the time period here where the nation in the south now, Judah, is going to be taken captive into Babylon, and it talks about this period of time here now that's upon Judah and the different waves of conquering that took place here, because there were different waves of a process whereby they were finally taken captive fully.

Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he became king and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. And he did evil in the sight of the Eternal his God, and did not humble himself before Jeremiah the prophet who spoke from the mouth of the Eternal. And so again here, example of Jeremiah being sent and they wouldn't listen to Jeremiah, they wouldn't listen to any of the other prophets of that time either.

And going on it says in **verse 13 - And he also rebelled against King Nebuchadnezzar,** so it wasn't enough that he rebelled against God, it says he even rebelled against what he'd agreed to do concerning Nebuchadnezzar, because they had already come in with one wave and threatened them if they did not pay the high taxes and so forth and provide and do the things that they should do, that they would come back. And so it says he wouldn't even do that part. It says **he rebelled against King Nebuchadnezzar who had made him swear an oath by God: but he stiffened his neck and hardened his heart against turning unto the Eternal God of Israel. Moreover all the leaders of the priests and the people transgressed more and more;** they didn't get better! This is a *dumbfounding* thing to see an attitude and a spirit that exists even when people are down, even when things are getting bad – they actually become worse! Just like today and the economy gets worse and people get worse – something that should sober us up and sober... mankind doesn't, especially when we talk about nations like this, and it just...people just get worse and worse and worse.

That's why I have a hard time sometimes watching the news when it comes to the stock market; and this last week when it started shooting up again I thought, "This is so *sick!*" Because you see, there are going to be people who make money off of this! They know full well what they're doing! And some of the

things that go on as far as even manipulation in the markets. There are people who make money off of other people's suffering. It's a sick, sick world! But that's what's happening out there. And so others are afraid they're going to miss out of something so they throw their money in and these people know full well – just wait – they know it's going to go down again and they're going to make more money. They *know* it! They're *banking* on it! Crazy, crazy, sick, perverted, selfish mankind. Leaders! Leaders who do these things.

...moreover all the leaders of the priests and of the people transgressed more and more according to all the abominations of the nations; and defiled the house of the Eternal which He had consecrated in Jerusalem. So what's happening today is very much what's akin to what was happening then, in the sense of society, in the sense of the world, and even to an end of an age, and people don't care.

Verse 15 - And the Eternal God of their fathers sent warnings to them by His messengers, rising up early and sending them because He had compassion on His people and on His dwelling place: But they mocked the messengers of God, despised His words, and scoffed at His prophets until the wrath of the Eternal arose against His people, till there was no remedy. That's *exactly* what we're living in this period of time. That's why it's going to happen toward the end and not throughout this period of time, because what we're living through is a reflection of this past entire period of 6,000 years.

It says, **Therefore He brought upon them the king of the Chaldees who killed their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary and had no compassion on young man or virgin, on the aged, or the weak: He gave them all into his hand.** In other words He didn't prevent it from happening, just like He isn't going to prevent from happening what's coming. He's going to allow mankind to do to mankind what mankind wants to do...and then stop it all before he destroys himself. It's just that God is in control of the timing, that's the only difference in all this. It's something that man is doing to himself; God isn't causing this, God isn't causing what's happening in Europe, He isn't causing what's happening in Iran, He isn't causing what's happening in China or Russia and their alliances and the formation of... but He's in control of the timing of when He's going to allow certain things to come to pass and not. He's in full control, but the reality is this is what man does to man.

Verse 18 - And all the articles from the house of God, great and small, and the treasures of the house of the Eternal, and the treasures of the king and all his leaders; all these he took to Babylon. Then they burned the house of God, and broke down the wall of Jerusalem, burned it, burned all his palaces with fire and destroyed all its precious possessions. And those who escaped from the sword he carried away to Babylon; where they were servants to him and his sons until the rule of the kingdom of Persia: To fulfil the word of the Eternal by the mouth of Jeremiah, this is exactly what God said would happen. He didn't prevent it from happening, He told them what would happen and who would conquer them, and He allowed them to conquer them then.

Goes on to say here... **until the land had enjoyed her Sabbaths:** She had seventy years...seventy years. **As long as she lay desolate she kept Sabbath, to fulfil seventy years.** Awesome what God said. That part of the world was going to have a Sabbath. Judah wasn't letting it have a Sabbath, Judah wasn't observing a Sabbath, but God was going to give it rest because they were taken away captive into Babylon.

Verse 22 - Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the Eternal by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the Eternal stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and also put it in writing, saying, Thus says Cyrus king of

Persia, All the kingdoms of the earth the Eternal God of heaven has given me; and He has commanded me to build Him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Who is among you of all His people? May the Eternal his God be with him, and let him go up. And so again here, a time when he was going to let them leave after seventy years and return. And they began to have the different periods of time where they began to migrate back, but again, something that God said He was going to perform and going to do exactly in the period of time He said He was going to do it.

Let's turn over to another section here, Jeremiah 25 now, because it talks about Jeremiah during this period of time and some of the things he had said earlier on and what he had told Judah that God had given him. So we have stories like this of God's timing and everything happens perfectly as God says they will, and I think of what we're going through and the timing of things that you just can't make up, they're there. Everything that agrees like it does in such a powerful way...I don't know about you but it's inspiring to me.

Just like I was given/told something here before services today about an article. I guess it's on the website. It's an article here where it goes back to February 1972. It says 'Personal of Herbert W. Armstrong from Tomorrows World', and so it was published there in February of 1972, but in this it talks about the 19 year time cycles and he says, "The 19-Year Time Cycles -- What HAPPENED January 7 -- What My Commission IS!" and so he goes through this article here and he talks about what his commission is, what it is not as it states there in the very beginning. Continues on down through here talking about the importance of a particular date here – January 7, 1972... January 7, 2012 this year is the end of 6 cycles. Amazing! 40 years later. When I heard that today I don't have any hair down here low and the back of my neck, but it stood up, it really did. Awesome! It's because the timing of God is an incredible thing, of things that He works out and how He works them out and what He gives to us.

And just like the story here; because it took them time to come to understand what had been given to Jeremiah, even about the seventy years. They didn't know in the beginning they were going to be there seventy years but it had been written long before, been said long before, and yet they came to understand later on.

Jeremiah 25:1 - The word that came to Jeremiah concerning all the people of Judah in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah, which was the first year of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon; which Jeremiah the prophet spoke to all the people of Judah, and to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, saying, From the thirteenth year of Josiah the son of Amon, king of Judah, even to this day, this is the twenty-third year in which the word of the Eternal has come to me, and I have spoken to you, rising early and speaking; but you have not listened. Over and over again but always getting the same response. He was a witness for that period of time then, of what they were like, and it's written for us, it's written for all to understand. But again here, showing an attitude and a spirit.

And it goes on to say, **And the Eternal has sent to you all His servants the prophets, rising early and sending them; but you have not listened, nor inclined your ear to hear.** So it doesn't matter what the time period is. I'm very moved by a book who's title is '2008 – God's Final Witness', and showing, again, what's stated in that posting two times back of a process that God is taking mankind through here at the very end.

Verse 5 - Repent now everyone of his evil way, and his evil doings, and dwell in the land that the Eternal has given to you and your fathers forever and ever: Do not go after other gods to serve them, and worship them, and do not provoke Me to anger with the works of your hands; and I will not harm

you. Yet you have not listened to Me, says the Eternal; that you might provoke Me to anger with the works of your hands to your own hurt. It's what they do to themselves and what people do to themselves to this day.

Let's end here in Isaiah 65. Let's go over and read this section here. Over and over and over again through time, frankly going out from the very beginning if you go back to the very beginning of time, and God has had people doing the same thing, obviously different purpose concerning the Church as a whole until we got to the end, and then interestingly enough how He ends this period of time. Because there hasn't been a need for most of 2,000 years for there to be any prophets, because that hasn't been God's purpose to the world. God's purpose to the world over the past 2,000 years primarily has been about the Church and the vast majority who are going to make up, or who do make up the 144,000 that He's moulded and fashioned. But at the end He does something that He did a long time ago because it's a matter of a witness. It's a powerful, powerful thing, it truly is.

So God's desire has always been that people would listen and change and repent so that they wouldn't come to their own hurt, as we just read here.

Isaiah 65:1 – bringing us right up to the time we live in - **I am sought of them that asked not for Me; I am found of them that sought Me not: I said, Behold Me, behold Me, unto a nation that was not called by My name. I have spread out My hands all the day unto a rebellious people, which walk in a way that was not good, after their own thoughts;** You have different versions here, but this is the Old King James in how it's stated here, but it's talking about a process here of time toward the very end and talking about a nation that's not called by God's name. Israel is called by God's name, it's part of God's name. But Israel today doesn't bear God's name; United States, Belgium, the Netherlands, Australia, Canada – brings us up to the very end here and that is exactly what this period of time that is being discussed here.

Going on it says, **A people that provokes Me to anger continually to My face; that sacrifices in gardens, and burns incense upon the altars of brick; Which remain among the graves, and lodge in the mountains, which eat swine's flesh, and broth of abominable things in their vessels;** And so again here, God talking about how people worship Him and it brings us up to the end-time; and that's the period of time we're talking about here, about how people live. And people are so far away from God and yet there are people who do have God's name, as far as a physical nation, but they don't have it now.

Which say, Stand by Yourself, do not come near to me; for I am holier than You. It's an attitude of mind. **These are smoke in My nose, a fire that burns all the day.** In other words, if you look at Traditional Christianity, an attitude of mind toward God. In other words, they wouldn't consider listening to God because they're holier than God in the sense of what they have chosen – Sunday, Easter, Christmas – to where they think of Passover...well, that's Jewish. The Sabbath, the seventh day? That's foolish! It's been done away with, nailed to the cross.

And so basically it's kind of like the concept I've given in times past where even when it comes to corporal punishment for people who kill someone else – God says they should die. If there's absolute proof, in essence, that someone has murdered someone else, beyond any doubt, they should be put to death. Not months and months and years and years of court systems, not years and years... but you see, what is the attitude of this nation and other nations? Well, there are other nations that won't even kill someone, because if it came down to religion it's an attitude of mind, 'We're more righteous than

God.' God says kill someone, someone who says no, or whatever; it's this attitude of mind that they're more righteous than God. No, you should obey God.

In other words, religion can go so far that what is true seems absurd and what they're doing seems righteous, and that's what it's talking about here in Isaiah in its own way, an attitude of mind. In other words, what is true is laughed at, is mocked at, it's made fun of, it's insane to the normal human mind. The way of life you live, what you believe is insane to a way of life that others live in Traditional Christianity as a whole. And so this is how God describes them, of what they do, the same as what's described in times past...**eat swine's flesh, and broth of abominable things in their vessels; Which say, Stand by Yourself, do not come near me; for I am holier than You. These are a smoke in My nose, a fire that burns all the day.** In other words an irritation. It's an irritation to God to look upon this country, to see what it is doing and how people live life, and especially when they call something... can you imagine...after Your own Son, a religion that uses your own Son's name in such a distorted and perverted way, how that makes God feel toward a people.

Behold, it is written before Me: I will not keep silence, but will recompense, even recompense unto their bosom, in other words, there comes a time when people have to pay. And since the time that God took them into captivity no one's really had to pay. They've not had to pay for what they have done in the sense of a time of accountability, a time of judgment. God's been very merciful, truly has, for 6,000 years, except those two moments in time when Judah was taken captive and when Israel was taken captive.

Verse 7 - Your iniquities, and the iniquities of your fathers together, says the Eternal, which have burned incense unto the mountains, and blasphemed Me upon the hills: therefore will I measure their former work into their bosom. In other words, God is talking about how that there comes a time that what you have done is going to be measured back to you, but it hasn't happened until this period of time we're in right now.

Let's jump on down...**Verse 12 - Therefore will I number you to the sword, and you shall all bow down to the slaughter: because when I called you did not answer; when I spoke you did not hear;** It's been that way for 6,000 years, even when they were taken captive! And candidly, there were only very few through time that were in captivity, some of the prophets and different ones it mentions specifically, that showed that they did repent during a period of time. But going on here **...but did evil before Mine eyes, and did choose that wherein I did not delight. Therefore thus says the Lord Eternal, Behold, My servants shall eat but you shall be hungry: behold, My servants shall drink but you shall be thirsty:** if you understand the time period of what it's talking about here it's an awesome thing what God is saying – physically/spiritually for His people. Who are His people? All who repent and all who turn to Him, of all of what's getting ready to take place beginning with the Church.

Behold, My servants shall rejoice, but you shall be ashamed: So either people choose to repent when things come to this point in time or they don't, because there is a transition in time that God brings everyone to that we're rapidly approaching.

Kind of interesting going through and talking about some of the ministerial meetings we're having because those meetings are very much geared toward a transition in time that we're going to make in the Church concerning what we do and how we do it – especially when it comes to baptisms – because we're approaching that period of time and this is what God has brought us to and that's what this is talking about.

Behold, My servants shall sing for joy of heart, but you shall cry for sorrow of heart, when things begin to happen in the world around us we're not focused on the bad. We're going to be busy. You're going to be busy and you're going to be excited because you know when it's over with! You're going to be able to tell people very good news, because if this had started 3 ½ years ago, or 3 years ago, it would have been good news that it's going to end on May 27, 2012 but it's a lot better news now because by the time it starts, to be able to tell them it won't be long, Jesus Christ is going to return, these things are going to happen fast, God is going to intervene. Very good news, because a lot of people are going to begin turning – and so that's where this is at, this is what it's talking about;

Behold, My servants shall sing for joy of heart, because we're almost there. It gets more exciting the closer we get! Not because of the evil, not because we want to see the things I read about today, nuclear war, all the horrible things that are going to happen, but what happens at the other end of it – finally! Finally we can start cleaning up this world! Everything in the economy, everything to do with companies, corporations and how people live their life, things to do with entertainment and music, everything: we have the blessing, the opportunity to begin to change, and led by 144,001.

Behold, My servants shall sing for joy of heart, but you shall cry for sorrow of heart, and shall howl for vexation of spirit. There are those who howl to the end until they die. They don't want this to end. That's why I marvel that it's happening with what hurts people the most. That's what hurts people the most, especially those who misuse the things that are out there with the power that's there and the wealth that's there to be misused as it is. They're the ones that are going to suffer the most.

Going on in **verse 15 - And you shall leave your name for a curse unto My chosen: for the Lord Eternal shall slay you, and call His servants by another name:** It's a beautiful thing when you understand what it's all about. It's an understanding that everyone that becomes a part of the service to God – everyone in God's Church, we are servants. That's what we're called to, to serve God, to serve God's purpose. All those who live into a Millennial age, they're there to serve God for a different purpose, to create something new, to create something beautiful, to work with the world, to begin rebuilding something that God has looked forward to for a long, long time, this next 1,100 years, an *awesome time* that we all have an opportunity to be a part of if we'll remain faithful to God and do what God has given us.

...and call His servants by another name: a name, as it started out in the story, that they haven't been carrying; now they're going to carry it but on a spiritual plane because it's about Israel – not a physical nation but a spiritual one.

That he who blesses himself in the earth shall bless himself in the God of truth; in other words, those who are going to be blessed are going to be blessed because of the truth they have and because of the changes they make in their life. **...and he who swears in the earth shall swear by the Eternal;** It's about how you live. And it says... **the Eternal of truth;** it has to do with truth and what you live by, what you do when you come to baptism, when you make that declaration to God, when you come to a point in time when you tell God, "I'm Yours!"

Something I was thinking about last night. I marvel that as we yield our self to God He moulds and fashions our mind, and if we just yield our self to that process He is placing us all in a Body. Every one of you, God has a place in His Body. Just like in the body of the universe, it's a body, and God has placed everything out there precisely where He wants, precisely for a purpose in a very beautiful way. But each one of us in a far greater way as human beings, and with a mind that God is moulding and fashioning within us. And if we'd just yield our self to the process it's an awesome thing, of what He's doing if we'll

just yield our self to the process. He's moulding and fashioning your very thoughts in the sense of being at one with Him and being in agreement with Him.

Because...it goes on to say here...**because the former troubles are forgotten, and because they are hid from My eyes.** Why? It's talking about a change that's getting ready to take place in the world, because for 6,000 years it's always been the same, and that's the point of what God has given to us for this end-time and what we're a reflection of. It's *always* been the same until now! Finally, until now, and now it's all going to be forgotten and put behind because everyone's going to change, as a whole. This world is going to change from top to the bottom.

For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind. All the garbage and the filth and the things we can leave behind. What a blessing! Because we're going to be excited about what we're living and what people are able to live and the life we live in now and everything else... It's like when you come into the Church, you come to that point in time as you repent that you shed off more of self and you understand the old self is buried, where you come to a point where your past is in the past, it's not you anymore. You carry some of it with you but every time it starts to pop up its head you put it back down. That's what we're talking about, a total change; and the past, it's the past, and you go forward not having to be *hurt* by that past anymore.

For, behold, I create a new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come to mind. But be you glad and rejoice forever in that which I create: it's what God's creating! Isn't that an amazing thing? And all we have to do is yield our self to the process. All of you who are called, all you have to do is yield yourself to the process – God will help you to change, God will help your mind to think differently and there's a battle there you have to fight against your own nature. But if you continue to yield yourself to it God's actually moulding and fashioning your very mind. It's an awesome thing!

But be you glad and rejoice forever in that which I create, for behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, I think about having talked about that in times past here and what Jerusalem means, the very opposite of Babylon; Babylon that's going to fall and that which God has looked forward to for so long – Jerusalem, peace, peace being restored, peace being given to this earth, **and her people a joy.**

And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in My people: and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying. That's where it's heading. We know it doesn't start out that way at the beginning of the thousand years, but that's the way it ends at the end of 1,100 years.

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