



[They] became vain in their imaginations . . .

Romans 1:21 kjv

Within a make-believe world where fairies live, one might expect for its little people to ignore such complicated things as intelligent design. Although scientists are now (sh-h-h-) much better appraised of the mathematical improbability of merely having such a wonderful place as our planet Earth existing at all; having at one and the same time all three existing states of a hydrolyzed atmosphere (via H₂O)—experiencing water in not only its liquid state, but also its solid form and gaseous forms as well—with rain, hail (and snow), along with atmospheric clouds, all existing upon the same planet; the fact that such a luxury is nowhere else within the known universe must now be simply dispatched with the wave of the hand as inconsequential, along with myriad other oddities needed for life on our wonderful planet—particularly when, of late, astrophysicists may now postulate that there is an actual birth date for our existing universe, with new evidence that the “big bang” may actually have left an actual birth mark, now observable within the radiological, and detectable, eons behind us.*

Just forget you read that last sentence. It may get you in trouble. (I warned you!)

So much more fun it is, don't you think, to simply slip & slide on the rails, and to imagine that life “just happened”? So much simpler, is it not, to just encourage our youngsters now springing up behind us within our civilization to simply go by their feelings: perhaps discerning a “he” within their makeup today, and a “she” tomorrow, for example. Oh, “Once upon a time,” we may tell them, “the ancients believed in a Creator up there: They believed that SomeOne made each of us for a purpose!” –but why burden our children with such concerns?! Is it not easier to simply “wing it” on how we happen to feel on a particular morning: especially now that the weeds about us (or the Weed) may now support our fairy tale world of

(CONTINUED)

psychedelics as it is now endorsed by our new Wizards (er) Doctors of phallaciousness (—er, philosophy, not all are fallacious) who now continually assure us that He no longer exists (or, never did)? Yes, yes, so that we may all remain free to define our own world as we have chosen, this morning, and may soon lock up (or finally penalize the pants off of) those who oppose our new reality.

OK, OK, I will admit that, although we can now “prove” that the universe had a beginning, we are still being asked to believe that God (after having set up the universe) fashioned this planet into a living paradise within a mere six days. However, in my way of thinking, it does not seem at all unreasonable for One so powerful, Who *can* create the universe and our world teaming with myriad forms of life—to ask for me to *believe* in Him (Hebrews 11:3)—especially since Scripture states that He was willing to pay for my moral failures with the blood of His Son . . . and raise Him from the dead in a verifiable manner (so that more than 500 witnesses, observed Him alive again, at a single event – 1 Cor. 15:6). We Christians call this “faith.”

Is this too much to ask of His creation??

But why should we need to think soberly when (quite literally) we can now play with our minds through designer drugs or mystic hallucinogens (and . . . hemp derivatives) that are becoming increasingly legal!

Yet how much longer, one wonders, will this Fantasy Land that we are indulging ourselves in, remain in business before our mad jostling of current events causes this Social Roller Coaster to utterly derail??

And what was it, really, that the “ancients” (and Puritans) actually believed? Or, more simply, what does their Book (the Holy Bible) teach about the unseen world and the battle for our minds and very souls? Has all that is now happening about us, within our increasingly maddening world, been foretold within the Scriptures? Is there really a battle raging for our hearts and minds that goes beyond the mere conjecture and the accidental congruence of a molecular mumbo jumbo?

There is, and it is to both your, and my own, advantage to at least begin educating ourselves about this God that our politically correct world seems so incensed about (or “mad” at). So let us take a few baby steps, shall we, into what some might call “spiritual warfare.”

Brace yourself: this can be a serious (although quite often, a very simple) reality—and beyond this theme (in the final discussion) we will engage in a more blunt explanation of the glories of the New Tabernacle of God, for the ages.

Be blessed in Jesus.

†

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but . . . against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Ephesians 6:12 nkj

So the battle for our souls must factor in a heavenly reward. For Scripture affirms that the Creator of our universe so loves us, that He not only prepared Paradise for our first parents (Adam and Eve) but is right now preparing another, eternal, home for our future (Genesis 1-2, John 14:1-2): Further, that Christ will soon *return* to receive us to Himself (John 14:3, Rev. 1:7). Some of the details of this happening are in-

cluded in my latest book, *WHEN IT IS TIME*, which also details some of the geopolitical events, and personal crisis that must precede this event. Our present world, in other words, is now gearing up for a final face-off between the forces of Good and those of Evil and, in the end, just before He returns *all nations* will be found aligned against Israel (Acts 1:9-12, Zech. 14:1-3). However, in the interim, there will be many mini-skirmishes



More than Flesh & Blood

in which the enemy of our souls will seek to “steal, kill, and destroy,” whoever he can (Jn. 10:7-15, 1 Peter 5:8). And, the apostle Peter informs us, we must each “[save ourselves] from this perverse generation” (Acts 2:40).

Our opening quote actually comes from one of the apostle Paul’s letters to a 1st century church in the city of Ephesus. There he writes that the faithful in our world are now engaged in a wrestling match against principalities (& rulers of the darkness) *of this age*, and spiritual hosts *in heavenly places*. Why is this? No doubt it is because as sons and daughters of God, Himself (Jn. 1:11-12)—our larger concern should not merely be with the “infantry” on the ground, but with the ruling forces that control the larger picture. (Keep this in mind when praying for our political leaders —1 Tim. 2:1-4)! This can actually be quite practical.

Consider, for example, how much easier it would have been to engage major battles during WWII, if

our generals had been able to gain direct access to General Patton, in person, rather than having to butt heads with his German Panzer divisions. Or, why stop there? What if we could have affected Hitler himself, to bring down the Nazi threat (indeed, there were those involved in that very thing—Reeves Howells, for one[#])?

This was exactly what the prophet Elisha, who followed in the footsteps of Elijah, was able to do. So effective was his ministering in the affairs of men that the head of invading forces found it necessary to attempt to “take him out” directly! For the king of Assyria had called his counselors to ask them:

... *“Will you not show me which of us is for the king of Israel?”*¹² *And one of his servants said, “None, my lord, O king; but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the words that you speak in your bedroom.”*

2 Kings 6:11-12

In some ways, we may discern a very practical application of this principle already at work in our day: by persons able to interpret future events by using biblical prophecy to forecast, for example, events in middle eastern battles. For the prophet Zechariah has clearly forecast a day (after Israel’s return) when, *“the LORD will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; the one who is feeble among them in that day shall be like David, and the house of David shall be like God, like the Angel of the LORD before them.”* —that was the 8th verse, of the 12th chapter. The next reads *“It shall be in that day that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.”* Yet how many of Israel’s attacking enemies in 1948, one wonders, ever thought to apply these verses to their defeat?? At least that Assyrian king knew “which way was up!” and “put out a contract” on Elisha So back to our graphic example of true spiritual warfare: When the king of Assyria

(Continued on page 6)

[#]See the classic, *REEVES HOWELLS INTERCESSOR*, by Norman Grubb



BUILDING

A

NEW TEMPLE ?

. . . "Behold, the Man whose name is the BRANCH! . . . He shall build the temple of the LORD;

Zechariah 6:12

There are at two temples mentioned within Scripture, each designed for worship of the true God: one of these was earthly (and physical) and the other is heavenly and spiritual. Between these two temples there is now only one active High Priest commissioned by the God of the Bible: the Lord Jesus Christ (Heb. 9:11).

Moreover, because the first covenant associated with the first temple is "old" and now outdated, it is appropriate that its temple is no longer standing. That temple, originally made by Moses, was a shadow of the one existing in Heaven as per God's specific instructions for, God said, "*See that you make all things according to the pattern shown you on the mountain*" (Hebrews 8:5). –And what was the big deal about this tabernacle/temple? It was the place where sacrifice and offerings were made by those who believed in the living God! This was especially important when it came to being made right with God. In other words, in order to have my sins forgiven, I would have had to offer a blood sacrifice for my sins, wherein my sins were placed upon the head of an animal and have it killed in my place (Lev. 4:22-35). For the wages of sin is death (Rom. 6:23).

When the Lord Jesus Christ came to earth his most important mission was to become the "lamb of God" who would take away the sins of the world (John 1:29). However, this exposes the fact that the temple then standing according to Old Testament commandments was actually imperfect, and that the sprinkling of animals' blood could only sanctify (make clean) the outside of humankind and, what we might call, our "human flesh." For the *real* issue is

not the external (at all!) but the *internal* part of our being, where the human conscience resides. This part of man, which is at enmity with God (as God's enemy, since Adam disobeyed God in the Garden of Eden and God pronounced death upon us: see Genesis 1 & 2) –would need to be cancelled, or cleansed, by the action of . . . God Himself.

¹³ *For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh,*
¹⁴ *how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?*

Hebrews 9:13-14

This is a very big deal, to say the least, and something that Old Testament prophets understood, "Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: "*Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, But a body You have prepared for Me.*" ⁶ *In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You had no pleasure.*" ⁷ *Then I said, 'Behold, I have come-- In the volume of the book it is written of Me-- To do Your will, O God.'*" (Hebrews 10:5-7 –see also Psalm 40:6-8). You do see it, do you not? Mere earthly ceremonies cannot take away my sins any more than simply saying "I'm sorry" could atone for David's murder of the husband of Bathsheba. **God Himself has to cleanse our hearts**, and since the wages of sin is death (as He declared to Adam and Eve in the Garden) someone's blood would have to be shed. Yet, because man was created

in God’s image (and the animals are not) **a payment for our sins must ultimately be made by a perfect Person—and the sins of all humans, must be paid for by an infinite (and eternal) Man: a God-man, the Lord Jesus Christ.**

This is what Jesus Christ accomplished by going to the Cross, to pay for our sins! The Old Testament sacrifices gave a form of cleansing for the external, while awaiting the arrival of the Perfect Sacrifice and perfect Lamb, the Lord Jesus Christ. Once Christ came, the old covenant became obsolete. And consider what God has said about this new covenant!

12 For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.”¹³ In that He says, “A new covenant,” He has made the first obsolete. . . .

Hebrews 8:12-13

This is a VERY BIG DEAL!!

This is why Christians no longer go into a temple to offer a blood sacrifice for our sin, for the Bible lets us know that Christ has appeared in Heaven with His own blood to take away our sins where it really counts **once for all** (see Hebrews 9:12, 23-28)! This is why anyone (even those not born of Jewish heritage, under Old Testament laws and ceremonies) may now be declared righteous and become full members of the family of God (John 1:12,13). Thus may we become “born again” (John 3:3-16)!!

No person adopting the Christian faith, and being adopted into the family of God in fulfillment of the promises given to Abraham, the father of the faith (Galatians chapter 3)—dares place their ultimate hope in a mere human institution made up of human charters, governmental institutions, or mere brick and mortar edifices no matter how magnificent or grandiose such a building may be.

Even the Sistine Chapel will one day crumble into dust and ashes. We dare not place the hope of our very souls and eternal destiny into the

hands of mere human institutions. Period. However,

There are some who suppose that the prophets have pointed to an exception to these conditions at the end of the age, and that an offering for human sins and transgressions at the end of the age need not be in “the sanctuary and the tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man” (Heb. 8:2).

They say that Jesus Christ, Himself, implied this idea, when making reference to an Old Testament prophecy that was very, very, familiar to first century Jewish believers as well as to Christians down through the ages. We have dealt with this in past UPLOOKs on several occasions by referring to it as “The Pearl Harbor Prophecy” because, although Jesus did refer to Daniel’s prophecy, *in both cases* where Christ referred to this prophecy, a cryptic comment (or caveat) was also issued. This warning is found in both Matthew’s gospel, as well as Mark’s, and reads as follows.

15 “Therefore when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place” (whoever reads, let him understand),¹⁶ then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

Matthew 24:15-16 (see also Mk. 13:14-15)

In earlier explanations of this passage we have shown that what Jesus was doing, was creating a historic parable (similar to 1 Cor. 10:6-7), and was pointing to a yet future event that would impact the believing world much as Antiochus Epiphanes did, when devastating the Jewish nation by offering swine’s blood upon the sacred altar of the Jewish temple in 167 BC.

As was pointed out in our earlier discussions, this would be like telling Americans that a devastating event in our historical past (like Pearl Harbor) would one day be repeated in a future shocking event (as took place on 9/11 in 2001). In both instances there were planes utilized to attack the US, and in both cases the attacks so disturbed

our nation that it caused us to go to war—but the fact is, that the two attacks were not *exactly* the same, and therefore if someone had tried to use Pearl Harbor to warn us about 9/11—they would have had to also include a caveat (warning) “Let the listener beware!” (or “Let the reader investigate further” and pray for further insight, on how to avoid the next attack).

Today, however, I would like to approach this prophecy from a completely different angle: one of spiritual application. “How,” I would like to ask, “—and with what impact” I would inquire, “would offering sacrifices in a new temple in Jerusalem, affect the Christian faith?”

Again, I would like to ask of those who believe that the Jewish temple will one day be rebuilt upon the temple mount: “How would this affect our Christian faith?” Or, even:

“How would it tangibly affect the faith of precious Jewish persons, living throughout our world today?”

Would a standing temple in Jerusalem, where blood sacrifices were again offered, affirm the sanctity of blood sacrifice for human sins? Would this encourage Jewish persons to turn back with a renewed fervor to the Old Testament ceremonies, and utterly abandon any budding interest in the Messiah (Jesus) as their sin bearer? To answer this, and other questions, would require more space and time than we have in this UPLOOK (see my latest book *WHEN IT IT TIME: The Zechariah Connection* for a much fuller explanation). My only point of discussion at this point is this: renewed blood sacrifices in Jerusalem do more harm than good, and;

In fact, can it be that a physical temple rebuilt in Israel before Christ’s second coming, would violate the real purpose of His first coming?

To begin answering this question, let us consider what appears to be a serious blunder made by a famous apostle in the first century.

(Continued on page 7 - right columns)

(Continued from page 3) ...**MORE** . . .

realized that a holy man of God was against him, and set out to silence him by using the tools at his disposal: a physical army. So the king of Assyria said:

¹³ So he said, "Go and see where he is, that I may send and get him." And it was told him, saying, "Surely he is in Dothan." ¹⁴ Therefore he sent horses and chariots and a great army there, and they came by night and surrounded the city.

2 Kings 6:13-14

This is a very serious point of instruction that we must return to, before discussion's end: that men (and women) who do not know the Lord, may actually find themselves fighting against God by human (and even governmental) means.

It may not be their intent to fight against God (of course) and they may only be acting in a way that seems correct to the persons they associate with. Yet how much better it would have been, if the king of Assyria had been able to see beyond his social and governmental contacts and recognize that Israel was serving the true and living God! --Do not be too hard on the king of Assyria, therefore (Elisha certainly wasn't, as we shall see in a moment) for he lived in a world much like our own: with groups divided along national and religious lines. After all, there were *many* gods in the ancient world. What made Israel's so special??

Well, for starters, the God of Israel *is* God. But this is something every person (and reader) must discover for her or his self (before it's too late, of course—Heb. 9:27).

Assyria had made up its mind: Israel, and its prophet, must go.

¹⁴ Therefore [Assyria] sent horses and chariots and a great army there, and they came by night and surrounded

the city. ¹⁵ And when the servant of the man of God arose early and went out, there was an army, surrounding the city with horses and chariots. And his servant said to him, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?"

2 Kings 6:14-15

The nation of Israel had been divided, following King Solomon's rule in which he had not only "made Israel great"—but also very corrupt, by his insistence upon marrying pagan wives who then turned his heart

**This reminds us of
Christ's command to
love our enemies**

away from the Lord. In a very real sense, it was more than a physical army that now surrounded Dothan.

Their northern kingdom, now steeped in idolatry, was separated from a direct worship of God in the Jerusalem temple, and was ever more dependent upon its prophets to remind them of the God Who loved them, and had brought them out of the bondage of Egypt, and into the land flowing with milk and honey. (Similar to how many today within the US have forgotten the God Who did make America great: at least in military and economic might, but is now one of the world's greatest debtor nations . . .).

Understanding the moral and spiritual depths to which Israel was sinking makes the following events appear all the more amazing. For the servant of the mighty prophet Elisha will awaken that morning, rub his eyes and—

what is this? They are surrounded! Yet God does, indeed, have His man on the job in Dothan, and it is the Assyrians who are about to learn an important lesson; for Elisha is about to bring to bear the forces of another world upon this invading king's army. Elisha's answer to his servant is classic.

So he answered, "Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them."

2 Kings 6:16

Then Elisha prays to the Lord, and the servant's eyes are opened, so that he is able to see what the holy prophet had already seen: that it was the Assyrians who were surrounded by the LORD's hosts, and chariots of fire! However, instead of requesting that Assyria's army be annihilated (as will one day occur) Elisha made a request that, to this day, even modern armies cannot accomplish: he requested that all of the men within that army be (temporarily) blinded, so that they not only lost their sight but their orientation as well (similar to how the men were blinded in Sodom when they came to assault the angels in Lot's house (Gen. 9:8-11)).

Now Elisha said to them, "This is not the way, nor is this the city. Follow me, and I will bring you to the man whom you seek." But he led them to Samaria.

2 Kings 6:19

What is this? What is Elisha doing? He is leading this invading army a few miles south to Samaria, their capital city, and into a military strong hold. In fact, he actually leads them *into the walls of Samaria* so that the king of the northern capital may also witness the power of Israel's God, and of the man of God, who had been able to "wrap the enemies of God around his finger"! Then, with the invading army safely within Samaria's walls, and completely at his mercy, Elisha prayed yet another prayer, for them

to again receive their sight. —To which, the king of Israel responds by asking the prophet, “Shall I kill them?” Elisha’s response is telling, both for Samaria and for purposes of modern warfare (the Geneva Convention, for example). Elisha answers:

*But he answered,
“You shall not kill them.
Would you kill those
whom you have taken cap-
tive with your sword and
your bow? Set food and
water before them . . .”*
2 Kings 6:22

You see, pagan kings and kingdoms often annihilated their enemies when they had them underfoot. Mercy for enemy combatants who were captured was a relatively novel idea, encouraged by the God of the Bible. This also reminds us of Christ’s command to love our enemies and pray for those who despitefully use us (Matt. 5:43-48).

It must be noted, however, that such mercy and grace is not always, shall we say, so readily accessed by intervening nations. Such appears to be the case in the aftermath of an American President’s insistence on having Israel create new refugees, from Gaza settlements, in one month, only to have the same affected by Hurricane Katrina upon our own shores, in the very next (8/2005).[∞]

As the Scriptures state:

Therefore the Lord will wait, that He may have mercy upon you. For the Lord is a God of justice, Blessed are all those who wait upon Him.

Isaiah 30:18

Maranatha: behold He is coming!

†

(Continued from page 5)

== **A NEW TEMPLE ?** ==

Please, please(!) Understand that my intent here is not to bring shame, but enlightenment. For even the apostle Paul, himself an avid proponent of grace and of the atonement afforded by the blood of Christ (1 Cor. 1:23, 2:2, 2 Cor. 5:17-21 etc. . . .) appears to have engaged in an over reach regarding the Jerusalem temple that was still standing in Jerusalem, as he sought to be friendly with his Jewish brethren. In fact, he was actually about to *offer a sacrifice* within that temple (after Christ had already died, arisen, and returned to Heaven!) when the Lord allowed a turn of events to prevent him from doing so. To save time, and space, allow me to summarize what we are about to observe: Paul and the apostles had just recently engaged in an extended church counsel wherein they had agreed that the Old Testament rites and ceremonies were unnecessary for the personal salvation of Gentiles (see Acts, chapter 15). However, to appease Judean brethren, some agreed that Paul, himself, “walk[s] orderly and keep[s] the law.” (Acts 21:24). Paul agreed, therefore, to go into the temple in Jerusalem along with others to, here—read it for yourself:

²⁶ *Then Paul took the men, and the next day, having been purified with them, entered the temple to announce the expiration of the days of purification, at which time an offering should be made for each one of them.*²⁷

²⁷ *Now when the seven days were almost ended, the Jews from Asia, seeing him in the temple, stirred up the whole crowd and laid hands on him,*

²⁸ *crying out, “Men of Israel, help! This is the man who teaches all men everywhere against the people, the law, and this place; and*

furthermore he also brought Greeks into the temple and has defiled this holy place.”
Acts 21:26-28 [emphasis added]

Do you see what was happening? Paul was about to offer a blood sacrifice when (mercifully) an uproar occurred that forced the whole planned ceremony to be stopped! All of this was taking place while involving the very apostle who would write, “if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain” (Galatians 2:21)!!

Maybe (just maybe, mind you. Please do not stone the messenger!) —maybe this is one reason why the Lord has allowed the Dome of the Rock to sit on the site of the former temple? Maybe the Lord is trying to keep us from performing a similar error, in our day?

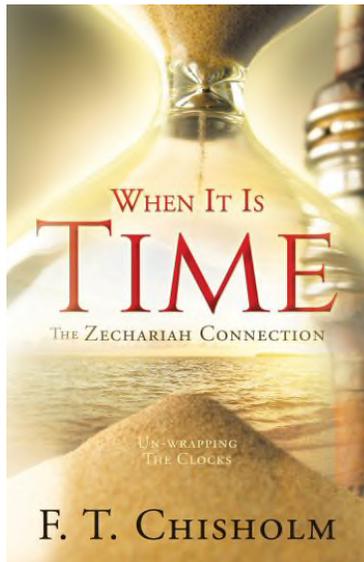
Several quick points, before closing: do you recall that church counsel, held in Jerusalem? One of the key points that church elders revealed during those meetings was that the New Testament temple (or tabernacle) that is being rebuilt . . . is spiritual (Acts 15:16). The prophet Zechariah says that it is the Lord (Jesus) who builds this temple (Zech. 6:12). This is a key doctrine within the New Testament and is no big secret, at all (see 1 Peter 2:1-5, for example). Of course . . . if *this* is the temple referred to when Christ says “let the reader understand” within His Olivet discourse—then there are some very serious issues to consider. Yes, these are very serious indeed (issues such as those raised by 1 Cor. 3:16,17 & Matthew 25:1-10 for example; issues raised by the closing chapter of my most recent book . . .).

No wonder the ten virgins, within Christ’s parable, are surprised at midnight (Matt. 25:6-9)!

Whatever the outcome of the current events in our day, one thing is certain: We are now living in some amazing times!

†

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This Month's Features:

1. MORE THAN FLESH & BLOOD
2. A New Tabernacle!?

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What Must I do?

“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved.”
Acts 16:31

HOW?

If you will confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

For with the heart man believes unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Romans 10:9,10

In Other Words

Acknowledge: your need

—as a sinner (Romans 3:23, II Cor. 5:14-15)

Accept: His work on the Cross —to be your Savior

Confess: your acceptance of His lordship over you.

Live for Him: with your new life!

For the scripture says, “Whoever believes on Him will not be ashamed.”

Romans 10:11

ENDNOTES; unless otherwise noted, all Scriptures, quoted from NKJV

*Please note that the word translated “worlds” in Heb. 11:3, could also be translated “ages,” or “eons,” during which a period of chaos existed (Genesis 1:2) To get a more detailed view of creation from a scientific perspective, read CREATOR OF THE COSMOS, by the astrophysicist Hugh Ross.

∞ See Chapter 9, of AS AMERICA HAS DONE TO ISRAEL . . . By John McTernan, Whitaker House,