

The Beginning of God's Church, Pt. 4

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This will be *Part Four* of our continuing series, *The Beginning of God's Church*. We're going to continue in the story flow where we left off last Sabbath as part of a reminder and then continue on from there. Quite an incredible story, some of these things that we're going through here in the sense of what's written in the book of Acts, and we're going to pick it up today in **Acts 7, verse 37**. Every opportunity they had as the Church was beginning, whether it was Peter or Paul, Saul if you will, in this particular case, or some of the others, God used, or gave occasion to work through them, to remind them of their history and things that they needed to be reminded of, in that respect, as far as the beginning of a church. And so, in **verse 37** it says, **“This is that Moses, who said unto the children of Israel, ‘A Prophet will the Lord your God raise unto you of your brethren...’”**

So again here, being reminded as we are so often, of things we go through, whether it be, even of times past, of things we've had to go through in the Church. Often being reminded of the Apostasy, of things we're not supposed to forget. And here's the beginning of the Church, and they're continually being reminded of what Israel was like, what Israel did, and the changes that they're to make, and why, and how, and so forth.

So, it says, “You're to listen to a particular prophet here,” it says, **“like unto me, him you shall hear. This is he that...”** Again, this is speaking now of Moses in this particular case, but it's talking about, “There's a prophet coming that you're to listen to,” as they were to listen to Moses. It says, **“This is he, speaking of Moses, that was in the Church in the wilderness with the angel who spoke to him in Mount Sina, or Mount Sinai, as it is we recognize and use, and with our fathers; who received the lively oracles to give unto us; to whom our fathers would not obey.”**

So again, reminding them they didn't obey, they didn't listen to Moses, they didn't do what was given to them, **“But pushed him away from them, as it says here, and in their hearts turned back again toward Egypt.”** It doesn't take very long, and so this just was a repeated thing that happened throughout the 40 years, as far as their attitude was concerned. Not that at the end of 40 years or at 35 or 20 that they wanted to go back in Egypt, but it shows an attitude of mind

of how they dealt with their thinking toward Moses or toward God. They really didn't see God in the picture; they looked toward the leader.

“Then they said to Aaron, ‘Make us a god to go before us: for as for this Moses, who brought us out of the land of Egypt, we don't know what's become of him.’” So again, we went through this last Sabbath, talking about when he's on the Mount, up there for so long that, after a while, it didn't take long, and they began to think, “Something happened to him, who could live through all that?” and blah, blah, blah. It's just an attitude, frame of mind, a way of thinking; they wanted to do their own thing.

“Then they made a calf in those days, and offered sacrifice unto the idol, and rejoiced in the work of their own hands.” This is not just something that happened then, but something that is to be remembered from that point forward, as far as an attitude of mind of what people do, human nature. “We worship what we make, what comes out of this mind and what we do.” That's the thinking of human beings, and that's a condemnation that's given to Israel throughout time, as far as prophecy is concerned, that that's the way we think, what we build up, what we make, whether it be a great nation, a great city, or whatever. That's where our focus is, it's on physical things, physical things that we do, and investments and money and so forth.

Then it says, **“God turned away,** as mentioned last Sabbath, as it means here, as to turn His back, turn away from, not to listen, not to take care of, and so forth, **and delivered them up to worship the host of heaven.”** So, if that's what they want to do, He let them, obviously. God doesn't make us do anything. That's a lesson that's continued throughout scripture, throughout the last 6,000 years. What an awesome thing, we serve a God who lets us make choices, free to make choices. And what else would God want than for people to do it by choice, whatever it is you want. If you want to love God, if you want to look to God, if you want to live by right morals and so forth, you want to have good standards in your life, then that's a choice that's given to human beings, even in traditional Christianity or Judaism or whatever it might be.

“As it is written in the book of the prophets, ‘O you house of Israel, have you offered to me slain animals and sacrifices by the space of 40 years in the wilderness?’” They went through the motions of things, but didn't do a thing in the mind, in that respect, just carnal, physical, selfish, human beings without God's spirit. That's horrible, but that's the way human beings are. Even when the great God of the Universe comes in and gives opportunity to learn things, to

receive things, to have protection, to have favor with other nations or to go in and destroy their enemies, whatever it might be, incredible. **“Yes, you took up the tabernacle of Moloch.”** So, what an incredible contrast here that they would rather serve Moloch than God because of all the different kinds of things that Moloch offered. It's just perversions.

Human beings are more attracted by selfish, carnal nature, without God, without God's Spirit, that's what I mean, comparing what they had received, knowing about God, and that 40 years in the wilderness and so forth; they preferred to serve Moloch. And if you read anything about some of that, it's sick and perverted and distorted; offering up their children in sacrifice, that's how far they went. I can't comprehend that, you know? All the things that had to do with every kind of imaginable perversion. They preferred that. So, it's not a shocker, because it's much easier for human beings to live that way than it is to live by morals, strong morals, where they're told how they should be living and how they should treat their neighbor and how they should think.

People want to be free to do whatever they want to do. That's one thing I really dislike in the world when it comes to different kinds of parties and so forth. Though they're both wrong, as far as having two types, it's far better to try to live a conservative life than it is to be liberal and do anything you want to do. Look what's happened to this country because of a liberal attitude. That's what it is. It's a difference between being still wrong, far to the right, and ultra-conservative, but you have a lot more peace, more, in that respect as far as morals and the like, or things that people try to live by, more so than that which is on the liberal side. Because the liberal side is, “Do whatever you want to do,” and if you get bad enough, that attitude and spirit becomes so bad, they try to force it on others.

That's what I hate about the stripes, of all the colors on that flag, because that mindset becomes so perverted. They demand that everybody else be like they are. They really do. It is sick, it's perverted. It's one thing if people have problems and battles in life, and everybody has different things in their life that they have to battle, regardless, as human beings, even in the Church before we're called. But when you learn about what is right, you have the choice to strive to live it before a God. And if you have certain inclinations that are wrong before God, if you're an adulterer, which so much of the world is anyway, then that attitude has to be fought against. They have to learn to combat it as much as the other side that has all the different colors in the rainbow, you know, they have to fight against that and not engage in that weakness

that's in them. That's the choice to obey God or not to obey God. Everybody has faults and weaknesses and sins. That's why sometimes people get on a high horse and condemn, but the farther you go away from things that are normal, things that God made as natural, the more perverted this mind becomes.

That's why Sodom and Gomorrah, the people did what they did toward the end there, with Lot, his family, and why that was such an ugly occasion. Because they were forcing their way on the rest of the people, anybody that came into the city, they were going to force their way. That's a mindset that's in that kind of a practice, if you will, if people continue to go in that direction. Because they have to justify it, they want more of that. That's why I wonder about the Great White Throne sometimes. How many? How many who have practiced evil for so long can really be worked with when they're resurrected? How many will really choose God? Well, that's why I know that it's going to be into the billions of those who are taken care of "...as the sand of the sea," it says, at the end, because there are going to be so many.

That's why I'm glad we've come through that process within the Church to understand, to grow to where God has shown us that the Great White Throne is not a picnic, where it's not a time when everything is absolutely perfect. It's going to be powerful, in the sense of God's government still reigning after a thousand years, one government on the earth, one truth on the earth, those things that are upheld, but there are still going to be people, especially those of whatever they practiced, whatever they lived before, who are going to continue to live some of those things. Because they don't agree with God, and they'd rather live a hundred years in perversion than to obey God Almighty. That's mind-boggling, but we should understand it and know it. You can't make anyone choose God. You can't make anyone want God's way of life. There are lessons to be learned in that, truly.

“Yes, you took up the tabernacle of Moloch, and the star of your God, Remphan...” Kind of interesting in going through some of this and reading about some of these things and looking into it a little bit. I think of how the cross is used by traditional Christianity to portray one's religious beliefs and so forth. And there is a possibility that the star they had is very much like the star, what they call the Star of David, because there's no account anywhere in scripture or anywhere else, where he had a star that was designed like what is looked at and that people wear around their neck in Judaism. They may have one thing that's as bad as the cross, maybe, don't know 100%. I kind of tend to think that it is that way, but hey, time will tell, but I won't be

totally shocked. **“...figures which you made to worship them, and I will remove you beyond Babylon.”**

So again, very prophetic here of what was told to them, and that's exactly what happened. You go through the history of what took place, it went up to the time of David, and then after that, back and forth in Judah. But after Solomon, then the entire nations, they split up, and ten were in the north, and Judah, and a few others there in the south. Incredible what took place after that. And so in time, even Judah. Yes, the others were taken into Assyria in the north, they were so far off, but as far as Judah was concerned, they even had to be taken beyond Babylon. That's what this is talking about.

“Our fathers had the tabernacle of Witness in the wilderness. As He had appointed, speaking unto Moses, that he should make it according to the pattern he had seen, which also our fathers in turn brought in with Joshua to take possession from the Gentiles, whom God drove out before the face of our fathers until the time, up to the time, if you will, of David, who obtained favor before God and desired to obtain, or to build, a tabernacle for the God of Jacob. But Solomon built Him a house.” So again, they're familiar with this, what's being said here. They understand, they have much that's been taught, in that respect, about things of the Old Testament, the stories, because that's the thing that people tend to hold on to are the stories and not yet understanding what they're about and the like. He's repeating these things that they really have to agree with and do agree with up to this point in time.

Verse 48 – “Howbeit the Most High does not dwell in temples made with hands.” Now there are some things here that they begin to be reminded, or begin to be told, that they didn't tend to think about. Just as traditional Christianity doesn't tend to think about various things that are said in scripture, that are easy to pass over, and yet they pass over them and read them, but read them as nice little stories, but don't grasp the importance of what is really being said because they can't. **“As said by the prophet, ‘Heaven is my throne, and earth is my footstool.’”** Powerful! That's got to make you feel, as it should, a little small: “You're going to build me something to dwell in?” And yet it says here, “The earth is my footstool, the heavens are my throne,” if you will. All of that, “That's where I am. I'm throughout everything,” but they couldn't grasp that. They can't grasp that without God's Spirit, but they have to look at it on a physical plane and be reminded of how great God really is. **“‘What house will you build me?’ says the Lord. ‘Or what is the place of my rest?’”**

What an awesome thing, that within the Church we know what this means. The world doesn't know what this means as a whole. They just, they don't grasp it. "And where is the place of my rest?" For us to understand what that means? That God's desire is to have rest in, peace in, where He dwells, and where does He want to dwell? In us, but not in this state fully, I mean, He wants to dwell in us, He wants to help us and give us strength and the guidance and the direction and the transformation of the mind, but it leads up to a time when we're actually able to be born. Not just begotten of God's spirit, but born Elohim, awesome! That's where God's going to dwell forever, in His family. Awesome!

"Where is the place of my rest? Has not my hand made all these things?" "You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears!" So, we talked about this, "Uncircumcised in heart and hearing," **You do always resist the Holy Spirit as your fathers did!** That which God gives through the power of His Spirit, truth, that He gave through Moses, truth, they couldn't comprehend because it's spiritual. But being of a carnal human nature, it shows what we're like; we resist, we resist God. God is Spirit, and that which He gives, which is life, is in His Word. And we resist it as human beings; even once we're begotten, we still resist. That's why we have to fight this, to conquer and overcome this. That's why you never quit. So when you're baptized, there's never a point in time that you quit. You don't give up. You don't turn your back on it. You keep doing it until it's done, incredible!

"...circumcised in heart and ears, you do always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. Which of the prophets have your fathers not persecuted?" It's showing here again how much human beings detest, look down upon, do not want God, what God says. **"Even they have killed those who showed before about the coming of the Just One."** So much of prophecy and things that are written, things about the Just One, about the Messiah, and things that are written by the prophets, **"of whom you now have been the betrayers and murderers..."**

So, leading up to the time of Joshua, the Just One, and all those things told as far as scripture's concerned, about the Messiah and God's kingdom that's coming. Then, **verse 53 – "...who have received the law by the dispensation of angels."** So again, this word angel, sometimes messengers, so it can be through the prophets of old and so forth. It doesn't just have to be about angels and what angels have been given, in that respect, to give to us, because some of it doesn't really work that way, in that respect. There are times they did come with messages, but as a whole, there is that that God gave to individuals to teach, to preach, and so forth.

“...and have not kept it.” So where’d that come from? Well, as a whole, God gave it by the power of His Spirit directly to prophets to write, to speak, and so forth. **Verse 54 – “When they heard these things, they were cut apart to the heart, and they ground their teeth at him.”** So again, it's not “on,” you know. I love scriptures like this sometimes because people think that they're going up and they hate it so much they're gnashing on him, “Give me a piece of that arm,” and everybody's biting into his arm, anyway.

“But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, looked up steadfastly to heaven, saw the glory of God, and Joshua standing on the right hand of God, and said, ‘Behold, I see the heavens open and the Son of Man standing on the right hand of God.’ Then they cried out with a loud voice and placed their hands on their ears and ran up on him with one accord, even to cast him out of the city and stone him. Now the witnesses had laid down their cloaks at the young man's feet, it says, whose name was Saul, and so again, going through this, and then they stoned him, Stephen, and he called upon God saying, ‘Lord Joshua, receive my spirit.’ He kneeled down and cried with a loud voice, ‘Lord, do not lay this to their charge.’ So when he had said this, he fell asleep.”

So again here, just going through the story, being reminded of some of the flow here that, again, this is something we're to think about in dealing with other people. We're to remember what, in that respect as it talks about here, what we're like and how to treat people and, as Christ said, “Don't hold this against them.” That's how we have to think about other people because they don't have the ability, the capacity, to understand, to grasp what they're experiencing.

Chapter 8, it says, Now Saul was consenting unto death. In other words, gave his approval to go ahead and have Stephen killed. **At that time, a great persecution arose among the Church which was in Jerusalem, and they all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except for the apostles.** Now this is incredible. Here, at the very beginning of the Church, the apostles are staying there, but persecution is there and they're out to get different ones. They killed Stephen. And so here is Saul, who desires to bring in others and, candidly, have them killed. That's the attitude of mind here because they're seen as an enemy, they're seen as a threat, and so that's how they dealt with it at that time because of the Roman government and the like.

It says, **Now devout men carried away Stephen and made great lamentation over him. As for Saul, he made havoc,** a word that means in the Greek, ravaged, if you will, **of the Church,**

entering into every house...” Can you imagine this? There are hundreds that have been called there. There are hundreds who have stayed here, actually a few thousand, who have stayed there in Jerusalem; they put things together in order to stay there longer. And now persecution is being stirred up more because there are so many of them, and what's being spoken of throughout that area, in that city, is more than the leaders can take, more than the rulers of that area can take, and the Pharisees and Sadducees. So now it's almost, like it were, becoming a war, except its one-sided because there's one side wanting to destroy the other one. And so that's why it says here, **“entering into every house, and dragging off men and women to be delivered to prison.”**

So what are you going to do? Well, you're going to leave town. You're going to scatter abroad. That's what happened to the Church. So now it was time, through a very difficult trial, to begin to spread out. I think of what happened to the Church after the Apostasy. God protected us by being scattered all over, a little here, a little there. No threat to anyone else and small, incredible. Hard to go through, hard to experience, but God had a purpose in all that, that may not be over with. **“He made havoc of the Church, entering into every house, and dragging off men and women to be delivered to prison. Therefore indeed, those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the Word.”**

So everywhere people went, what did they do? They talked about it. They talked about it. Not in Jerusalem anymore, now they were spread out and they talked about what had happened and what they believed and what they saw. It's kind of like when you first come into the Church; you're excited and you want to share it with everyone. Then you learn later on, they don't get it. They can't receive it, but there's that excitement. And here, the Church is just beginning, so God is drawing and calling others, and a seed here and a seed there. Because, as you go through the story of Acts and you keep going through it, the Church just kept growing and growing. In some areas, almost entire towns or cities, or whatever it is they went into, were converted, incredible! We don't tend to think that way when we think of their travels and where they went and what took place.

Verse 5 –Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ to them. So again, they spread out. They were spread out of Jerusalem. They didn't want to stay around, not a good place to be. You're going to get drug into prison if you do, maybe killed, whatever. **Now the multitudes with one accord gave attention to the things spoken by Philip, hearing and**

seeing the miracles which he did. God gave strength to that in order to have this message go out even stronger. **For unclean spirits, crying with loud voices, came out of many who were possessed...** Incredible what happened back then and what a demonic world was doing in that part of the world at this time, **and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed. So there was great joy in that city.** These things spread like wildfire.

Now it wasn't just in Jerusalem and the things that were happening there, as it happened with Christ, and then the apostles, as they were preaching constantly. Now this was starting to go into other areas, because it was God's time for the Church to be scattered into other regions. People had to go through various things. It's not always easy. He let them go through some very hard things, difficult, beaten sometimes, put in prison, whatever it might be. Then different ones who spread out into other areas. **So there was great joy in that city. But there was a certain man called Simon, who previously practiced sorcery in the city and amazed the people of Samaria, claiming that he was someone great.**

So, here's a story of what is believed to be, one who took on the name, eventually, Simon Peter. And that religion that began to come up, false as it was, using the name of Christ, using the name of God, and so forth, and teaching certain stories, but mixing it in with the ideas he had from other religions, which was something the Romans liked to do anyway, in their culture, and he began doing that very early on. He's one of the earliest then, mentioned here, he is the earliest in scripture mentioned here, of someone who began to do that, who began to grow in notoriety, if you will, recognition, being recognized by others, and these ideas that he had that began to spread. They began to spread in other areas because he mixed it with other religions. Look what happened to that great church that started in 325; it started long before that, the movement did. Here's a part of it.

That's why there's that great big statue where they've almost kissed the toe off of it, mind-boggling, made out of stone, kissed it so much. You think, "How is that even possible? How many lips had to touch that thing and be rubbed against it?" I mean really; thousands and thousands and hundreds of thousands, to kiss a stupid toe to where there's a dent in it, crazy.

To whom they all gave attention, from the least to the greatest, saying, "This man has great works of God." So, it isn't hard to fool human beings, foolish human beings, when they see various things, especially when there's a power that's involved there behind all that. Look what happened with the Apostasy and things that can be changed and things that can be influenced.

There's a power there that can work in the minds of human beings, broadcast, and people are able to receive it. And what do they receive? God or a counterfeit? Which is easier?

So they paid attention to him, because he had amazed them with his sorceries for a long time.

Now, I wanna back up to this point I just made about which is easier to believe because the reality is that, without a calling, you can't believe what is true in the first place. So, it's easy to deceive the natural, human, carnal mind with something like this because God wasn't calling, as it were, large numbers of people. Those whom He was calling, you know what happened? They heard what He had to say. There's a difference here. They would hear the truth. Something clicks in the mind. If God's calling someone, they'll be able to hear it, and then they have a choice of decisions to make.

Anyway, going on, **So they paid attention to him**, this Simon, **because he had amazed them with sorceries for a long time**. Because he had already been in that area for a long time and now something new had come along and it appears to be greater. **Now when they believed Philip, as he preached the things concerning the Kingdom of God, and the name of Joshua the Christ, both men and women were baptized**. So there were those who were being drawn, called by God, and they wanted to be baptized. They saw it, they understood it. **Then Simon himself also believed...** Incredible! He saw enough, he heard enough, and it says, "He believed what he was hearing." **...and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip and was amazed seeing the miracles and signs which were done**. So, was he being called? Was he being drawn? Doubtful, but he came up to this point. This has happened in God's Church. People have come along because they like what they hear, and there are certain things you can see that, even with a carnal mind, you can grasp and comprehend that Easter is a bunch of, you know, and so is Christmas, and you can grasp certain principles and see certain things that are written and say, "Oh, yeah, that makes sense. Oh, yeah, Easter's not in the Bible. Oh, yeah, Passover is! And the seventh day!"

There are things on a physical plane that people can latch on to and have a belief in. There are religions out here who believe in the seventh day, anyway. Doesn't mean God's calling them or drawing them. It says here, **He continued with Philip and was amazed seeing the miracles and signs which were done**. **Now when the apostles who were in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the Word of God**, so it's very clear here then meaning that they were able to receive it because they were being drawn and called, and they wanted to be baptized, and so

there's a next step here. It says, **they sent Peter and John to them, who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit.** Hands laid upon them. That's what we learned in scripture in the book of Acts, that's what they learned they were supposed to do. They were to lay hands after a baptism. They hadn't had this happen to them; they had only been baptized, like John's baptism, unto repentance.

But they knew more now because of the Christ, because of the Messiah, because of what Joshua fulfilled. And so they received more understanding, in the sense of knowing and knowledge, but again, not the Holy Spirit. And so, they sent down the apostles here, as it says here, and they laid hands upon them. **For as yet, it, speaking of the Holy Spirit, had fallen upon none of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord, Joshua. Then they laid hands on them.** This is where we receive this. This is where the Church came to understand that this is a part of the process that has to come through the ministry of the Church, that there are supposed to be hands laid upon someone, after baptism, in order to be impregnated with the Holy Spirit. This is how God works. It isn't just about baptism, it's about everything that one receives when they come into the Church must come through the structure that God gives. There is no other way, awesome!

That's why it's such an abominable, sick, perverted, disgusting, blasphemous thing what took place, by so many in California, to begin saying that Herbert Armstrong was a great teacher, and they wouldn't acknowledge him as being an apostle anymore. That is how they learned the truth, disgusting. How could you ever lose that? Well, it shows right there, what's in them, and it wasn't God's Spirit.

Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. Now when Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles' hands, that the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money. He saw something, he recognized there's a connection here. These people, they changed! Isn't that an amazing thing? It's one thing to take that step, but it's another thing being able to continue to grow and understand and be able to speak about things on a spiritual plane. He could see this change, awesome! He was saying, **"Give me this power also that anyone on whom I lay hands may receive the Holy Spirit."** We've had plenty of that in the Church too. You know, people, you think, what they wanted to get out of it, "I want to be seen as one who can give the Holy Spirit. I want to be seen as one who preaches, who teaches," and God has to do that.

It's God's choosing and design, whether He does or doesn't, and where He places us in the Body, incredible. **But Peter said to him, "Your money perish with you."** So he tried to pay for it, tried to give him money to have hands laid upon him. **"Because you thought that the gift of God could be purchased with money."** It showed right there, he wasn't, he didn't have the calling of God's Spirit. He couldn't see it; he didn't grasp it. He wanted something else; to empower himself because of what he lived before and that influence that he had. He thought he could have far greater influence now, more power.

"You have neither part nor portion in this matter, for your heart is not right in the sight of God." It was clearly able to be seen then. It was made manifest, "You're way out in left field, and you're not a part with us." **Verse 22 – "Repent therefore of this, your wickedness, and pray to God if perhaps the intent of your heart may be forgiven you. For I see that you are poisoned with bitterness and bound by iniquity."** Then Simon replied and said, **"Pray to the Lord for me that none of these..."**

See, isn't it amazing? It's easier to have someone else, "Please do this for me because I don't think I'm quite right or I'm not right with God or I don't have it." It's like, "He already told you what you're supposed to do. You should pray. You should ask for forgiveness." But he wouldn't do it. **"Pray to the Lord for me that none of these things which you have spoken might come upon me."** So when they had testified and preached the Word of the Lord they returned to Jerusalem preaching the gospel in many villages of the Samaritans. So again, in Samaria, throughout Samaria.

So again, this was a means by which things could begin going out. The disciples then saw the need to begin going out. That's how God works. It doesn't matter what time period it is. It's like I mentioned being up there in Toledo and Detroit area. Then Cincinnati came along. I saw there was a need. Then Georgia came along, and I saw there was a need to go down there, and then we talked about, later on, showed that, going over to Europe, going to Australia there was a need. People were scattered all over the place and that's where people were being raised up.

Verse 26 - Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip saying, "Arise and go toward the south, along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza, that's in the desert. So he rose and went, and observed a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace, the Queen of the Ethiopians, who had charge of all her treasury, and had gone to Jerusalem to worship, and was returning.

So again here, what an incredible story here, whether this is a spinoff of things that had happened long before, as a matter of Solomon and so forth, and Ethiopia and that relationship with Judaism. I don't know, but it seems to be the case. It says, **Now sitting in his chariot, he was reading Isaiah the prophet when the Spirit said to Philip, "Go near and overtake this chariot."** What an incredible thing. I mean, to me this is marvel because there are things here we didn't really understand in times past, in the same way, to understand that God communicates through His Spirit of things that sometimes people are supposed to do, especially, like Herbert Armstrong, or different ones in the ministry, if God is doing something, of something that needs to be done. He just puts it in the mind, incredible!

They understood that. When it was there, they knew it wasn't of them. They knew where it came from. And so here, it's powerful, and He said, "Do this." And so, he did it. It says, **Philip ran to him and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah.** Now at this time, especially in the beginning, God had this even more powerfully in that respect, and more often, as we go through the story of Acts here. Because this is just the beginning and they don't have any experience in these things. I think of Hebert Armstrong often. He had no one to teach him, save God and Christ. He had no one to tell him of what had happened in the last 18, 1900 years. And yet, little by little, he grew, and God worked with his mind to change him, to help him to see things in the speed and in the process whereby God was going to mold and fashion him. He didn't give everything all at once; there's a purpose in all that.

So again, reading out of Isaiah and the Spirit told him to go there and Philip ran and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah and said, **"Do you understand what you're reading?" Then he said, "How can I, except someone guide me?" So he asked Philip to come up and sit with him.**

I think, when I read something like this, I think of long ago, being a teenager, young teenager, picking up a Bible that an aunt had given to me at graduation from the eighth grade, back then we had graduation from the eighth grade, I don't know if they still have that. And going into high school and I started reading and it's like, it might as well have been in Greek. It's like, "What am I reading?" You don't know!

The place in the scripture which he read was this: "He was led as a sheep to the slaughter."

You think that was by accident? You know, God was working in this for a purpose, and God was working with him for a purpose, that that's what he was reading. That wasn't just a fluke. He didn't just happen to be reading that particular scripture. God was in it. God had put it in his

mind. He didn't know why, but that's what he was reading, but he couldn't understand it. **"He was led as a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before its shear is silent. So he did not open his mouth."**

What an incredible thing to understand, when the mind is opened up, to understand that he came the first time as a lamb, to be put to death. That's why the world of traditional Christianity just can't understand certain things. They don't grasp and comprehend, and the timing involved and why 2,000 years? All these things that we just can take for granted if we're not careful. That's why I've mentioned over and over again, not to take the truth for granted, but to understand how blessed we are, how rich we are with what God has given to us! No one else understands these things! Not anywhere close! Not even in the scattered Church!

Going on, **"...did not open His mouth, in his humiliation, justice was denied Him, and who can declare His generation? for His life was taken from the earth."** So the eunuch answered Philip and said, **"I ask you, of whom does the prophet say this?"** So this thinking even, the thought, "What's this about?" was inspired, was given to him. He didn't just come out of the blue because he was to be given an answer. He was to be worked with; God was drawing him. You know, God is incredibly powerful, far more than we can grasp and comprehend, truly. Always ought to be in deep awe.

"Of himself or some other man?" Then Philip opened his mouth and beginning in the scripture, preached Joshua to him. He began to show him what Joshua had fulfilled, what Christ came and fulfilled, that He was the Passover, that He was the Lamb of God. **Now as he went down the way, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, water, what's to keep me from being baptized?"** So, he'd already told him all these things! He'd already told him about what Christ did and why He did it and the need to be baptized and the whole process there of what God is doing and people are coming into the Church, and on and on it goes and he's with God the Father now, and all this was given to him. **Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may."** Then he answered and said, **"I believe that Joshua the Christ is the Son of God."** Powerful! Awesome!

So, what an incredible thing when something like this happens, when we are called, when our minds are open and we come to that conviction; we see it. We understand it. We comprehend it. We know it's not the Jesus of traditional Christianity. We see something totally different. Awesome!

So he commanded the chariot to stand still: then both Philip and the eunuch went down to the water; and he baptized him. Now when they'd come up out of the water, the spirit of the Lord took Philip away. Don't know what all this means, but it says what it says. **So that the eunuch didn't see him anymore; and he went on his way rejoicing.** Because of everything now that he could see, and grasp, and comprehend. **But Philip was found to be in Azotus, and passing through, he preached in all the cities until he came to Caesarea.** Totally away from this area.

Chapter 9. So again here, the beginning of the Church, seeing the things that God did, over and over and over again. To give encouragement, to give help, to give boldness, to give ability that had to be there in the beginning, to give people that kind of encouragement and help. Because they didn't have anyone else there to teach them, to tell them these things to do, and yet God was working with them, giving them understanding in the mind, and being able to experience these kinds of things so they could witness and see God was with them. Awesome.

Chapter 9 - Now Saul, still breathing out threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest, the one who said, gave his nod, "Yes, kill Stephen," **and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were in this way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.** He was on a mission. He was zealous about what he did. That's just the way he was. That was the nature he had, and God used that when he converted him, when he called him. God knew what was in him. That's why things happened so quickly. This is a marvel what God did in Saul's life, it truly is.

As he traveled, he came near Damascus and suddenly a light was shining around him from the sky; then he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" Can you imagine such a thing? You're driving along, pull over quickly to the side, can't see a thing and here's this light and you're hearing something and, I mean, these are incredible things, powerful things. This just didn't happen to people and that had a great impact, obviously, on Saul. **Then he said, "Who are you, Lord?"** Right away, "This is greater than me." "Who are you, Lord?" **And the Lord said, "I am Joshua..."** Can you imagine? I mean, it's hard for us to place ourselves in certain conditions, situations sometimes, but it's good to try a little bit, and to think what that would be like all of a sudden. He knew exactly who he was talking about, he knew exactly what was being said, **"...whom you are persecuting."**

Then it adds to this in some scriptures, "It's hard for you to kick against the goads." It's not even in this verse, but it was added later on. But it is in some other verses later on. It's in Acts 26:14. But why they took something, I guess to give some clarity here of making the stories mesh or go together. But just because something's left out of one story doesn't mean you can't understand it with what's said a little bit later, because it is added later on in Acts 26:14. That's where the phrase is. This was a kind of thing on the back for oxen and so forth. They had this bar sometimes out of wood, sometimes out of metal, and if an ox didn't like what was being done to them, they'd try to kick, but they just got hurt more when they would kick back. This was to help control them. So anyway, that's part of controlling them and helped. And so he said, "Isn't it hard for you to do this? You're just hurting yourself." That's the story, that's the answer.

Acts 9:6. Something that he understood. **So trembling and being astonished,** I think anyone would be, you know, having that kind of power. Even now, knowing what we know. If God did that within the Church and all of a sudden something happened like that, it's like, you know,

So trembling and being astonished, he said, "Lord, what do you want me to do?" Then the Lord said to him, "Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." Now the men who travelled with him stood speechless, hearing a voice but seeing no one. Then Saul arose from the ground and when his eyes were opened, he couldn't see anything, so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. So, we're talking about way up north here, at this point.

Now he came three days without sight, and would neither eat nor drink. Now there was a certain disciple at Damascus named Ananias, and to him the Lord said in a vision, "Ananias," and he said, "Here I am, Lord." It's like knocking at the door or whatever, and "Here I am." You know, "Who's speaking to me anyway?" **"Here I am, Lord."** That's a quick answer because it's more powerful than you, if you can't see them, anyway. So it had to be in the mind too that he grasped something. **So the Lord said to him, "Arise and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for one called Saul of Tarsus: for see, he is praying." And in a vision he has seen a man named Ananias coming in, and putting his hand on him so that he might receive his sight."** Incredible!

He's telling him, "This is what he's seeing." He's praying and he's seeing that there's a man named Ananias that's going to come to him and do these things. "You know what your job is? Your name is Ananias." Anyway. **Then Ananias answered "Lord, I have heard from many about**

this man, how much harm he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; now here he has authority from the chief priest to take bound all who call on your name.” So this already went out. They knew what he was doing. They knew that he had the authority to go out after the Church, for people in the Church. That's why he's telling God this, “Do you not know this? It's like you're speaking to Christ or God, whatever, and it's like, “You don't know this?” That's how we think.

But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen vessel of mine, to bear my name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel.” Now, you think of this change that took place so quickly. This is an astounding change that took place so rapidly that God knew his mind. He knew what he would do when he received His calling and His spirit. Isn't that incredible? That God so knows the mind of human beings. Powerful! He knew what he would do, and what he was called to do, and why he would respond in the way he was going to respond throughout his ministry. The series that follows this is about Paul, Saul, because the things that God did through him, he did in a more powerful way than he did any other apostle, truly. He wrote more books, God gave him far more to write and to give, awesome!

“For I will show how many things he must suffer for my name's sake.” So this is what he's telling him. **So Ananias, verse 17, went his way and entered the house and, laying his hands on him, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Joshua, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you might receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.”** This is incredible what he's told and what he follows through with. He does what God tells him to do, what Christ tells him, and he knows that Saul's going to be given the Holy Spirit.

Immediately, there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he received his sight at once. And he arose and was baptized. So when he had received food, he became strengthened. Then Saul spent certain days with the disciples in Damascus. Immediately he preached about Christ in the synagogues... You can see why they had the feelings they did toward him, in certain areas, when he came into those areas. Because it was like, it was hard for them to believe that God could do this, or even would do this. If God has a purpose and a plan no matter who it is, God's going to accomplish it. **...that He is the Son of God,** preaching about Christ.

Then all who heard were amazed and said, "Is this not he who ravaged, created havoc is what the word means, tried to destroy, **those who called on this name in Jerusalem and has come here for that purpose?”** They didn't trust him. It's like, “This is a trick,” you know, “he's doing something false here to trick us so that he can get us all together and take us.” So this is kind of

what's going through the mind and you can understand that. **So that he might bring them bound to the chief priests. But Saul increased all the more in strength and confounded the Jews who dwelt in Damascus, proving that he is the Christ.** Talking about Christ, the Messiah, and proving the things that had been given out of scripture.

Verse 23 - Now after many days had passed, the Jews plotted to kill him. Isn't that amazing? Didn't take very long. They hated this so much, of what was taking place, and now Saul has betrayed them and so now they're out to get him. They want him dead. **...but their plot became known to Saul. Now they watched the gates day and night to kill him. But the disciples took him by night, and led him down through the wall in a large basket.** Reminds you of Jericho. You know, if God wants you to escape, He's going to help you escape, so He did here. **Now when Saul had come to Jerusalem, he attempted to join himself with the disciples, but they were all afraid of him,** easy to understand. They knew he had Stephen killed and knew what he had been doing there and terrorizing the Church and killing people, and having people thrown into prison; he was the main one.

...and did not believe that he was a disciple. But Barnabas took him, and brought him to the apostles. Incredible that, later on, Barnabas is the one that they worked together, that went out to the gentiles. God gave to him to do this, to have this relationship there, early on, and began to work together and able to work together. Because they weren't all able to work together as we're going to see later on, even within the Church, in the beginning. Human nature is human nature and there are times you have to grow and conquer, overcome certain things, and learn. So this was in the very early stages. **Then he declared to them how he had seen the Lord on the road, and that He had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Joshua.** Barnabas had to go in and tell them, "Look, I was there. I saw this, and this is what took place."

Verse 28 - So he was with them at Jerusalem, entering in and going out. Now he spoke boldly in the name of the Lord Joshua and disputed with the Hellenists. Now these are Greek speaking Jews, that's what the word means. **But they took it in hand to kill him.** So again, same thing; they wanted to put him to death. They hated what he had to say, and here we go now, "We didn't have to just deal with some of the others, but now we've got this one to deal with, who was on our side, who was doing things we liked, and wanted to see. We've got to kill him

quickly." That's basically the attitude. **And when the brethren found out, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him out to Tarsus.**

Acts 9:31 - Then the churches throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and were edified. Then walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they were multiplied. It just adds this continually in the book of Acts, continually multiplying and the Church became greater and greater. Awesome! It doesn't give us numbers later on, like it did at the beginning, but it talks in a vein that it just kept growing, powerfully so. Awesome what God was doing.

Verse 32 - Now it came to pass, as Peter traveled throughout, he went down to the saints who dwelt in Lydda. There he found a certain man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden eight years with paralysis. Then Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Joshua the Christ heals you." So again, had to be put in his mind, "This is what he's to do and this is what he's to say." They didn't just go out and willy-nilly decide who it was that they were going to say that they're healed, or whatever. Because sometimes these kinds of things have happened in the Church in times past like someone has a special mission, a special job to do, and no, that's not how God works.

"Arise and make your bed." Then he arose immediately. So all who dwelt in Lydda and Sharon, or Saron, saw him and turned to the Lord. Now at Joppa, there was a certain disciple named Tabitha, which is translated as Dorcus. Means gazelle. This woman was filled with good works and charitable deeds, which she did. But it came to pass in those days, that she became sick and died. And when they had washed her, they laid her in an open room. And since Lydda was near Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent two men to him, imploring him not to delay in coming to them. Then Peter rose up and went with them, and when he arrived, they brought him to the upper room, and all the widows stood by him weeping, showing with the coat and the garments which Dorcas had made while she was with them. So, showing with what she had made in her profession and what she was able to do. But Peter put them out, and knelt down and prayed. Then, turning to the body, he said "Tabitha, arise." Then she opened her eyes and when she saw Peter, she sat up.

So, again can't comprehend someone being moved like this. It's hard to put our self in that kind of thinking, to see what he experienced. But again, it was in his mind that this is what he was to do. And the thing you do in a situation like this, you pray about it. Even if it's in your mind, that's what you've prayed to, because you're talking to God about it. And then he did it. And it says,

She sat up. And he gave her his hand and lifted her up. And when he had called the saints and widows, he presented her alive.

So again, incredible things that were taking place. So not only did Joshua go through this. One of the last things he did, we know it took place there right by Jerusalem with Lazarus, and it was powerful then. Well, that gave incredible strength to the Church, to hear of stories like this, of all the healings that took place in different areas, no matter who they were done by or through. But these were the kinds of things that God gave to strengthen people, to give them the help they needed to go through what was in front of them. So again, awesome stories! **So it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed on the Lord.**

So these stories spread like wildfire. You know, somebody's resurrected from the dead, somebody that's well-known in a particular area, which she evidently was, from the story flow here. Then they go out and they start talking about these things, and neighboring towns and relatives and people hear about it, and these kinds of things just traveled, as it did with Christ and what happened to him before he ever came into Jerusalem. But now, this was being multiplied many times over because now we have Paul, Saul, we have Peter going out, and different ones of the disciples going out into different areas, and everywhere they went, incredible things were taking place. God giving them more and more strength, and people being called, in droves in many cases as it talks about, as we'll continue on in the story in the book of Acts. **So it became known throughout all Joppa; and many believed on the Lord. So it was, that he continued many days in Joppa with Simon a Tanner.** So, I'm going to stop there today.

I'm going to go through some more news today. I'm doing this on a regular basis here, going through some of these things, because as we hear about things and see things that are happening in the world, again, we need to be attuned to them and recognize the big things that are happening because people don't understand what, what's taking place, but we do. We understand where everything is headed. And so much of what we're going through, and what we read in the news, has to do with an attitude of Europe that is changing so fast. All of this movement that is moving far, far, far more now to the right than ever before, and I thought that this might slow down, because of a new president and so forth. But the reality is, it might be the very thing, the catalyst, that changes these things even faster.

So, it seems to be where we are right now. And again, we need to be alert to it because you have to be; we have to be ready, whatever time it is. I'll be tickled pink if we don't have 10 more

years. If we have less than 10 months, even more tickled, truly, to bring, to see things come to an end and understand why these things are taking place in the world around us. Awesome. God's going to do some incredible things. We barely even see it.

Just this past week now, it says, **“Trump Cuts Ukraine Aid As State Department ‘Totally Went Nuclear’ On Foreign Assistance.”**¹ So, the things, policies that are being changed, it's stirring things up. There's a reason behind all this. There's a design behind it. They're not just by coincidence or chance, the more we comprehend that. God knew the mind and the being of Saul, and there are leaders that God raises up and leaders he puts down and He puts people in certain places at certain times. That's undoubtedly happening, even more so now at the end of this age. Even throughout Europe and movements that take place. God allows a demonic world, and Satan, to do a lot of things, but a lot of what they're given to do has to do with what's coming and the powers that are being raised up, and they're allowed to do it, to work through, or to work towards certain individuals and accomplish. God has the power, through whatever means, through His direct influence and power, that of His son Joshua, or the angelic realm, or even the demonic world, to have everything in place, as it's supposed to be, when things take place. Awesome!

And so, we see the world here now going batty, freaked out. They were freaked out already before it ever happened, but now they're really freaking out, and it so jars their minds, of some of the things being said and being done, that it's forcing them into a vein of thinking, wherever it's supposed to be, in the manner that it's supposed to be in Europe for a purpose. So when you read things like this, we knew that something was going to happen. It had to happen because there's a different thinking toward Ukraine than there was in the previous administration. And it's like, “This is going to come to an end. This needs to come to a halt, and we're not going to pump money into something, that's being stolen in many cases, being misused in many cases.” That is what it is. People can believe whatever they want to believe. But there's a history there that hasn't changed. A lot of abuse goes in when you start pumping money into or military weapons into, weapons that end up showing up in other parts of the world. Isn't that weird? So, why should they be in other parts of the world? Is someone profiting? This kind of garbage goes on all the time in the world, and it's all for a purpose,

¹ Durden, Tyler (2025 January 24), [Trump Halts Ukraine Aid As State Dept "Totally Went Nuclear" On Foreign Assistance | ZeroHedge](#)

But when you start cutting back from something and Europe starts cutting back from something, why are they doing it? Well, Europe does it for selfish reasons because they don't like being cold in the wintertime. They don't like their gas prices and everything else going up. It makes it far better in their industry and the like. It's all being threatened and hurt and their overall gross domestic product goes down, down, down, and so this has been hurting them. Why? Because of sanctions and because of some cutting of some lines here and there, not just pipelines now, but also communication lines that are taking place, still going on out there. They're getting fed up. They're fed up anyway, but it's getting worse to where they're turning against this country more and more. That, to me, is an awesome thing to watch more than probably anything else, to see how this has been going on for the last several years and how it's getting stronger and stronger and stronger for them to fulfill what they're going to accomplish.

It says, “The guidance, issued by Secretary of State Marco Rubio, was sent to all diplomatic and counselor posts, and orders all department staffers to issue ‘stop work orders’ on nearly all ‘existing foreign assistance awards.’” There are scriptures, several scriptures, but basically, it's paraphrased in this manner in the Old Testament, concerning Ephraim and Manasseh. It says, “You buy your lovers.” “You buy your lovers.” “They don't love you, but they'll be kind to you. They'll be nice to you.” But that's what you try to do. “You're trying to buy those by what you do.” So we send out tons and tons, billions and billions to different countries, have for ages and ages, give billions and billions to WHO. To give billions and billions to the United Nations. And where's that gotten? Well, finally somebody comes along and says, “This is nuts, it's got to stop.” So, he's stopping it, and so the people go batty.

“It appears to go further than President Donald Trump's recent executive order, which instructed the department to pause foreign aid grants for 90 days pending review by the Secretary. It had not been clear from the President's order if it would affect already appropriated funds or Ukraine aid. The new guideline means no further actions will be taken to disperse aid funding to programs already approved by the U.S. government, according to the three current and two former officials familiar with the new political guidance.” That's from *Politico*.

“The new order reported shocked State Department officials. ‘State just totally went nuclear on foreign assistance,’ the State Department official told *Politico*.” So, I'm not sure how you physically can go nuclear, but I guess it has to do with something in your brain blowing up, but

that's basically what's taking place because they can't believe these things are happening. And yet someone has the tenacity, the gall, the boldness, to say something like this, to do something like this? Yeah. It's changing attitudes in this government and in governments around the world. They see something different with a greater threat to them than ever before. I guarantee it's changing the attitude and thinking of some leaders in the Ukraine. Europe does not want a nuclear war on their continent. That's already in their minds. That's at the forefront of their thinking. And so, they're trying to battle this: "What do we do? And how do we do it?" And how do we confront then that neighbor across from them, that's attacked them and so forth?

Another one here, **"German Lawmaker Says US Troops Need To Get Out Of Germany."**² Now this is from *TASS*, which again, a different perspective, but there's a lot of truth to it. And just because someone says it doesn't mean it's not true, but there are those who like to say, "Anything coming out of Russia has to be propaganda," which means "that's bad and you can't believe anything." And well, the reality is sometimes they report on things that are true for a reason because you're not getting it on *CNN*, you're not getting it on *Fox*, anyway. "German Parliament member Sevim Dagdelen from the Sahra Wagenknecht Alliance - Reason and Justice believes that US troops and nuclear weapons should not be in German territory." They don't even want nuclear weapons there, but they're there and they're there for a reason. "It's high time that we realize that the US and Europe are interested in different things." Isn't that amazing?

"It's high time for Germany to end the presence of US troops and U.S. nuclear weapons on its territory. This harmful policy of vassal loyalty needs to stop,' she wrote in the ex-social network. US nuclear weapons remain in the country as part of NATO's strategic concept of deterring potential adversaries. According to unconfirmed reports, up to 20 American nuclear warheads are being held at an air base near Buechel." Anyway, a base there in Germany. So that's there, but there are other places in Germany they didn't mention. We have, there are nuclear weapons all over Europe that the US has supplied and given, and they want them out. But there's going to come a time when they're going to recognize they need them, and they want they want to use them. Amazing.

² TASS World News|Berlin (2025 January 24), [German lawmaker says US troops need to get out of Germany - World - TASS](#)

Another one here, **“Visualizing Europe's Dependence On Chinese Resources.”**³ “Europe relies 100% on China for heavy, rare earth elements...” Well, we're not far behind, “used in technologies such as hybrid cars, fiber optics, and nuclear power. Additionally, 97% of the magnesium consumed in Europe, for uses ranging from aerospace alloys to automotive parts, comes from the Asian country.” Its mind-boggling what's taking place in the world, it truly is. “Almost 80% of the lithium in electric vehicles and electronic batteries come from China.”

Another article, **“‘Future Of Europe’ Hangs On German Snap Elections – Musk.”**⁴ Basically reporting on what Musk had to tell them. I comes from another source, *RT*, Russian, and yet they're reporting on some of the things said by Musk, because they kind of want to poke at, you know, the bear is being poked at a lot, so they want to poke back. See, look at what's being said, because it's being said, it's not propaganda, it's a reality.

“The entrepreneur has reaffirmed his support for the right-wing alternative for Germany party ahead of the February vote.” So this is the one we've been talking about a little bit because they're having a tremendous sway and it's gaining in popularity, and others are growing up and rising up against them, to where there are even mass gatherings protesting them within Germany. So people aren't getting along real well right now. There's a lot of struggle going on. That's why the European Union, partly of clay and partly of iron, perfect example.

It goes on to say, “This election is extremely important. I do not say it lightly when I think the future civilization could hang on this election.” That's what Musk is saying. So just because it's being reported by *RT*, doesn't make it any less true. That's what he told them, their party, at their convention. Mind-boggling what's taking place in the world. “Musk told the cheering crowd, ‘I think it could decide the entire fate of Europe, maybe the fate of the world.’” And amazingly so, it's really true, because that's where things are headed.

“The businessman who said he was convinced that people in Germany wanted ‘something different’ from what they have had over the past decade. Voting for the AfD was the only way to bring about this much-desired change, he stated, calling on party supporters to do everything possible to convince their ‘friends and family’ to join them, one person at a time.” So what

³ Durden, Tyler (2025 January 25), [Visualizing Europe's Dependence On Chinese Resources | ZeroHedge](#)

⁴ RT World News (2025 January 25), [‘Future of Europe’ hangs on German snap elections – Musk — RT World News](#)

worked over here, they're trying to get to work over there. People are trying to influence the molding and fashioning of the world, and they believe this. The fate of the world may be in their hands and in that election, incredible!

Another one, **“German March And Protest Against AfD.”**⁵ “Thousands of protesters have taken to the streets in Germany to rally against the rise of the right-wing Alternative for Germany (AfD) party. The demonstrations come ahead of parliamentary elections scheduled for late February, with the AfD, known for its hardline anti-migrant stance, holding at around 20%.” Not that big, but it's having a tremendous impact.

“According to videos circulating on social media, a large crowd gathered in front of the iconic Brandenburg Gate in the German capital, chanting slogans and carrying banners denouncing the AfD and saying, ‘No human is illegal.’” Sound familiar? I mean, the craziness of what's happening in the world isn't just with us. That's why we have to understand there are spirit powers out there, and this is what they're doing for a purpose, and they're being given full reign to do it.

Another article, **“What Happens If Ukraine Collapses?”**⁶ “The situation is developing rapidly in Ukraine. Many of the key towns and cities to Ukrainian defense seem to be falling like dominoes. Colonel of the Austrian Armed Forces, Markus Reisner, has warned that the collapse of the AFU, (Armed Forces of Ukraine) is likely to be near.”

“Yesterday evening, we learned that the Trump administration halted almost all foreign aid, including military aid to Ukraine for 90 days. This was reported by Politico, and it means that the clock truly starts to tick for the collapse of the AFU. President Zelensky now effectively faces two options: 1. To start negotiations with President Putin. 2. Face an impending collapse or unconditional surrender of the AFU, possibly leading to a military coup. “

“In other words, the stakes were just raised heavily. ‘I am keen to think that the president,’” this is this officer of Austria, “‘I am keen to think that President Zelensky will start negotiations, but

⁵ RT World News (2025 January 26), [Germans march in protest against AfD \(VIDEO\) — RT World News](#)

⁶ Durden, Tyler | Authored by Tuomas Malinen/Substack (2025 January 28), [What Happens If Ukraine Collapses? | ZeroHedge](#)

first he has to change his decree making all negotiations with President Putin illegal. In any case, things are in motion now.”

That's what I'm saying, people shouldn't think, because I mentioned about something possibly being 10 years, because that's the way we have to think, it could be in 10 days, it could be in 10 weeks, it could be in 10 months, we don't know. But these things are moving very fast, they truly are.

Another article here called, **“The Trump Effect: NATO Chief Pleads For Members To Quickly Step Up Defense Spending.”**⁷ ““To keep NATO strong, we must, however, continue to adapt to guarantee our security in the future. We also need to ramp up our efforts now. That also means we need to spend more on our defense,’ he added. Rutte has been sounding a similar theme and warnings since replacing Stoltenberg last year. These calls to go well beyond 2% spending will only amplify now that Trump is in office in the US and is a reflection of Trump's own long-time insistence of much higher spending, at a bar of 5%.”

Well, that's what he said recently because he told them when he was in office before they need to go up to 3%. Some did, very few, most are still down there, low. And now he's telling them, “You have to have 5%; 3 % really isn't enough.” So what does that do? Make them adore us more? Love us more? “Trump's high bar of the 5% target is going to be a tall order for most NATO allies, so they can certainly expect to keep feeling the pressure over the next four years. As we detailed previously, Trump recently proposed a more ambitious 5% goal, saying during a January 7th press conference at Mar-a-Lago that ‘they can all afford it.’”

Another one here, **“Faced By Trump's Insistence In Greenland, Denmark Will Increase Military Spending In The Arctic.”**⁸ So this isn't the only thing happening, but it just shows that these kinds of things have an effect on the way people think, especially Europeans, which is important.

“PM's Resignation Could Lead To Snap Election, Serbian President Says.”⁹ ““Rage is mounting every day on the other side, the side of the majority. Rage, I have not seen in all my

⁷ Durden, Tyler (2025 January 28), [Trump Effect: NATO Chief Pleads For Members To Quickly Step Up Defense Spending | ZeroHedge](#)

⁸ World News/EU (2025 January 28) [Faced by Trump's Interest in Greenland, Denmark Will Increase Military Spending in Arctic - The New York Times](#)

⁹ Euronews via AP (2025 January 29), [PM's resignation could lead to snap election, Serbian president says | Euronews](#)

life,' he added." So again, this is something out of Europe, and he's seeing these things take place and people are, they're deeply concerned over there. They don't know what to do, but they're being forced into, eventually here, to a nation saying, "Let's do it." Incredible.

"2025 Doomsday Clock Statement - Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists."¹⁰ You know, reading this here and then going back and looking at something I'm going to read to you, I think about how God works in various things that sometimes, because we're human, we think things should happen more quickly, faster, so that we can see them, be on top of them. But when you look in a space of time of what God does and how he does it, it's just like "the woman in travail." It doesn't happen over a short period of time, it happens over a long period of time. And because we think differently, we think it has to be closer together. Well, things are getting closer together now, but years ago they weren't. But these things started a long time ago, truly.

"In setting the clock one second closer to midnight, we send this stark signal..." This has been going on, at different times, for a long time but, and I'll get to that in a moment, but you think, "It still gets closer." I read through articles like this and I'm dumbfounded by them. I hope you all are. I hope you see what's taking place in Europe because this is what is the most important thing about what I've been reading and spending the time of doing it. It's showing their minds are changing and this alliance of clay and iron is about to turn to the iron; they have that option! Clay means they can't be fully organized, in the sense of all working together, just like all those European countries can't work together, so 10 are going to have to step up at some point and take charge. That's what we're coming down to, where they will rely on the iron! That's what this is about. Clay doesn't mean that just because they have clay in there, that at some point they're not going to have tremendous power. That's why they have the iron, to be used at some point.

"In setting the clock one second closer to midnight, we send a stark signal because the world is already perilously close to the precipice; a move of even a single second should be taken as an indication of extreme danger and an unmistakable warning that every second of delay in reversing courses increases the probability of global disaster." Most people read that and think, "Oh yeah, I've heard this before, you know, we're getting closer and this is happening." No, this is true, but we don't tend to be stirred up by things like this.

¹⁰ Mecklin, John (2025 January 28), [2025 Doomsday Clock Statement - Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists | The Bulletin](#)

“Blindly continuing in the current path is a form of madness. The United States, China and Russia have the collective power to destroy civilization. These three countries have the prime responsibility to pull the world back from the brink.” You think they're doing that? China isn't doing that. They have this initiative going around the world, Belt and Road Initiative. That's why they're trying to put it through Panama. Different countries throughout the world, they're trying to take charge of these different areas, and the world's letting them do it. But they're not backing off of anything. On the contrary, they're looking to a time when they have world dominance. That's what it's all about. Incredible! The stupidity of mankind sometimes is just an absolute marvel.

“These three countries have the prime responsibility to pull the world back from the brink. And they can do so if their leaders seriously commence good faith discussions about the global threats outlined here. Despite their profound disagreements, they should take the first step without delay. The world depends on immediate action.” We know it’s not going to happen. I thought this was kind of interesting, so right now, “It is 89 seconds to midnight.”

Here’s a little bit of history of the Doomsday Clock:

- In 1947, it was set at 7 minutes to midnight.
- In 2002, something way ahead, it was moved from 9 minutes to midnight, to 7 minutes to midnight. So I don't know why it was seven there in 2002. It's the same, but it's basically what's happened.
- In 2017, the clock was moved to 150 seconds to midnight. So from 7 minutes, now down to 150 seconds. So just 15 years, incredible!
- In 2018, the clock was moved to 2 minutes.
- In 2020, the clock was moved to 100 seconds to midnight.
- In 2023, it moved to 90 seconds to midnight.

And so now they're saying, “89.” So at some point, it happens pretty fast. But anyway, it's just a man-made thing to tell people they should be more concerned, more worried. But again, people see something like this, and we tend to as well, if we're not careful, and think that,

"Well, things have gone on for so long, will it ever happen?" We're watching it. We should be moved by it. As much as the early Church was moved by the things they saw, we're seeing things take place in the world that are dumb-founding, they really are. They ought to be moving to us, things that you see as far as thunders are concerned. These aren't accidental, things that are taking place in the world, they truly aren't. They're just getting stronger and stronger and stronger, things that you couldn't even begin to think of five years ago, four years ago, three years ago.

Another one here, **“Jordan, Egypt Reject US Plan To Resettle Gazans As Trump Doubles Down.”**¹¹ “After last Saturday, President Trump floated a plan to ‘clean out’ Gaza by conducting a mass resettlement of Palestinians in neighboring countries, namely Egypt and Jordan. He's now doubling down on the idea.” You think, I hope you all understand why that won't work. “Egypt and Jordan are not happy, but are also feeling the pressure as a result, and it must be remembered that both are recipients of huge amounts of foreign aid each year - with Egypt receiving billions.” From the United States.

“As for Egypt and Jordan, Trump may use the outsized US assistance provided to pressure their leaders to agree to his plan at least on some level. But the reality is that this is ultra politically sensitive. Past historic waves of Palestinian refugees and armed groups flooding nearby Arab countries have literally erupted in wars, which especially Lebanon can attest to. Jordan has also seen its country destabilized at times.”

“There's also the logistics - with Palestinians now rushing back to their largely destroyed communities in northern Gaza, they are defiantly telling the world they don't plan to leave their homeland. The Gaza ceasefire would likely collapse if Palestinians were suddenly pushed out in large waves into Egypt and Jordan.” The reality is, they don't want them. Because they know they're disruptive, they know what kind of people they are, they don't want them. But they have to play this game that they're behind them or whatever, and they're against Israel to a point, and this game over there's been going on for centuries. Truly, not just in decades.

¹¹ Durden, Tyler (2025 January 29), [Jordan, Egypt Reject US Plan To Resettle Gazans As Trump Doubles Down | ZeroHedge](#)

Another article here, **“Flirting With World War III: Russia Sees Nuclear Plant Targeted In Massive Ukrainian Drone Attack.”**¹² I'll tell you what, what do you think a person who is in charge of a government, that's starting to lose a war, that's starting to lose ground, they see aid being cut off, they see military weapons not coming in from the United States now, and then not from Europe, because they're cutting back too, what will they do? Well, what do you do if you're in that kind of power, in that kind of position? What are you bound to try to do? You're going to do things out of desperation, and that's the problem.

“A news agency reported that Smolensk Nuclear Power Plant came under attack. It is the largest power generating plant in Russia's northwest region. State media reports indicate the plant is operating normally in the wake of the assault.” It says, “Still, if accurate the Ukrainians are really playing with fire here - the kind of fire that could trigger WW3 and far crosses all of Vladimir Putin's red lines. In the recent past, top Russian national security officials have strongly warned that attacks on nuclear facilities could trigger WWII.”

So again, they just keep playing these games and they keep doing stupid things like this, and you think, they get upset when they say that they're trying to attack a nuclear plant there, but they can turn around and attack a nuclear plant over there? They're playing with insanity.

“In this latest Wednesday attack, which elsewhere included drone strikes on oil facilities, Russia is also accusing Kyiv of ‘provocations aimed at creating a threat of man-made disaster’ at the Smolensk plant, according to a defense military statement.”

Anyway, another one here, **“Europe's Economy Showed Zero Growth At The End Of 2024 As Germany, Eurozone's Biggest Economy, Struggled.”**¹³ They have to pay 5%?

“Denmark Seeks Alliance On Greenland To Counter US Threat.”¹⁴ “France and Germany have suggested sending European troops to join US forces on the Arctic Island coveted by Trump.” It's interesting how they put these things. And he's just trying to get them to do something that they need to do. And if they won't, then he will try to do it.

¹² Durden, Tyler (2025 January 29), [Flirting With WW3: Russia Says Nuclear Plant Targeted In Massive Ukrainian Drone Attack | ZeroHedge](#)

¹³ McHugh, David, AP via The Hill & Local 10 (2025 January 30), [European Central bank cuts benchmark rate by a quarter percentage point to boost stagnant economy | The Hill](#)

¹⁴ Waterfield, Bruno (2025 January 28), [Denmark seeks alliance on Greenland to counter US threat | The Times](#)

“Denmark is building a European alliance to cement its control of Greenland in the face of threats from President Trump ahead of a Brussels security summit next week that will include Sir Keir Starmer.”

“Mette Fredrickson, the Danish Prime Minister, embarked on a rapid tour of European countries on Tuesday, starting in Berlin with the German Chancellor, Ola Schultz, for talks with President Macron in Paris.” It says, “She will finish in Brussels for a meeting with Mark Rutte, the NATO secretary-general, who will join European Union leaders and the British Prime Minister for a summit of defense and security next Monday.”

So again, just something like Greenland is stirring them up and is causing them to loathe what's taking place over here and that they're being told how to do things, and what to do, and being pressured into various ways of having to take care of something that they're afraid maybe he will do, insanity.

A few more headlines and then I'll stop, **“EU Push For Troops In Greenland Sparks Global Debate.”**¹⁵ So they're talking about this amongst themselves, France in particular.

“Cocaine Outpaces Oil As Colombia's Most Valuable Export.”¹⁶ Can you believe that? I mean, mind-boggling!

“Russia Condemns Trump Missile Defense Shield Plan, Accuses US Of Plotting To Militarize Space.”¹⁷

“Trump Slaps 25% Tariffs On Canada And Mexico, 10% On China”¹⁸ “There will be no delay, selective targeting, or slow roll-out or phased-in tariffs as speculated by Goldman Sachs and Deutsche Bank.”

The world is an absolute mess, but we need to keep our eyes on it. That's why I've continued to go through some of these things, including them at the end of sermons, because we need to be aware of what's happening because we can't be sitting on our laurels and beginning to drift off

¹⁵ Foreign Affairs News Room (2025 January 27), [EU Push for Troops in Greenland Sparks Global Debate](#) | [Eastern Herald](#)

¹⁶ Durden, Tyler & Smith, Matthew (via Oilprice.com) (2025 January 30), [Cocaine Outpaces Oil As Colombia's Most Valuable Export](#) | [ZeroHedge](#)

¹⁷ Antonov, Dmytri (2025 January 31), [Russia condemns Trump missile defence shield plan, accuses US of plotting to militarise space](#) | [Reuters](#)

¹⁸ Durden, Tyler (2025 January 31) [Trump Slaps 25% Tariffs On Canada & Mexico, 10% On China](#) | [ZeroHedge](#) (2025 February 2), [Update](#)

or become lethargic, or Laodicean. You've got to be stirred up in spirit and cry out to God, continually, for help to fight against this and to keep at this until this is all over with because human nature tends not to want to do that.