

Fasting For Others, Pt. 1

Ronald Weinland

January 24, 2026

It has been seventeen years since we were addressing a very specific subject in-depth throughout the entire month of January of 2009. It doesn't seem like it was that long ago, but it's like, man, that's amazing. It is a subject that we're going to focus upon once again in some sermons beginning today, and it was about the subject of fasting. And this sermon is entitled *Fasting For Others*, and this is *Part 1*.

That title will be explained a little more as we go through this series. But I'm going to read some of these things that were back then at that particular time. So, as a reminder of the sermons that were given during that month of January in 2009 (I don't know if you remember it fully, but it was at a time when we eventually had a two-day fast), the first two were entitled, *Fasting for Humility*. Because that's what fasting is about, it's about humbling ourselves before God and understanding the purpose of a fast in the first place.

So, then on the 17th and 24th of January, we had a two-part series entitled *Esther*, which is an incredible story. And we may go through that again. But an incredible thing as God worked with her and her uncle, and the things that took place at that time. Really profound.

Then, on the 31st, we ended by covering that subject in a sermon called *A Great Fast*. And that is the one that involved the two-day fast. And I mentioned at that time (I want to read some of the things that were mentioned in that particular sermon), "Today, we find ourselves in a great fast. This fast is of great importance to us all. We are fully focused on these end times, times that the world and the church that was scattered just do not see. We have entered a time that is rapidly moving into greater and greater tribulation for this world. It is not yet what might be called 'great tribulation,' but we are rapidly moving into such time."

And we've learned through time as well, that things that are called, what we referred to as "great tribulation," yes, there is going to be great tribulation on the world on a physical plane, but it also talks about in scripture that everyone in God's Church through time in the last 2,000 years has gone through great tribulation. That's a spiritual matter.

So, we had to get things adjusted as far as some of our "in-speak," if you will, or "church speak," and how we used to speak about things because some of it needed to be adjusted a little bit.

I went on to say, "This time has not begun as we thought it might," and then saying, "Thank God," because we've come to understand that some things happening in the end-time here are not going to be for the time period that we thought they were going to be. They're going to be shorter, they're going to be quicker, in that respect, as far as how much the world is going to suffer or for how long, how much is still there at this point.

“The time of great tribulation upon the Church did not instantly happen, and even as the destruction of the Church with the scattering and the Apostasy increased in power and strength, it did not happen.” So again, talking about things having to do with the Church and coming to understand that, of something that was going to come upon us in a very powerful way as well, speaking of the Apostasy that would come and that we experienced at the end of, toward the end of Worldwide, if you will.

“It was not clear what was happening. It was not clear concerning the magnitude and the greatness of it all. But we know, due to the 50th Truth, that we are now 7 weeks, 7 Sabbaths into the final 3½ years. We know we have 173 Sabbaths remaining before Joshua the Christ returns. And today, we are in a great fast.” That was the present truth. That’s what we all believed. That’s what we lived by, and people lived by that. I’ve heard different stories of people telling what they were doing on that day, finally, in 2012, and right up into the last day. And yet, it wasn’t to happen then, and we’ve learned a lot through this process (which I may say more about as we go along).

But anyway, I thought I’d mention that 50th Truth is now listed as the 49th because we did have some more come along and did some adjusting there. But I thought I would read that truth:

49 (28) Joshua the Christ will return to this earth on a Pentecost, along with the 144,000. Pentecost in Old Testament times was the day the Wave Loaves were waved before God to be accepted by Him. These Wave Loaves represented this future group of the 144,000 who return with Christ in the Kingdom of God. They will then be God’s Family—the firstfruits of God’s creation of Elohim.

As I’ve been going through this book, it’s really been quite an incredible experience just addressing Holy Days and so forth in a different fashion than we have in the past, and going through it with a fine-tooth comb, if you will. But there are things that are, I don’t know if you can say sinking in, but are becoming clearer, perhaps, is a better way of saying it, about what we’re getting ready to go through, and what our history has been about, and the importance of it. Things going back, especially, to our Passover, Joshua the Christ, and the things that followed, and things that the Church hasn’t understood in times past in the sense of the Wave Sheaf and the counting then to the Wave Loaves and the connection that’s there that God has given to us in a more powerful way to see that connection, to understand that things have to happen in a specific way at a specific time.

Just like the Wave Loaves would have no meaning whatsoever, just as the Wave Sheaf wouldn’t happen if Christ didn’t fulfill it on that day of what people think is the time of His resurrection but was the time for the Wave Sheaf. And He fulfilled that. What an incredible story to go back and see this, that He wouldn’t let them touch Him at the tomb when He showed Himself to Mary and one or two others there at the same time. And then, as they were walking away (they hadn’t gone very far), possibly two miles, whatever it is, walking. It doesn’t take that long, and He appeared to them again. And here, now, He let them come and touch Him.

And the whole point of it being Him showing, revealing, in time, which hasn't been until the end-time here, that this was a matter of something He fulfilled. He fulfilled being accepted by God Almighty as the Wave Sheaf. It didn't take long. It was a short ceremony that the high priest did year by year. He just waved the sheaf to be accepted by God, and that was it. And Christ was accepted by God in that sense just as quickly and then was back there with them. Awesome.

And then how that ties into Wave Loaves and our learning as God has taught us, as we've gone on, that the Wave Loaves have to take place at a very specific time. No other time, or it won't have meaning, it wouldn't have meaning. It has to happen on a Day of Pentecost.

So, it's quite incredible the things that God has just continued to give to us and reveal to us over time.

I want to read just a little bit more here. I wanted to throw a little bit more into this, in the sense of knowing we live close now to Christ's coming, which we thought was going to be in 2012. And we're going to experience things that we can't imagine, as was mentioned back then, about a particular time period. And we know we're close.

You look at the world, and you wonder how it's even holding on right now. Things are getting crazier and crazier. The way Europe is changing. It's mind-boggling seeing how they're almost being programmed to do the things they're going to do. Their thinking is turning against this country and the leadership of this country in ways that we never would have imagined. That's why I marvel. Four years ago, five years ago, you can go to Europe and visit and come back, and it's like, "How could this ever happen that they're going to do what they're going to do to this country?" It was kind of unimaginable, candidly. But we believed it because it was given to us. It was given, candidly, through Herbert Armstrong in the beginning, of what Europe is going to do when it comes down to it, with ten nations.

And so, again, to be living in this time and seeing these things come together (and if we have time, I'll read a few more news articles again), but it's just a little bit at a time. And now, Denmark. Crazy stuff going on. Absolutely crazy. But it's affecting their thinking, and almost, as it were, changing some of their thinking toward Russia, because they see themselves more and more caught in the middle. And this has to be a part of what eventually happens. But to see it actually taking shape, to me, is an amazing thing to go through, what we're experiencing – until the day that it finally happens.

And I believe with all my being it's about this book... I remember (I've shared this with you before), but I remember when Laura and I were in a classroom environment at Ambassador College in one of the classrooms there, because we had all the different ministers come in at different times for a week or whatever it might be, for training, for lectures that were given about things that were going on, and information that we needed to be trained in. And Herbert Armstrong came in one day and he had the book finally in his hand, *Mystery of the Ages*. And the excitement that he had for that book, it was like everything had come down to this, everything that God had given to him brought him down to that moment in time, of the writing of that book, and the being able to share it with others.

Because it was a matter of a continual revelation of things that God had given to him, and it's jam-packed with things that weren't understood by the early Church. There were things there that the apostles didn't know, Paul didn't know. They knew tidbits here and there. And a lot of the things even that were written later on, after most of them had died – well, they had all died, except for John. And then he was taken to the Isle of Patmos, and there, God gave him the book of Revelation to write.

But there were so many things they still didn't grasp and comprehend. And so it's been in the end-time that God has been giving more. Oh, I think of following Sardis. He began to restore truth to the Church during the period of Philadelphia because it was lost. And during Sardis, God said, basically to Sardis, "You're dead." "You're dying, and you're dead. You have a name that you're alive, but you are dead." The name was *The Church of God*. So, there wasn't much left as far as the Church itself.

And God raised him up, Herbert Armstrong, and began to give him truth upon truth upon truth. Things about the Holy Days that the apostles never understood. They couldn't. It wasn't for their time. It wasn't time yet to reveal those things. That's what's amazing about what God has given. 4,000 years and you think how little there is in the Bible, candidly, of God's overall plan. Now, we know now, because of the New Testament and things that God continues to reveal, that there is more than we knew, but we didn't know all those things until it was time for God to reveal them.

To me, I hope you find this process exciting – progressive revelation that God has given through time. And then, finally, Joshua came, began to reveal things on a spiritual plane that people had never heard, prophets before that had never heard. They didn't grasp and comprehend those things that Christ spoke as He gave spiritual principles of what things really meant in scripture, of what the commandments even mean on a spiritual plane. They didn't grasp those things as a whole. Even though they wrote about some of it, they didn't know it. You can't know things until God gives it to you.

It's like the matter of Joshua the Christ didn't eternally exist. We didn't know it until God, it was His time to give it. And then He gave it, showing, no, He was born of Mary, and that was His beginning. He didn't eternally live. It is an awesome thing how God works.

So, I look back and think about sitting in that classroom, and I think about where we are now, what God has given. Because He's given so much more, even in the short time that we've been a part of PKG. Truth after truth after truth, clarification of things, making things easier to see and understand. And that's why, to me, this book is preparing for a moment in time that is awesome. Christ's coming. More than anything else we've ever done.

Because it puts God's plan and God's purpose, of what He's been doing through time, into something that's easier to follow, easier to see and understand. And to me, that's exciting, being a part of that. Because we just happen to live at this time, God happened to call us to be a part of it, and we get to see it and be a part of something awesome – preparing the world for what's going to be taught, for what's going to take place.

And this fast here that we're talking about (because we're coming up to a fast I'm going to announce, obviously), is a part of this process, of something that we thought was back then that we're coming to very close now. So, sometimes I wonder, are we going to get the book out in time? Because things are happening that fast. But I know we are because I know this is part of a process, just as it was with Herbert Armstrong and writing that book and giving it to the Church. And anybody who lived at that time and read that book would understand this even more. What had all come together and what had been given to the Church was absolutely awesome. Sadly, there were many who were becoming weak even at that time in the Church. That's why I can't help but hear Herbert Armstrong saying, "I wonder if even half of you get it!" And that was about that time period. Then, later on, just really close to his death, "I wonder if 10% of you get it!" It's like, wow. We didn't know what was taking place on a spiritual plane. So, incredible what we have lived through and what we continue to live through and what's getting ready to take place in this world in an awesome way.

So, I wanted to mention this about that particular truth, and as I said, to throw out a little bit about that which we understand now of something a little unique now. I'm going to go ahead and throw this out. I said that there were 173 Sabbaths from today that will lead us right up to sundown of Pentecost 2029. Now, it may not mean anything to you, but it's moving to me. So, not saying that's the time, but there are things, when it's all said and done, that are going to fit into place. I haven't thought about times and trying to figure out things anymore, basically, since 2013, because it was very obvious there are absolute time cycles that are succinct that led us up to 2012. So, God gave that for a purpose. How we use it, that's another matter, not understanding and seeing what God was going to do yet.

And so, there are those who came through that and held on to what was given to them. There are others who used those things to turn away or to lose. Just as much as the Apostasy when the Apostasy happened, to think that a third of the Church came to a point where it would say, "Where is God? If this is God's Church, how could this happen to God's Church?" So, to them, it was a proof that this wasn't God's Church, in essence. And to some, whether there is even a God. And so, they just quit totally. What do you believe in now? Well, their belief was shattered.

Another third, well, they wanted to accept what was being pushed into the Church through a lot of different ministers that wanted to go back to a protestant age, a protestant time that we'd all been called out of. And then a third tried in their own way to hold on to truths we'd been given.

So, we've been through a lot. The molding and fashioning we've gone through is absolutely incredible. But look at what's left. Look at what's holding on. Truths that God has given. It's been a battle, but you've been molded and fashioned in a way that you wouldn't be able to experience otherwise. There are things we have to go through, experiences we have to have in order for self to change. And so it was with this period of time here.

So, I'm saying something about today, that today it is 173 Sabbaths. And I haven't been moved to look at times and periods and chronology for a long time, well over a decade, maybe closer to two, but it came into my mind, "What is 173 Sabbaths from now?" Awesome! Pentecost 2029. I'm not saying that's going to be it, but my eyes are looking beyond. What an awesome thing it would be if it was. We'll see.

The point is, regardless of when it is, because it's hard to see, but the way the world is moving, and because of who is elected into office and the impact that has on world leaders, there has to be something come along that is so strong, that is such hatred that's going to be stirred up in people as things continue to happen the way they are, that's going to move nations more toward wanting to have a kind of way of appeasing Russia and keeping them away from attacking them. Europe understands that Russia is moving in their direction. They understand; they believe it with all their being. And it is.

Anyway, we are getting close. It's expedient for us to be on guard, to be alert as never before. And it reminds me of the periods like 2009 leading up to 2012. And that's why it's exceedingly important in my mind, and I believe it's going to happen in my time when I still have ability to teach. There is a way that God works. And to do otherwise would almost be to start all over with a process that would be a difficult process for the Church. So, I believe I've got a job to do just as Herbert Armstrong believed he had a job to do. And I know I don't have a whole lot of time to do it in. So, we're getting close.

Whether it be my age, my life, my lifespan, and how God works in the Church and leading the Church through an apostle, or whether it be because of what's happening in the world and seeing the things that are happening in the world, it all works together.

It's like the economy right now. It blows my mind that it's staying above board. But it has to because everything has to happen very much at the same time.

I've written down here too, it'd be great to repeat some more of what was stated in that sermon when we engaged in the two-day fast. I look back on that, and I think, two-day fast. I don't know how many here were a part of that, and I'm not going to ask for hands because some have come afterward, some were maybe at different stages at that particular time, and so forth, but a lot of people engaged in a two-day fast.

And I'm going to make it really clear the only reason I didn't call for a three-day fast is because of Esther and the book of Esther; otherwise, I would have. You would have engaged in that as heartily as you could have, as you did in a two-day fast. And when you've done two days of fasting, another day isn't that much more. It is what it is.

So, I wrote at that particular time, saying, "There has never been a fast like this fast," a two-day fast in God's Church. "Within the last three eras of God's Church, there has never been a two-day fast that's been called, and likely, there has never been such a fast called in all seven eras of God's Church." That's a sobering thing to me. They couldn't do things like we did now either. They were scattered all over the

place in the world, as far as the world is concerned. Today, we have technology where we're able to be connected in a way that is kind of mind-boggling compared to 300, 400, 500, 1000, 1500, whatever years ago. But we're able to do things like this now, call on something to be done at a certain time, have that unity, have something go around the entire world where people can hear the same thing within a week's time. Awesome!

Going on: "There most certainly has never been a time such a fast could have been called for such a great purpose because none, no one has ever lived in this time except us. We live at the end of 6,000 years." That is incredible to understand. And what God is getting ready to do to finally bring a government to this earth?

I think of when writing some of the things in the book about a Messiah, Judah and Israel, going farther back, but especially Judah, has looked at, time after time after time, have wanted a Messiah, the Messiah to come. They believed at different times, especially during the period of time, even before Christ, of all the things they were going through because of the Roman Empire and the wars that were being fought, and the Jewish people who were being killed.

And anyway, they have cried out for a Messiah to come, believing the things that God said about Christ (or the Messiah), and that God would establish His government. Their desire was to no longer be under the Roman government and the oppression that was there. And that went on and on and on, and it continued on after Christ.

As you get up to around 70 AD, they were being massacred. They were being taken by droves into slavery. It was around a hundred thousand Jews that were taken into slavery around that period of time who built the Colosseum in Rome, Jews who were slaves. You think they wanted the Messiah to come? And the leaders who were being scattered in different parts of the world at that time, of Judaism? But He didn't come because it was for the end-time. It was for a time when the world would need a Messiah or else the world would destroy itself – mankind – when mankind would finally have the ability to annihilate itself, and God would have to step in to stop mankind from destroying His creation and His purpose for putting man here in the first place. Thank God He has a 7,100-year plan.

So, He's given us understanding of that, that He is going to intervene. That's when the Messiah, the prophesied Messiah throughout the Old Testament and the New Testament, is to come. It's a beautiful picture when you see it for what it is, for God's plan. It wasn't about a Jewish people. It wasn't about a special people on this earth in one part of the earth. It was about the entirety of mankind on earth who would need a Messiah, or else mankind would destroy himself. Awesome! And we have that power to do so.

Now, there are verses in James I'm going to read that were addressed in that sermon. It's hard not to go through some of these again, and we are, and it's been so long it's good for us anyway. How often do we

look at things about Passover? Every year. Unleavened Bread? Every year. So, it's good we reflect on things like this at least once every seventeen years, or whatever it is, to this degree that we're going to. We have sermons about fasting every once in a while, but to zero in on it like we are now is akin to that period of 2009.

James 4:3—You ask and do not receive, because you ask for the wrong reasons in order to have what pleases you. Really, this is a strong condemnation we're going to look at later in Isaiah as well, that God says this is why so many have fasted in times past, and even in God's Church, why people have fasted, and not understood the true purpose of it in the first place, and what it's all about.

"You ask and do not receive because you ask for the wrong reasons." That's the way mankind is. We're selfish; we want things our way to the point that people will pray to God to have things their way. Even if it's against God's will. But they don't understand God's will. Incredible.

You adulterers and adulteresses! Physically and spiritually. In the world and in God's Church through time past. Hopefully, it's not going on now. But God calls things as they are, and He says, "Look at yourself! You pray. You think I'm going to hear it if you're living like this, if this is what you're living physically or spiritually in your life, not repenting? You want something from Me, but are you living by what I've given you to live by?" That's a part of what's being asked here.

Do you not know that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? And so, we've had this through the ages. We've had it in every Church era. We have it now. It's the way of mankind. And sometimes, if we're not careful, we rub shoulders a little too closely with the world, the way the world thinks, things that aren't good, things that aren't healthy, things that aren't right.

In God's Church, we take an oath to live life in a right way, in a way that pleases God Almighty, in a way that's according to His will, in a way that's striving to think in the mind right, to be right with God, not to think in a way ever that's wrong. And when wrong thinking or wrong thoughts come into the mind, we're supposed to fight against it with all of our being, which includes in praying to God and being truthful to God about what it is we're going through, being honest with God and repenting and getting on with life by conquering and working at trying to fight and conquer and overcome our weaknesses and what those weaknesses are, whatever they are. Because every one of us has weaknesses. Every one of us have faults. Every one of us still have things in our life that need to be gotten rid of, no matter where we are in the refining process.

I think of the time of Herbert Armstrong and think of how physical in many ways the Church was. Growing, yes, but 10% that were still faithful, or 50%, whatever we were, because I believe that's exactly where we were as things were going along, what he was actually inspired to say was true. And a lot of that was because of this matter here, friendship with the world, and the way the world is, whatever it might be that people bring into their life more and more of. Sometimes something as simple as how much makeup we put on, or whether we do or don't. And so, there are pulls in the world sometimes to

certain things, like when the world has a standard of using it a lot. The point is, there is supposed to be moderation in that.

That's the lesson to be learned in life. Whether it's with dress, what we wear. So, we go through that sometimes. And I remember a particular time in the Church where dresses were getting shorter and shorter and shorter and shorter and shorter, and young people, especially, this was the trend, and it's a difficult thing to address, and sometimes with parents as well. It's like, "You're finding fault with my child?!" Because they saw no fault in something like that, or of other kinds of things that had to do with dress. Or hairstyle, whatever that might be. How long can a man's hair be and not look like a woman? It should be self-explanatory.

Like as stupid as today, physical, on a physical plane in the world when they debate a man and a woman. I mean, that's pretty dumb. It's pretty stupid. And there are things that should be as logical for God's people in the Church as to how we look and what we appear like.

So, the point of this being is that sometimes we don't realize how close we're rubbing shoulders with the world. Because I've known of ministers, myself having been one at different times there, when different fads would come along, and you would have to address them, and sometimes parents didn't like that. I've had to address things about how much someone might be using an iPad in Sabbath services and playing games, and how long those iPads are on, or whatever they were at that time. I don't even know what we had at that time. I'm going back 15 years, maybe even more, 20 years, having to start addressing things that were happening in technology and trying to warn people to be careful. And look where we are now, a world totally out of control.

And yet, someone who wants to do God's will and do God's way should want their children, especially in Sabbath services, to learn, to learn how to listen, to learn how to sit, to learn that there comes a time in age in life to do certain things a certain way. But it's hard to tell a parent that sometimes because I've experienced it where parents fight against God's ministry and fight against what you're trying to help them to see to help them in their lives in their families. Not to hurt but to help because they don't see the danger, they don't grasp the danger of what's happening and what's taking place.

Sometimes we rub shoulders with the world, and we don't realize what we've gotten engulfed in because it's the norm. It's the norm that every child should have a cell phone. It's just the norm. And now they're getting smarter in schools and realizing – not much is getting taught in schools anyway, but where it is, they have gotten to a point where they're at least saying, "Not in school. You're not going to have your cell phone during school hours." That's a pretty big leap for some of these places to take. But now, parents are getting a little bit wiser to some of this and how they need to be parenting in some of these areas.

So, just mentioning these things because it's a matter of recognizing how much influence sometimes the world can have on us with styles, with fads, with different things that come along, and we don't see the dangers of them, where we need to be on guard, no matter what it is.

Do you not know that friendship of the world is enmity with God? So, as a minister, I guess, I see this in a profound way of things that have happened over the years because people have fought against me over and over and over again, of things that I would preach, let alone preaching to a scattered Body of people in different areas and telling them that Passover is on the 14th. They wouldn't even want to hear that anymore. Sad. But it's not a good feeling being on this end. But everyone is supposed to stand up for what is right and teach it and uphold it.

Do you not think that the scripture says in vain, The spirit that dwells in us lusts to envy? It's like, do you not believe God that He said this is what we're like? We lust to envy. Sometimes, we don't understand the power, the deceptive power of our own human minds. Because human beings believe what they want to believe. We were having/listening to part of this conversation today in a situation where even in the news, people believe as a whole what they want to believe because they believe a certain way already, they think a certain way already.

That's the way politics is. That's the way news is. That's the way life is. Their minds are already made up. And for God to work with that is not a small thing. That's why the world has to go through what it does. That's why this fast is going to be leading into thinking about some of those things about the world and what they're in bondage to and what they don't have power over.

But He gives more grace. Therefore, He says: God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble. So, that's the only time God can work with us. God's Kingdom is not going to be established before the world is humbled. That's why this has to happen. That's why God is going to allow it to happen to the degree it's going to because there is no other way to help mankind until mankind comes to a point where they realize we're going to destroy ourselves, life is going to end, we're helpless, and be humbled, no longer having pride. Things aren't going to mean as much to them, whatever it is that people uphold in their minds, when things begin to happen. You're not going to be able to do the things you once did.

We don't even begin to grasp what's going to happen. No electricity. Not just for a winter storm that's going through the country right now in some areas, but no electricity anywhere for a long time. Not just for a short period of time. And all the things you rely upon? People are going to have to learn how to talk. They're not going to be able to text. Some people just live like that, hours and hours a day, or watching things on TikTok. It's out there. But they talk about how this is where young kids get their education. That's where they're learning.

Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up. So, that's what we're going to do in this fast. That's what fasting is about. It's something we should always want, though, to fight against self, to humble ourselves before God, to be at one with God, to want to grow in that, and God lifts us up.

It's kind of a mind-boggling thing to think how human beings – even within the Church, this is the way it's been for so long – of this desire for recognition and power and whatever, and not understanding God is the one who will raise us up in His time. He's the one who lifts us up, and when He does it, it's a different matter than how we try to do it as human beings.

Verse 7—Submit, therefore, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. What does that mean, “Resist the devil?” Sometimes that's just not real to us. There's a spirit world out there, and it tries to communicate to us. It tries to lead us in a different direction. There are beings out there, and we just have to realize it's real, and they do broadcast. They know our weaknesses. They know your weaknesses. So, how do you deal with that? The only way you can is by drawing closer to God, seeking God's spirit in your life more, being more on guard. That's what it means to be on guard spiritually. It's a desire to draw closer to God, to be more at one with God, a deeper dedication and determination to obey God, to live things that are right, to see where it is where we need to change.

What is it you need to change? I've asked this before, about what is your number 1, 2, and 3. Do you know? Do you know yourself? Do you know your major weaknesses? Because there are spirit beings out there that know them. And so, we have to always, constantly want to be close to God, crying out to God for help to change this.

Draw near to God (there is your answer), **and He will draw near to you.** Ask for that help that God wants us to ask for. Humble. We have to humble ourselves to ask for what is right in a right relationship with God. Then He will help us to have that right relationship. We can't just have it as human beings; otherwise, it's not real.

Cleanse your hands, you sinners. Who is He talking to? To all of us. We have sin. We all have sin. Every day you have sin. You can't live through a day, I don't believe, unless there is some way that you have of shutting the mind totally off, to where it doesn't work. No, I don't know of anybody who has that power.

There are times at night I wish I could just shut it off. The other day, when I heard we'd lost the Feast site down in Haarlem, I had one of those nights. It was like I wished I could just shut it off. I can't go to sleep because I keep worrying about what are we going to do, how are we going to do this now? I couldn't go to sleep. So, if anybody has a trick on how to shut it off, please let me know what it is.

Anyway, the reality is it's like on Judge Judy. What was it she asked parents? “Do you know when your teenager is lying?” When they open their mouth. I used to always love that phrase. And it's like, “You think they're always just telling you the truth because they're your child? You're so deceived.” Anyway, I enjoyed her in those things.

But we are like that as human beings. We have a mind, and if it's working, there is going to be some sin, some thought that comes through there. And you say, “Well, that's not sin unless you act upon it.” Well, it depends on how you deal with it, I guess, is a better way of maybe phrasing it. But sometimes you

maybe think about someone else or have a judgment toward someone else. Be ever so careful what goes through your mind because you may be sinning just by the thought of what you're thinking about another individual, another human being, especially if they're in God's Church. That's the greatest sin of all in many ways, in that sense, to think wrong about God's own children or to have a wrong thought in those things. So, we have to be on guard.

Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. That's a process that should never stop because of this. We want God's way. I love the way Paul talks about it. He sees himself, he knows what dwells in him, sin dwells in him, he sees it, he sees this battle that's going on, he wants to do what's right, but he knows he didn't have the ability to do it. That's why we need God – to help us in that process.

Be afflicted and mourn. And especially if there's a particular battle that's even greater than normal. This is the time for fasting. This is how we can afflict ourselves in the sense of humbling ourselves before God and willingly so, just as a matter of an expression, because of something in our minds, that we're willing to set aside a time to not eat and drink. And why is that important? Because it's a constant reminder. It's supposed to be a constant reminder, in a sense, on a spiritual plane, when you think about food and water, that you're getting hungry or that you're wanting to drink something, your mouth is dry, "Well, what is it if God isn't first? What is it if we're getting weaker spiritually and we're not understanding what this is supposed to show us on a spiritual plane?" We need God every day of our life to think right, to strive to think right, and to fight against what's wrong.

"Be afflicted and mourn." It shouldn't be a joyous thing to see what we are. If we really see ourselves, there's a time to think about that especially, to focus upon it, and that's when you fast. To realize and to think about others, to get our minds away from thinking about ourselves in a selfish way, and to truly try to drink in and thinking about others and what others are going through in life, and why we're here, and what we're being prepared for, and what our job is.

Be afflicted and mourn, and lament! You know, there are things I see every once in a while on TV that just tear me up. Things that have happened to people, things that people go through, especially children, helpless, not able to deal with certain things. Others who are oppressed. And they should tear us up, but we see this so much, and if we're not careful we can kind of become hardened to the world around us and not have the kind of compassion and feeling we should.

It's kind of like that thing of Jonah. We can kind of turn inward and worry more about our own comfort and not have compassion on others around us if we're not careful in how we think. Not being filled with the kind of mind that God has toward mankind, of a desire to see them be able to be free of the bondage they're in. So, that's why Jonah was asked, "Was it a good thing for you to lament for this vine and not for these tens of thousands of people?" basically, is what He was asking him, "...in this city, who don't know their right from their left, who are in bondage?"

Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He shall lift you up/He will lift you up. And the word “lift” here in the Greek is the word “to exalt; to lift up on high.” Because that’s what we’re desiring to have in our lives, to be able to come through this physical life and to be spirit, to be in God’s Family. And you can’t be raised up any higher than that. To grasp that’s what our purpose is is awesome.

So, today I’m announcing another Churchwide fast. Not two days, just one day. And we’ll discuss more the focus of the fast in this series, but it’s going to be about fasting for others. First of all, to take care of self is what we’re striving to do, to be able to serve God, to be able to prepare for the things that are ahead. We have to take care of self. So, first of all, we have to focus on self and ask God for help to see things in ourselves that need to be addressed, that need to be repented of, and to help us to acknowledge them, to see them, to reveal them to us. And He’ll show you if you ask. And then ask for the help to fight and combat it, to change.

All for the purpose, candidly, for us, of looking out upon this world and seeing where it is and having a kind of compassion and a kind of mourning as it were as well, to realize what this world has to go through to get where we’re going before they’ll begin repenting, and having a great desire that God might bring more to repentance. Are there things that God can do to help bring more to repentance? Read the book of Esther. We’ll probably go through it. Read the book of Jonah. We’ve just gone through it. It’s an incredible story, it really is, and it’s there for a purpose. To learn all the things we’ve learned through it, but it really has a good purpose for this end-time. Because a city was about to be destroyed, and we look at a world that’s about to be destroyed in ways that we really can’t comprehend.

Johnny’s turned to this a few times when he talks about the length of time that bodies are going to be in the process of being buried. I think it’s seven months, if my memory serves me right. I’m not totally sure there. You think, how long just to be burying bodies? Probably, in many cases, just big, mass graves just to clean up. I can’t comprehend that. Seven months. Is that just in one place in the world? That’s worldwide. How many will come through it? Well, the more that can be brought to repentance, the more that can have that opportunity.

But still, there’s a lot that needs to be cleaned up, too. There is the other side of that, too. There are minds that are so evil out there in the world. I think of the time of Noah and what it had to be like, what mankind had to be like by that time, to live that long and to have such corrupt minds for that long a period of time as their life was and become, sadly, more professional with corrupt minds, that there were masses of people who had already destroyed their minds. Give them a resurrection, they have the same minds. But God’s word is true, and God allows certain things and gives people certain opportunities, and they’ll be judged according to those when it’s their time.

They’re not going to be judged for what they were back then, they’re going to be judged for the time that they’re resurrected in, when they’re given the opportunity to see and understand things on a spiritual plane, as everyone of us was when God began to draw us. And they’re going to be able to see

things in themselves that they weren't able to see before because God gives that ability on a spiritual plane. But they still have the same mind, and so many aren't going to want what God offers them, and that becomes a final judgment for billions.

Incredible, to think what the world has to go through until God's Family is fully established. But anyone who wants that Family, they have to be so convicted and have a love for it and a desire for it, "That's what I want in to all time, that which God has planned for the universe, to be a part of that." Awesome! In a world where there is no wrong judgment toward anyone else. No beings are going to have any wrong judgment in attitude, look down upon anyone in God's Family. It won't exist. And working together, closeness that we really can't grasp fully.

We experience closeness in life, in relationships, a little bit in this human life. Candidly, really only a little bit because of how selfish we are as human beings. But to experience real, powerful, great bond of closeness? We only experience it a little bit, not a great deal with the world, not a great deal with a lot of people in the world. To have what we're going to have and multiplied so many times over, we really can't comprehend that yet. I believe it, but it's hard to comprehend because this is what we are right now.

So, I long for that, because those moments of life when you have that closeness, and you're able to maintain those things in life, even though it might be very few, it's powerful. And that's what we want, to multiply it many times over. That's why we're so blessed in the Church. To be as small as we are but to be growing closer together as a family is so important, in how we think about each other, that we want to see each other succeed. We don't want to see anyone stray from this way of life. That's what we want for one another. And it hurts when we see that, when it does happen. It should mean a great deal to us.

So again, announcing a Churchwide fast, about fasting for others. It's about those who might yet be able to be reached, who may then be moved with the capacity to become pricked in their hearts, as the expression is used on Pentecost of 31 AD. I think of several thousand there who were pricked in their hearts that day, who became part of the Church of God. Awesome how they were so moved by the things they experienced there during that period of time, of all the things they had heard about Lazarus being resurrected from the dead. Because they heard about that throughout that city. There were things they believed until He died, about Christ.

And then He came, and He died, was put to death, so the thinking is, "He can't be the Christ." Even those who became apostles, they were wondering about what are they going to do, go back to fishing now, go back to what they had been doing before as a livelihood? What are they going to do? Because they couldn't see, they couldn't grasp what was coming. They couldn't grasp what was going to happen on the Day of Pentecost.

And all of a sudden all those people when Peter began to say, "You are guilty..." and some of them weren't even there when it happened, "You are guilty of the death of Joshua the Christ," then, it says, "they were pricked in their heart," because they understood something on a spiritual plane because

God's spirit was working in them to draw them to the point of what they were going to experience, being baptized and receiving the impregnation of God's spirit. Several thousand in one day. Awesome! Beautiful, something like that happening.

What about people in the world today? Wouldn't that be an incredible thing if they experience certain things and have the ability to have some truth in their hands, to all of a sudden be able to see it? And then to grasp what this is all about and what they're going through, and what the world is going through? It's going to happen. How much? Well, maybe God is waiting to see what we do, too, how we're going to respond. I know how we're going to respond.

God doesn't take these things lightly in His Family. That two-day fast, I can tell you it meant a lot more to God and Joshua than we can grasp – that His people were willing to do that for the purpose of what they experienced at that time. It should mean a great deal to us. And also, the one we're getting ready to go through again here because this is that same fast, if you will, now, because now we're there.

So, what an awesome thing for people to be pierced through to the heart, like something sharp, where your mind all of a sudden changes in such a dramatic way that now your focus is totally different, you see things that you never saw before. It's about more potentially being brought to, moved to repentance, as happened en masse even through the preaching of John the Baptist. Do you realize God was moving people back then to be drawn to something that was happening, yes, physically, but they were seeing something they needed to do? That doesn't just happen. That didn't just happen throughout the history of the Jewish people by any measure.

What John did is mind-boggling, but God was the one who was doing it. We're all able to serve in the sense of service to what God is doing when we're able to share together in it. What's going to happen in the universe? God is doing it, but He's doing it through His Family. And to share in what God gives, awesome. And so, we're sharing together in things that are going to happen in this end-time, and we need to understand that, to see how important that is as a part of the way God has chosen to accomplish things and to be a part of that is not a small thing.

So again, this fast will be for the Sabbath of, and I'm glad to say it's not going to be on that first weekend, because that is the big game. I can't think of the name of it now. Superbowl. See, I don't really care about those. I just don't. I'm not a sports person. But I know it's big and I'll probably watch some of it, but I can't remember it from year to year what it's called. But I almost thought about it, then I thought, no, it'd be better to have it on this day anyway. So, it'll be on the Sabbath of February 14 because of the sermons that lined up. That's the reason for it; otherwise, it probably would have been on that weekend.

So, it can be for any 24-hour period within a period of the 13th, 14th, and 15th. In other words, it doesn't have to be from sundown to sundown on the 14th, like Atonement is. It's not Atonement. It's a day of fasting that you choose, that's through that period of that weekend, 13th, 14th, and 15th. You can start on the 13th, be over on the 14th, or start on the 13th and end on the 13th, at the end of the 13th. It's whatever

you want to do, 14th or 15th. So, anyway, a lot of leeway there because everybody has different kinds of situations and work and plans and things that are probably already made.

Now, we have just finished a series about Jonah. I'm going to read this again and go through this again. That which transpired after they saw and heard what Jonah proclaimed to them that is so incredible.

Now, something we need to understand as well is God's spirit, though it was done on a physical plane in how they reacted, God prepared them for that moment. He prepared that city for that moment. And I still believe it has something to do with Sennacherib and what happened to him and what they saw and what they understood when their tens and hundreds of thousands of soldiers were killed by God as they were down to attack and destroy Judah. And Sennacherib went home without an army, and then his own son killed him, and the impact this had on that nation of Assyria.

So, anyway, whatever it was that God did to prepare Nineveh, they were ready by the time that Jonah came along. They knew the story of Jonah, what had happened (those things spread around fast), and they were moved. The king was moved. To be moved to such a point that you're going to declare a fast, you're not going to eat nor drink, and you're going to do the same thing with all your animals, they're not going to eat or drink and everyone is to have the sackcloth on them and to join in on the same thing, that's quite mind-boggling to know that an entire people could be brought to this all at one time.

So, they changed. It probably wasn't long lived, knowing human nature. They weren't being called into God's Church; they weren't being worked with spiritually. But they were being brought to that moment to engage in something that is profound. What they went back to or when they went back to it, not a part of the story. But what they did is, and how they responded to Jonah is, and how Jonah thought about them is.

These are important things to learn from and to understand how we think and what God's concern is. Because God was relaying to Jonah His feelings toward all these people who didn't know their left from their right hand. It's like this world. You see people; it's quite evident today a lot of people don't know their right from their left. They don't know what a man and a woman is. You think, what a horrible state to come to that kind of life to where your mind is so screwed up, that your thinking is so screwed up, that you can't live a meaningful, happy life. They're not happy.

When you sin and live perversion in your thinking and your thinking in your mind is so screwed up, you get farther and farther away from any kind of standards of anything that can give some happiness in life, some real happiness in life, to where your happiness is going out and making idiots of yourself and doing stupid and dumb things that are upside down, to fight against order and government, and to fight against those who are trying to get perverts out of your city? It's mind-boggling. It's upside down. It's when people are calling evil good and good evil. We're living in those times.

And if our hearts don't go out to the world and people, and even if it's not just them, to understand how this is affecting others in the world, then something is wrong with us. Some of this fasting needs to be about ourselves and how we think, a desire to see people be able to come through these things.

But also, to understand that many need to die because those who are destroying the earth do need to be destroyed right now. They should not be allowed to live into the Millennium. It doesn't mean you don't love them and don't want to see them have that opportunity. But I'm at peace by knowing when that is. It's in the Great White Throne. So be it. And knowing that most of them probably won't be able to be helped anyway, though God's desire is to offer it to them, because their mind is already set and perverted and distorted, so far. What a sad thing.

Human life isn't easy. So, if you're blessed to be able to clean up your mind, if you're blessed to have your mind be healed? I think about when I was called and being where I was as a teen at that time and knowing my mind. And when God showed me that mind, I loathed what I saw – how we are as human beings, “the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.” And then to begin a process of healing, that if you want, if you desire, that you can actually begin to have your mind healed and changed and to get rid of those wrong things in your mind. I look back and think, what an incredible thing.

The king and the people not only repented of their evil ways, but they fasted. That is awesome. Totally altered the outcome of the demise of all of Nineveh. God was pleased with that because His desire was not to want to see them destroyed. He wanted to see this. Awesome! And so, He prepared them for this, told Jonah to go up there and do his job, “Because this is what I've prepared them for.” Jonah didn't get it. He couldn't yet. “This is what I prepared them for, to repent, and to fast, and to turn from their evil ways, and to have a better life.”

So, it's good to have the story of Jonah in our minds as we're going through this process of humbling ourselves before God and Christ and ask that we be prepared to better help others as people begin to be drawn to repentance. Because we're going to get to experience that to whatever degree at certain points of what's going to come to pass. And the better equipped we are and the more we've given ourselves to this process, the more God can use us in this process as well. And just the matter of fasting and praying alone has great importance before God.

Let's turn over to Isaiah 58. We're just going to barely start there today, Isaiah 58. You can't really have a good sermon on fasting without going through this because these are things that God covered about what it's all about, what fasting is to accomplish in life. And so many have never ever used this properly, even in the scattered Church in times past.

Isaiah 58:1—Cry aloud, spare not; lift up your voice like a trumpet. Tell My people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins. Well, it's what we have to do in the Church. It's what Herbert Armstrong did in a very powerful way over and over and over again. It's what we do. It's what you have

to do. It's what the ministry is supposed to do, to preach about what we are as human beings, what we're like as human beings, and to keep fighting against sin.

Yet they seek Me daily. So again, God showing how the normal, natural, carnal human mind thinks when it's really not doing things in a right way. Just like what James talked about back there that we read. Because a person can pray, but so many, obviously, have prayed the wrong way through life. The protestant world prays in the wrong way. And sometimes if we're not careful, we can do the same thing.

"Yet they seek Me daily." In other words, go through the motions, or of giving lip service to following God. That's why I hate it when I see examples of people holding hands around a table, or whatever. I can't tell you how much I hate that. Because it's so protestant in the thinking and the approach to it. So, people receive their reward by doing that, not because of what they say, not because of what might come out of the mouth, but by routine of something that isn't real and doesn't have great meaning in what is being said. It's just a repetition over and over and over again to where it becomes less and less meaningful.

Yet they seek Me daily, and delight to know My ways, as a nation that has done righteousness and has not forsaken the judgment of their God. It just depends on what you believe. I can't help but think about the system we have, of what is probably the best government a nation has ever had. But it sucks. Just be candid with you. Politics? It's evil. It is absolutely evil. The judicial system, people think that because you have a certain number of judges there, that somehow this is a good measure of justice and judgment? Not at all. It's what's in the mind. And they're judging from those feelings, of what they believe, of what they believe is their judgment. They're not going to study the Bible. They're not studying scriptures. They've studied a lot of law books, you know, to get where they are, but is that just, is that right?

That's why I love the Millennium. Judgment is going to be quick. 144,000 know exactly what someone did. You don't have to have court last forever and ever and people coming in and being in trials and so forth, and trying to make a decision, "Did they do it, or did they not?" Nope. There's going to be someone there who can tell you exactly what happened. "What did you do?" "You're lying. Now, tell me what you did." "You're lying still. What did you do?" Because they know exactly what they did. That kind of mind, the kind of power God's Family is going to have? Incredible!

So, judgment is fast; justice is quick. And it's true, it's absolute. It's not decided by human beings because human beings can't judge righteousness. And yet we understand, for what mankind can do, this is probably the best government system that there is. That's why they have to have some of the kinds of laws they do. And if they don't uphold those, then what happens? That's what they're caught in. And if they stray away from that, well? Because that's the best they have. And if you don't have some kind of code like that, you can have absolute anarchy and lawlessness. We have enough as it is. But it isn't God's. It's so far from it.

I'm just going to share something else before I go on any further. First coming into the Church, and for perhaps a few decades after that, I ran into oftentimes people who were very much pro-national governments, depending on where they lived. Thinking, "This is not God's government. Do you think this is so great? It's not great. It really isn't." God's government is great. What God is bringing is great. That's what we want. And yet to look up to something that isn't great and uphold it and esteem it as being great? We have to think about the mind. What are we thinking?

So, we are a unique people. We seek, just like on the website, we seek to be loyal citizens, faithful citizens in the sense of doing things according to what we're supposed to do in how we live life. Do we do everything the way it says? Do we always? No, we fudge in there. Like going down the freeway... But in important things, more important things of life and order, we strive, we want to be good citizens. But we see beyond this world. No matter where you live, you have to see beyond it.

That's why I've talked about so often, do not take sides in government. You're fighting a useless game. Because both have their failures and problems, shortcomings. My point being is sometimes in the Church, people have felt this is the right one, or this is the right person that should have been in office. Get out of that. This is for the world; it's not for us. It's not for you. Ours is a different government that we're looking for.

...and they delight in My ways, as a nation that has done righteousness. It's the way they all think. People deceive themselves into thinking theirs is the best, better than others. Their thinking is the better thinking. That's why you get to Davos and you have so many different kinds of thinking coming from so many different sources. Because they all think they're right. They don't think they're wrong. They think they're the best and doing the best thing.

...and have not forsaken/has not forsaken the judgment of their God. People will even deceive themselves that way, spiritually, thinking they're doing the things exactly the way God wants them to be done. Sad. Nobody is. Nobody is. Because they don't know God. We should understand that.

They ask of Me judgments of righteousness, the drawing near to God they desire. It's all about self, and it's about show.

Then, in that respect, they ask, Why have we fasted, they say, **and You have not seen it?** Today, I doubt very much if there are very many who ever fast in this world. Now, in Judaism, you would find it regularly in how they thought as a nation. But in modern times, I don't know of churches that teach a lot about fasting and that people should practice fasting. And if they do, then what are they doing it for?

But this is how God is treated. This is how mankind has responded to God for ages and ages and ages. And I marvel at the patience of God Almighty. Even with me. And we should all see that in ourselves. We should marvel at God's patience with us. But God's patience with the world, a world that doesn't want Him? Not what's true. They want Him their way. You know, can you imagine coming to a point where

you're going to give up a Christmas tree and putting it up in New York or Washington or wherever it is? "You're asking us to stop doing these things? To honor God? To serve God right?" They're going to freak out.

Why have we fasted, and you have not seen it? It's like, we do these things, but why isn't it being answered? See, God's the one at fault. People don't look inward. They don't look at themselves. They don't do what they're supposed to do that a fast is supposed to accomplish.

Why have we afflicted our lives, and You did not notice? In fact, in the day of —and this is the problem — **your fast.** This is what God says, "in the day of your fast." It's not a fast to God. It's **the day of your fast, you find pleasure.** In other words, seek out doing the things that are pleasurable to you, not really anything you're doing here, but giving up food and water, maybe.

...and oppress all your laborers (your workers). You're not changing. In other words, you're not changing, you're not repenting, you're not seeking to change and draw closer to God and honor God and live God's way of life. You're doing it for yourself. It's about you. It's your fast; it's about what you get out of it or what you think you're getting out of it. I'll tell you what, the human mind is really a very perverted thing when it comes to thinking toward God.

Indeed, you fast for strife and debate. Which means, so often in times past, as people did fast, it was to get their own way, perhaps in a disagreement that God or someone has done something against them, they feel, and they want God to take care of them. They want God on their side.

It would be like fasting for someone to win the Super Bowl. Which one are you fasting for because you want your way? That's about how bad it is. You think people don't pray about their team before the Super Bowl? So, who should God listen to? These things happened in World War II. You think the Germans weren't praying? You think Germans weren't praying who were on the front line, praying to the same God, that in the same church that was on the other side coming after them? That shows the mockery, the stupidity, the foolishness of mankind in thinking about God. Because everyone is right in their own eyes, and everyone wants God on their side.

So, "God, please let 'so and so' win the Super Bowl! It's been so long!" It's like, "We want You on our side, so we don't lose!" You think, how could you pray like that and think that your mind is right and that you're not just stark, raving nuts? Anyway, I'm sorry... to a point.

Indeed, you fast for strife and debate. In other words, to win over others in matters of conflict or other types of disagreements, whatever it might be. **...and to strike with the fist of wickedness.** In other words, asking God to actually strike out at someone else. So, it'd be the same thing as the prayers in World War II. "Help us win this battle." Battle of the Bulge, Germans were praying that they win the Battle of the Bulge, and the Allies were praying, "Help us to win this battle. Help us through it."

I shouldn't be making fun of all these things, probably. But they get down to the goal line there, and they're on the other side, and it's like they're looking up, they're looking up, and it's like, "I know you did this God! You gave this to me!" You think this is about God or just them and show? I'll tell you, this world makes me sick. Sorry. Human nature makes me sick. Our human nature should make us sick, and that's why we repent. That's what we're to do during this fast, and to do it God's way.

We're going to stop there today because this just gets in the beginning of it, showing how human beings are when it comes to things like prayer and fasting, and how it's always been this way. Then we come down to a point of how we're supposed to focus, and then God shows us. That's why I love this example here in Isaiah because God begins to show us what we're supposed to be like and how we're supposed to think. It's a beautiful picture.

I think I'm going to read some news because I just want to go through them quickly. Just a few in this past week here.

I have to say that I got my funnies, or whatever they're called, at the end of the news articles this week. Now, I made a mistake because I went to them and started reading them first this week, at the end of the week here, and then when I got to the news, you know what I had trouble with? Looking at certain headlines and thinking, "I'm still reading the funnies." I'm serious! It's like, "This is nuts!" That's how it struck me. So, I'm never going to do that again because then I can't see these news articles without still seeing that. Because people are just nuts. The world has gone nuts.

I'm just going to read some headlines mostly here: **Europe's impossible puzzle: defend Ukraine from Putin and Greenland from Trump.**¹ You think how nuts people went over all this.

US to cut roughly 200 NATO positions, sources say.² Now, what does a headline like that tell you? Distrust. "If they do this, it's the US doing it, and if the US does this, then it's becoming less of something we can rely on. We need our own military." This is what Europe is pushing right now. More and more different leaders are coming out and saying we have to have, we need our own military. They realize they can't trust certain things in a certain way anymore. And this is all pushing them in that direction to fulfill prophecy.

Another article here: **US 'Behaving Very Strangely' for an Ally.**³ If I were looking from different parts of the world, I would think the same thing. This is strange stuff that's happening.

¹ Euronews. "Europe's Impossible Puzzle: Defend Ukraine from Putin and Greenland from Trump." Euronews, 20 Jan. 2026, <https://www.euronews.com/my-europe/2026/01/20/europes-impossible-puzzle-defend-ukraine-from-putin-and-greenland-from-trump..>

² Slattery, Gram, Jonathan Landay, and Humeyra Pamuk. "US to Cut Roughly 200 NATO Positions, Sources Say." Reuters, 20 Jan. 2026, <https://www.reuters.com/world/us-cut-roughly-200-nato-positions-sources-say-2026-01-20..>

³ AFP. "US 'Behaving Very Strangely' for an Ally: ECB Chief." Kyiv Post, 21 Jan. 2026, <https://www.kyivpost.com/post/68478..>

Putin offers \$1bn to Trump's 'peace board.'⁴ Hmm. I scratched my head on that one. This world's crazy. And the alliances? Then people see this in Europe, and they think they seem to be kind of close in some ways because they both speak kind of highly of each other at different times. This is kind of scary stuff. This is scary stuff for Europe. It's kind of stupid what's going on.

Alberta, it's not a person, it's a province in Canada. But I'm going to go ahead and read it. **Alberta Sees Large Turnout For Petition To Separate From Canada.**⁵ This is real. "Petitions have 120 days to collect the signatures needed. Pro-separation groups say they could get as many as 1 million signatures, which would be a clear indication that Alberta will leave Canada. Alberta's population is currently 5 million people." And that's, if they get a million signatures, that'd be crazy, thinking of the adult population.

"Arguments against the referendum say that Alberta is 'landlocked,' which would make its separation economically disastrous. This is not entirely true. Their shared border with the US and newfound sovereignty would allow the province to establish more significant oil pipelines (pipelines which the Canadian government has consistently blocked in the past). This development along with greater resource exploration and an alliance with American interests would make Alberta one of the wealthiest regions in the western hemisphere." Things have really gone nuts.

"Furthermore, Alberta stretches within 700 miles of the Arctic, an area of the world which is quickly becoming central to geopolitics. Early warning systems and NORAD bases in Alberta are integral to US security. These bases could be shut down in the event that conflicts between Canada and the US escalate. A free Alberta could become vital to US defense. The debate over US ownership of Greenland is only one element of a larger global shift to the North. Alberta's exit from Canada and potential alliance with the US could have vast implications for international relations."

Now, I kind of just hope there's one person who doesn't see this article. They'll probably go for that next. But I also thought today, what an awesome thing if they just make a trade out with Minnesota. I'm just kidding, all those of you up there in Minnesota. I'm not picking on you up there, but crazier things have happened. That'll probably be the news next week.

That's why you have to kind of laugh at some of this stuff sometimes and think this is just crazy, what's going on in the world. For even an article like this to even be here, and people taking it seriously. And knowing how humans think, that's what's going to happen next.

⁴ "Putin Offers \$1bn to Trump's 'Peace Board'" RT, 21 Jan. 2026, <https://www.rt.com/russia/631312-russia-putin-trump-peace-board..>

⁵ Durden, Tyler. "Alberta Sees Large Turnout for Petition to Separate from Canada." ZeroHedge, 22 Jan. 2026, <https://www.zerohedge.com/political/alberta-sees-large-turnout-petition-separate-canada..>

Ex-Commission president Juncker says 'the EU is not a slave of the United States.'⁶ “Jean-Claude Juncker, who led the European Commission during the first Trump administration, told Euronews that the EU ‘cannot be submitted to the neo-colonial behaviour’ of the United States. Juncker called on Europeans to pursue diplomacy in resolving tensions with the US, stressing that ‘the European Union has cards in its hands.’ ‘We can use all the instruments we have at our disposal that would deeply harm the US economy, and we should not refrain from using these tools if necessary,’ Juncker said.”

“This was a reference to the **anti-coercion instrument** that some EU leaders, particularly French President Emmanuel Macron, are pushing to deploy against the US. Nicknamed the ‘bazooka,’ the anti-coercion instrument is a powerful tool adopted in 2023 that allows the EU to punish unfriendly countries for ‘economic blackmail’ by limiting trade licences and shutting off access to the single market.”

So, just reading stuff like this, it's just to show you the craziness that's going on out there and how over in Europe, they're playing around with different thinking and so forth. And you bring in Greenland, and it just goes bananas overnight because of the thinking that's there. And it's these things here that you're watching minds that are shifting from what they've held in the past to that which they have to have themselves, a protectionism for themselves, and seeing the US more and more not as an ally. That's an amazing thing to see it come to pass.

To me, it's just as amazing when Herbert Armstrong said there's going to be a European Union that comes together in a free market. He said this back at around 1950 before it came together. And they're going to have a single currency, and that didn't happen till 1999, after his death. There are going to be ten nations when it's all said and done, who agree to do what they're going to do in that Fifth Trumpet. Awesome.

And we see them now talking about the need to have certain nations come together who can make military decisions outside of the rest agreeing with it. Because right now they all have to agree on certain things they do. And so, they do have nine to eleven right now who are working in that particular direction. But in time, it'll be ten. Awesome. This is just as powerful as that because it shows it coming together.

Just a couple more. **The Next 10 Days Of Winter: The Worst In 40 Years Across The US.**⁷ And we're so thankful to be here in Phoenix and then in California next week. When we go home, the forecast is zero.

⁶ Armangau, Romane, and Méabh Mc Mahon. “ExCommission President Juncker Says ‘the EU Is Not a Slave of the United States.’” *Euronews*, 22 Jan. 2026, <https://www.euronews.com/my-europe/2026/01/22/ex-commission-president-juncker-tells-eu-to-use-all-tools-available-to-deeply-harm-the-us-..>

⁷ Durden, Tyler. “The Next 10 Days of Winter: The Worst in 40 Years Across the US.” *ZeroHedge*, 23 Jan. 2026, <https://www.zerohedge.com/weather/next-10-days-winter-will-worst-40-years-across-us..>

Wall Street braced for a private credit meltdown. The risk of one is rising.⁸

White House Aims For Cuba Regime Change By Year-End.⁹ It may happen next month. There's something going on there that they're already planning stuff they did with Venezuela.

Iran is not over with.

We live in a crazy world that's changing really, really fast.

We'll continue this series on fasting next Sabbath.

⁸ Son, Hugh. "Wall Street Braced for a Private Credit Meltdown. The Risk of One Is Rising." *CNBC*, 23 Jan. 2026, <https://www.cnbc.com/2026/01/23/wall-street-private-credit-risk-rising.html>

⁹ Durden, Tyler. "White House Aims for Cuba Regime Change by YearEnd." *ZeroHedge*, 22 Jan. 2026, <https://www.zerohedge.com/geopolitical/white-house-aims-cuba-regime-change-end-year..>