

YAHSHUA MESSIAH IS ADONAI

END TIME ISSUE MINISTRIES

FOR WE ARE ALL ONE BODY IN MESSIAH

(Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12)



MONTHLY VOLUME

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"Yahshua Messiah is Adonai" is a more accurate representation of the words generally translated "Jesus Christ is Lord".

"Yahweh" is the correct anglicisation of the word generally translated "the LORD".

INTRODUCTION

END TIME ISSUE MINISTRIES (ETI) is the umbrella ministry for all the services we offer. It is an apostolic ministry dedicated to serving the church by distributing whatever we perceive to be the truth to all those who are interested in seeking ALL TRUTH.

We seek to be led by the Holy Spirit of YAHWEH {generally incorrectly translated "the LORD"} and to distribute only that which we know to be truth BUT we acknowledge our humanity, frailty and propensity for error and therefore ask you to advise us if, at any time, you feel that you have truth which we lack. We also ask you to share with us ANY truth which you perceive to be important and we undertake, as YAHWEH leads, to distribute to the appropriate list such items as we feel led to distribute.

Our services are offered in the first instance to those who believe in YAHSHUA Messiah {generally incorrectly translated as "Jesus Christ"} as the Son of Yahweh who gave His life on the stake {generally incorrectly translated "cross"} to take our sins and purchase our salvation and who was resurrected on the third day and today sits on the Right Hand of the Father.

HOWEVER, we welcome all those who serve YAHWEH ADONAI {THE LORD GOD} the Creator of the Heavens and the earth, no matter what Name they know Him by, including THE LORD, Allah, Hashem, Jehovah, YHWH, etc.

We ALSO WELCOME all those who are seeking to know whether YAHWEH is who we say He is and to know whether YAHSHUA Messiah {Jesus Christ} is who we say He is.

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25 September 2001

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We firmly believe that the Word of Yahweh is given as a FREE GIFT to all and should not be subject to earthly "copyright" or subject to sale at all. The Word of Yahweh should be equally available to the poorest of the poor as to the richest. Therefore, we do not charge directly for our materials although offerings to cover costs are appreciated where these can be afforded. Offerings towards our services to others by those who are so led are also welcome as the ministry is entirely dependent on the tithes and offerings of those who support us.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	i
COPYRIGHT AND CHARGES	ii
TABLE OF CONTENTS	iii
COMPANION DOCUMENTS	vi
THE USE OF HEBREW WORDS AND THE NAMES OF THE CREATOR	iv
CONTENT	xi
MESSAGES FROM OTHER MINISTRIES	xii
OUR PRAYER	xiii

PUBLISHED IN NOVEMBER (11) 2000

1A1.00.11.01	Some Facts On Israel
1A1.00.11.02	A Touching Story - The Blessing of Thorns (16 November, 2000)
1A1.00.11.03	Persecution of Christians
1A1.00.11.04	Judgment and the Church - Tribulation FIRST
1A1.00.11.05	Is Rick Joyner a Prophet? (re Persecution of Christians)
1A1.00.11.06	Wheat and Tares (re Persecuted Christians)
1A1.00.11.07	Extracts From "The Call" - Further Indications of Soon Coming Judgment on the Church and the World (14 November, 2000)
1A1.00.11.08	Facts on Israel - Helpful Information (14 November, 2000)
1A1.00.11.09	Who Sits in Moses Seat? (Part 2 of 2)

- 1A1.00.11.10 Responding to rebelliousness or treachery on the part of a wife (16 November, 2000)
- 1A1.00.11.11 Lord Teach Me How To Love (17 November, 2000)
- 1A1.00.11.12 Thoughts on Moderating Discussion Lists (22 November, 2000)

PUBLISHED IN DECEMBER (12) 2000

- 1A1.00.12.01 Sergei - How will we respond to persecution? (11 December, 2000)

THE USE OF HEBREW WORDS AND THE NAMES OF THE CREATOR

In recent years we have become increasingly aware that in certain instances the traditional English words applied to certain Scriptural concepts and also to the names of the Creator do not adequately succeed in communicating the full depth of meaning contained in scripture. This is one of the factors behind the Amplified Bible.

In addressing this issue, we have progressively felt impressed to make use of the Anglicization of the Hebrew words or names in preference to the traditional English words and names in order to bring a more relevant understanding of the Scriptures and associated concepts. Some of the terms used in our documents are defined in this section for convenience.

We were also shown clearly by YAHWEH {generally incorrectly translated "the LORD"} some years ago that the scriptures written from the time of YAHSHUA MESSIAH {generally incorrectly translated Jesus Christ} were originally written in Aramaic, a dialect of Hebrew and NOT in Greek as commonly supposed. While in most cases this has little or no impact on translation, there are certain instances where the impact is material. For this reason, we are increasingly resorting to Hebrew words in cases where we are aware of problems.

We have recently adopted the convention of placing words which we believe to have negative translation implications in curly brackets after the word we understand to be more appropriate such as Yahshua {Jesus}.

It must be stressed that we understand the use of these words to be firstly a courtesy intended to please our Heavenly Father and secondly as a means to ensuring the spiritual technical correctness of our understanding thereby removing potential footholds for Satan to attack us.

YAHWEH {THE LORD}

YAHWEH is the proper name for our Creator and occurs 6,828 times in the Pre-Messianic Scriptures {Old Testament}. Vines states:

*"LORD : The divine name YHWH appears only in the Bible. Its precise meaning is much debated. **God chose it as His personal name by which He related specifically to His chosen or covenant people.**" (from Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words, (Copyright (C) 1985, Thomas Nelson Publishers)*

By way of analogy, my proper name is "James" and i have the designation of "husband" to my wife, it would not be indicative of a meaningful marriage relationship if my wife were to constantly refer to me as "husband" rather than "James". In the same way, it is not indicative of a meaningful relationship with our Creator to refer to Him as "Lord" rather than "YAHWEH" when He has given us His name to use and uses it throughout scripture.

For more information refer to the book "The Sacred Name" published by Qadesh La Yahweh Press, available on the internet at:

<http://www.yahweh.org/publications/pdf1/sacrednm.pdf>

THE LORD (Baal)

In contrast, the word "Baal" in English translations could more accurately be translated "lord" or "the lord". Thus by a quirk of the early translations, the word Baal which could easily be translated "the lord" is used to represent a pagan deity and the word Yahweh, which is not capable of translation, is translated "THE LORD". It therefore seems important that we progressively accustom ourselves to using the correct name for our Creator.

YAHSHUA {JESUS} AND MESSIAH {CHRIST}

By the same token, our Saviour was a Jew and He spoke Aramaic or Hebrew, as evidenced by the various scriptures which quote his direct words, as in Matthew 27:46 *"And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, **"Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?"** that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"*" (NKJ)

In His darkest hour, our Saviour spoke His language and the Greek translators saw fit to preserve His words. "Jesus" and "Christ" are both Greek words which are a legacy of the intermediate translation from Aramaic to English. Accordingly, in the absence of valid English words, it seems more respectful to use the Hebrew words which are, in a sense, also too deep to translate.

Accordingly, the word "YAHSHUA" is used in all recent document's issued by this ministry, in place of "Jesus", and "MESSIAH" is used for "Christ". Older documents may still use the more widely used words.

I am aware that there are disputes regarding the correct spelling and pronunciation of the Name of the Saviour but, at this time, after seeking Yahweh on the matter for about two years, these are the spellings and usages with which i feel comfortable. If you hold a different view on spellings and the like, i ask you at this time to give me the space for YAHWEH, Himself, to correct me if correction is, indeed, needed. But, at the same time, please ask Him to speak to you directly concerning the spelling that you are accustomed to.

In particular, please note the commonality between YAHweh and YAHshua in terms of the use of "Yah" as the first part of both names. Furthermore,

note that the Hebrew word for deliverance and salvation is "yeshua" and there are strong indications that "Yahshua" means "the deliverance of Yah", for me this removes all doubt as to whether the Name of the Saviour is "Yahshua" or some other spelling.

ANOINTED {MESSIAH / CHRIST}

The word translated Messiah frequently occurs in the pre-Messianic Scriptures translated as "the anointed one" or "My anointed" or similar. Since both "Christ" and "Messiah" have come to take on meanings which go FAR beyond "Yahshua the anointed one" or "anointed with the set apart Spirit of Yahweh", we are increasingly adopting the convention of using "anointed" or "anointed one" instead of "Messiah".

ADONAI {LORD}

The Hebrew phrase translated "Lord GOD" as distinct from "LORD God" and "the LORD" refers to YAHWEH as YAHWEH ADONAI. In conventional English usage this is often rendered "THE LORD GOD". YAHWEH ADONAI is perhaps the deepest and most reverent form of address for our Creator.

ADONAI is the term most directly equivalent to the English word "Lord" when applied to YAHWEH as distinct to "baal" as a general term for an earthly lord.

Consider **2 Samuel 7:22** *""Therefore You are great, O YAHWEH ADONAI {Lord GOD}. For there is none like You, nor is there any God besides You, according to all that we have heard with our ears." (NKJ)*

By the same token, YAHSHUA MESSIAH is ADONAI, that is, Jesus Christ is Lord. ADONAI carries much deeper spiritual reverence and significance than "Lord".

ELOHIM / MIGHTY ONE {GOD}

The Hebrew word generally translated "God" is "Elohim" which means "Mighty One". "God" is in fact the name of a pagan deity and it therefore seem appropriate to avoid applying it to our creator.

In practical terms, "elohim", which can be applied to men, idols OR the Creator simply means "mighty one". Thus, when we refer to Yahweh Elohim, we are saying effectively, "Yahweh our Mighty One". Recently we have started to use "elohim" or "mighty one" instead of "God" or "god".

TORAH {LAW}

The five books of Moses (Genesis Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy), and most specifically the commandments given by YAHWEH through Moses which govern the entire fundamental relationship of man with YAHWEH.

In broader terms Torah includes the full body of so called "Old Testament" but it is fundamentally the essence of the Laws of YAHWEH that do not change and never will.

Recognize that insofar as the physical animal sacrifices and certain other aspects of Torah were FULFILLED by YAHSHUA MESSIAH, these Laws do not apply to us today in their PHYSICAL form although the **spiritual** laws and principles that they represent, REMAIN valid today.

IMMERSION {BAPTISM}

The word baptism is derived from the Greek word meaning "immersion". As with certain other words, "baptism" has taken on a particular religious significance which is materially different from the meaning of the word "mikvah" in the Hebrew. Immersion in Scripture is a routine part of the cleansing process from any defilement and NOT a once off procedure. There are also various immersions defined in Scripture including immersion for cleansing from sin and immersion in the set apart Spirit of Yahweh {baptism of the Holy Spirit}.

BODY / ASSEMBLY / CONGREGATION {CHURCH}

The word generally translated "church" also has a pagan connotation and has taken on a religious significance beyond a technical term simply referring to the assembly or congregation of believers. The concept of a "congregation" applies just as much to the "congregation" in the wilderness with Moses as it does to modern day congregations. However, in a sense, the term church as it is used today frequently is an alternative word for the "Body" of Messiah. The global congregation of ALL who believe.

BELIEVER / MESSIANIC {CHRISTIAN}

For the same reason that we use the term "Messiah" instead of "Christ", we prefer to use "Messianic" instead of "Christian". However, since our understanding is that "Messianic" applies to those who are LIKE Yahshua in their level of anointing and the works that Yahweh, we prefer to use the term "believer" in most cases.

CHESED {LOVE}

There are two concepts in Scripture both translated "love" in most English translations. The one is carnal love which can include lust, the other is the covenant "love" of YAHWEH. The Hebrew word for this is "chesed" and the Greek word is "agape". These words are translated "loving kindness" and "charity" in some translations.

However, the essence of the sense of this form of "love" is that which is depicted in 1 Corinthians 13:1-8 which is most effectively interpreted in the Amplified Bible (in the passage that follows "CHESED {love}" has been inserted in place of "love").

¹ If I [can] speak in the tongues of men and [even] of angels, but have not CHESED {love} (that reasoning, intentional, spiritual, devotion such as is inspired by God's love for and in us), I am only a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² And if I have prophetic powers (...), and understand all the secret truths and mysteries and possess all knowledge, and if I have [sufficient] faith so that I can remove mountains, but have not CHESED {love} (God's CHESED {love} in me) I am nothing (a useless nobody). ³ Even if I dole out all that I have [to the poor in providing] food, and if I surrender my body to be burned or in order that I may glory, but have not CHESED {love} (God's CHESED {love} in me), I gain nothing.

⁴ CHESED {love} endures long and is patient and kind;
CHESED {love} never is envious nor boils over with jealousy,
is not boastful or vainglorious,
does not display itself haughtily.

⁵ It is not conceited (arrogant and inflated with pride);
it is not rude (unmannerly) and does not act unbecomingly.
CHESED {love} (God's CHESED {love} in us) does not insist on it's own rights
or its own way,
for it is not self-seeking;
it is not touchy or fretful or resentful;
it takes no account of the evil done to it
[it pays no attention to a suffered wrong].

⁶ It does not rejoice at injustice and unrighteousness,
but rejoices when right and truth prevail.

⁷ CHESED {love} bears up under anything and everything that comes,
is ever ready to believe the best of every person,
its hopes are fadeless under all circumstances,
and it endures everything [without weakening].

⁸ CHESED {love} never fails

[never fades out or becomes obsolete or comes to an end].
As for prophecy (...) it will be fulfilled and pass away; as for tongues, they
will be destroyed and cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away [it will lose
its value and be superseded by truth]. (AMP)

Clearly, YAHWEH'S CHESED {love} is far beyond the carnal, selfish emotion that we call "love" in this age. It is also important to understand that YAHWEH'S CHESED is robust, can be severe and was strong enough to send His only Son to the Cross to die the most horrible death for OUR sins. CHESED is selfless and without covetousness. Until we have a deep revelation of YAHWEH'S covenant CHESED {love} as distinct from "love" as we use the word today we are not likely to truly understand YAHWEH, YAHSHUA, MESSIAH, THE SET APART (HOLY) SPIRIT or His Word. A deep understanding of CHESED and covenant is VITAL to interpreting the issues of the end of the age!

SET APART { HOLY }

The word translated "Holy" in most English translations is, essentially, a technical term which means "set apart". The word translated "sanctified" also means "set apart" and the word translated "saint" ALSO means set apart.

Thus anything which is Holy is SET APART unto Yahweh. We have recently started to use the term "set apart" instead of holy for all the above cases in order to make visible the commonality of concept that flows through all that we refer to as "holiness". We also prefer "set apart" since "holy" tends to have a religious sense which is easily stated but not understood.

This also has an impact on understanding "the Set Apart Spirit of Yahweh", that is "The Holy Spirit". There is a tendency to assign a unique and separate identity to "The Holy Spirit" when, in fact, "the Set Apart Spirit of Yahweh" is the Spirit of Yahweh that is set apart to minister to His set apart people {saints} as distinct from the aspect of Yahweh *"in whom we live and move and have our being"* (Acts 17:28).

STAKE { CROSS }

The Greek word translated "cross" means "stake". There is mounting evidence that Yahshua was impaled or hung on a stake, that is suspended between ONE nail through both his hands and ONE nail through both his feet. There are strong Scriptural and mechanical reasons why this is more likely than a cross and certain spiritual reasons which indicate that Satan would benefit from having us use the term "cross" instead of "stake".

Accordingly, we have recently started to use the terms "stake" and "impaled" / "hung" or "executed" instead of "cross".

ISHSHAH { WOMAN / WOMEN / WIFE / WIVES }

According to Strong, Vines and other references the root word for woman, women, wife and wives in Hebrew is always "ishshah", Strong's number 802. As far as we have been able to determine the only way to determine the quantum and the marital status of an "ishshah" is through the context.

Strong defines 802 'ishshah (ish-shaw'); *"feminine of 376 or 582; irregular plural, nashiyim (naw-sheem)"; a woman (used in the same wide sense as 582): KJV-- [adulter] ess, each, every, female, X many, + none, one, + together, wife, woman. Often unexpressed in English."*

In translating ishshah it is also important to understand that research indicates that in Bible times it was virtually unheard of for a woman above the age of puberty to be unmarried. Therefore, all women before the age of puberty are referred to as "virgins" and since all adult women were either married, widows or harlots there was no requirement for a word to describe an adult "virgin". Thus, where ishshah is encountered, unless she is clearly either a widow or a harlot then it is almost certain that she was a "wife".

In addition, since throughout scripture it was common practice for more than one woman to marry a man and since Genesis 2:24 states that when a man marries a woman she becomes "one flesh" with him, there was frequently no need in Bible times to distinguish between one or many women if they were married to the same man they were all "ishshah" unless specifically otherwise specified.

We thus find that contextual interpretation filtered through modern practice can dramatically influence which English word is used and have therefore concluded that it is preferable to use "ishshah" in most instances.

Note also that the Greek word "gune" apparently has many of the same characteristics as "ishshah" although we have been told that the Greek is more specific than the Hebrew. Accordingly, we have elected to use "ishshah".

CONTENT

Content of articles is, to the best of our knowledge and belief an accurate reflection of the truth regarding the subject under discussion and in accordance with the Word and the Will of YAHWEH. However, we are fully aware of the fact that we are, like all human beings, susceptible to error. Accordingly we ask that you prayerfully consider all that we publish and trust the Holy Spirit of YAHWEH to guide you into all that is truth and to blow away all that may be leaven in what we publish.

Where we publish material from other ministries, we seek to avoid censoring the articles and therefore, while our decision to publish represents acceptance of the main message of the article, there may be components which do not necessarily accord fully with what we have published in other articles. In such cases we ask you to ask the Set Apart {Holy} Spirit to show you what the truth is. Publication of material from another ministry does not in any way represent a formal endorsement of this ministry by that ministry or vice versa, we simply seek to publish that which YAHWEH {the Lord} leads us to publish.

Insofar as we are all a long way from being like YAHSHUA {Jesus}, we ask you to bear with us where you really feel we have missed it. Please feel free to notify us of anything that you consider to be an error. In such cases, we ask you to focus on that which is of Yahweh in what is published and not to become focussed on that which you consider to be leaven. Our objective is to build bridges and NOT to enter into divisive disputes and trust the Set Apart {Holy} Spirit to lead all of us into the truth.

MESSAGES FROM OTHER MINISTRIES

Where we feel impressed to share a message from another source or ministry, we do not consider it appropriate to censor or edit and therefore present the message in full. Accordingly, if there are elements of the message which do not accord with what has been previously published by this ministry, as always, we leave it to the reader to discern what is of Yahweh and what is not, in what others write as much as in what is written by us. Likewise, the publication of a message does not necessarily imply endorsement of every jot and tittle of that message, only that we believe that the heart of the message IS from Yahweh.

By the same token, if we share one message, it does not imply that we hold a view, whether positive or negative towards the ministry as a whole or towards other works of that ministry. It is NOT for us to judge, it is for us to communicate that which we believe will assist those on our lists and leave them to draw their own conclusions.

As has been stated previously, we will all stand alone before the Judgment Seat! We at End Time Issues are messengers, who willingly acknowledge our fallibility and human frailty. Each person MUST discern the truths of Yahweh for themselves and NEVER come to a place where any human being is regarded as being infallible.

OUR PRAYER

It is our prayer ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, ¹⁸ the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power²⁰ which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. ²² And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, ²³ which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all. (Ephesians 1:17-23 NKJ)

Some facts on Israel

A Touching Story, the Blessing of Thorns

Persecution of Christians

To be added

JUDGMENT AND THE CHURCH TRIBULATION FIRST

Friday, November 10, 2000

Greetings in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ

Further to the recent mailings on "Persecution of Christians", "Wheat and Tares" and "Rick Joyner" there are a number of developments over the past few days and months which it seems important to bring to your attention.

Some of these items are items which relate to my personal Christian walk and experience in the recent past but which appear to have wider relevance and others relate to world events.

Most specifically, **the events in the Middle East appear to satisfy most, if not all the requirements for a Third World War in which most or all the nations of the world array themselves for battle against Israel.** This is being confirmed increasingly by prophetic voices and by observation, particularly since the events that led to the current conflict came to a head at the time of Yom Kippur AND were directly associated with developments on the Temple Mount, as indicated in a posting some time ago.

In the event of a major war against Israel, many Christians, who are increasingly becoming aware of the fact that Christianity is grafted into the Vine of Israel, that Jesus Christ was a Jew and that it is not possible to be a true Christian without recognizing the Jewish heritage of Christianity, will find themselves facing a MAJOR dilemma - what does one do if one's country declares war on Israel? This is not the subject of this mail, but it is a subject which should be receiving attention in our prayers right now!

The possibility of a major international war against Israel also brings the prospect of many of the plagues of Revelation closer to potential reality (a third of mankind being destroyed, etc). It also suggests the possibility of major world wide anti-Jewish and anti-Christian sentiment resulting in pogroms and detention of Jews, Christians and others in the concentration camps of which rumours continue to surface.

Associated with this are ongoing indications of revival and major outpourings of the Holy Spirit around the world, reinforcing the expectation of major judgment - great darkness is generally associated with great revival - in times of hardship, people either turn TO GOD or away from God and we will see both in increasing measure in the days ahead. At the same time, there will be those who like Daniel will survive the Lions den unscathed (Daniel 6) or like Shedrach, Meshach and Abednego will walk in the fiery furnace with a man who looks like the "Son of God" without a hair being singed (Daniel 3), etc.

In this mail and, God willing, some that will follow, we will seek to place current developments in the world in a scriptural context with a view to assisting readers to set their own spiritual priorities for the months ahead.

A key aspect on which there is widespread disagreement in the Body of Christ today is the question of whether the Church will have to endure persecution and tribulation or whether the Church will be removed or "raptured" before judgment comes on the world.

THE WORD TRIBULATION IS ALMOST ALWAYS APPLIED TO THE CHURCH / BELIEVERS

Please consider that the word TRIBULATION in the following verses of Scripture always applies to BELIEVERS:

Matthew 13:21

21 "yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles. (NKJ)

Matthew 24:9

9 "Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. (NKJ)

Matthew 24:21

21 "For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. (NKJ)

Matthew 24:29

29 "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. (NKJ)

Mark 4:17

17 "and they have no root in themselves, and so endure only for a time. Afterward, when tribulation or persecution arises for the word's sake, immediately they stumble. (NKJ)

Mark 13:19

19 "For in those days there will be tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of creation which God created until this time, nor ever shall be. (NKJ)

Mark 13:24

24 "But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; (NKJ)

John 16:33

33 "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." (NKJ)

Romans 2:9

9 tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek; (NKJ)

Romans 5:3

3 And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; (NKJ)

Romans 8:35

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? (NKJ)

Romans 12:12

12 rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; (NKJ)

2 Corinthians 1:4

4 who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. (NKJ)

2 Corinthians 7:4

4 Great is my boldness of speech toward you, great is my boasting on your behalf. I am filled with comfort. I am exceedingly joyful in all our tribulation. (NKJ)

1 Thessalonians 3:4

4 For, in fact, we told you before when we were with you that we would suffer tribulation, just as it happened, and you know. (NKJ)

Revelation 1:9

9 I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. (NKJ)

Revelation 2:9

9 "I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich); and I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. (NKJ)

Revelation 2:10

10 "Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life. (NKJ)

Rev 2:22

22 "Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds. (NKJ)

The only verse in the entire New Testament in the New King James translation which does not relate the word "tribulation" to believers, is:

II Thessalonians 1:6

6 since it is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, (NKJ)

WE MUST THEREFORE CONCLUDE THAT WHEN SCRIPTURE SPEAKS OF TRIBULATION IT IS REFERRING TO TRIBULATION OF BELIEVERS!!

JUDGMENT ON THE CHURCH FORETOLD IN REVELATION 2 & 3

Consider also the following passages in the book of Revelation, WRITTEN TO THE CHURCHES:

Revelation 2:1

1 **"To the angel of the church of** Ephesus write, 'These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands: (NKJ)

EACH OF THE PASSAGES THAT FOLLOW ARE PRECEDED BY THE WORDS - "TO THE ANGEL OF THE CHURCH OF" - ALL THESE SCRIPTURES ARE WRITTEN TO THE CHURCH!!

Revelation 2:5

5 "Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, **or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place-- unless you repent.** (NKJ)

Revelation 2:11

11 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. **He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death."** (NKJ)

In other words - he who does NOT OVERCOME SHALL BE HURT BY THE SECOND DEATH!

Revelation 2:16

16 **'Repent, or else I will come to you quickly** and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth. (NKJ)

JESUS WILL FIGHT AGAINST BELIEVERS!!

Revelation 2:20-23

20 "Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.

21 "And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent.

22 **"Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds.**

23 "I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works. (NKJ)

BELIEVERS WILL BE CAST INTO GREAT TRIBULATION!!

Revelation 3:3-5

3 "Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you.

4 "**You have a few names** even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy.

5 "**He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life;** but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels. (NKJ)

A FEW OF THESE BELIEVERS NAMES WILL **NOT** BE BLOTTED OUT OF THE BOOK OF LIFE!!!

Revelation 3:10-12

10 "**Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.**

11 "Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.

12 "He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. And I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name. (NKJ)

SOME WILL BE KEPT FROM TRIAL BUT EVEN THEY ARE WARNED THAT THEIR CROWN CAN BE TAKEN AWAY!!

Revelation 3:16-18

16 "So then, **because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.**

17 "Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'-- and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked--

18 "I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. (NKJ)

BECAUSE THESE BELIEVERS ARE LUKEWARM, JESUS WILL VOMIT THEM OUT OF HIS MOUTH!!!

Revelation 3:22

22 "**He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.**" " (NKJ)

THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT THAT EVERY BELIEVER IS IN JEOPARDY OF THESE JUDGMENTS IF THEY DO NOT DO WHAT GOD REQUIRES OF THEM!!

A FURTHER ASPECT - MATTHEW 24

Matthew 24:1-51

1 Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple.

2 And Jesus said to them, "Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down."

3 Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, **"Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your**

coming, and of the end of the age?"

THESE ARE BELIEVERS SPEAKING TO JESUS

4 And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you.

5 "For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many.

6 "And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.

7 "For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places.

8 "All these are the beginning of sorrows.

9 "Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake.

YOU = JESUS DISCIPLES - WILL BE DELIVERED UP TO TRIBULATION AND THEY WILL BE HATED BY ALL NATIONS!!

10 "And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another.

11 "Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.

12 "And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.

13 "But he who endures to the end shall be saved.

HE WHO ENDURES TO THE **END** SHALL BE SAVED - THEY WILL NOT BE SAVED AT THE BEGINNING

14 "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

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.

17 "Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house.

18 "And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes.
19 "But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days!
20 "And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath.
21 "For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.

THEN THERE WILL BE GREAT TRIBULATION - JESUS IS STILL SPEAKING TO BELIEVERS

22 "And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.
23 "Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There!' do not believe it.
24 "For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.
25 "See, I have told you beforehand.
26 "Therefore if they say to you, 'Look, He is in the desert!' do not go out; or 'Look, He is in the inner rooms!' do not believe it.
27 "For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.
28 "For wherever the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered together.
29 "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE TRIBULATION

30 "Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

THEN THE SIGN OF THE SON OF MAN WILL APPEAR IN HEAVEN AND THEY WILL SEE THE SON OF MAN COMING

31 "And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

AND HE WILL SEND HIS ANGELS TO GATHER HIS ELECT - AFTER THE TRIBULATION

32 "Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near.
33 "So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near-- at the doors!
34 "Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place.
35 "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.
36 "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.

37 "But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

38 "For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark,

39 "and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

NOAH WAS ONLY REMOVED AT THE LAST MOMENT, AS JUDGMENT CAME ON THE EARTH (not before the judgment began)

40 "Then two men will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left.

41 "Two women will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left.

42 "Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.

43 "But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into.

44 "Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

45 "Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season?

46 "Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing.

47 "Assuredly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all his goods.

48 **"But if that evil servant says in his heart, 'My master is delaying his coming,'**

49 "and begins to beat his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunkards,

50 "the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him and at an hour that he is not aware of,

51 "and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. (NKJ)

THE SERVANT = BELIEVER WILL BE APPOINTED HIS PORTION WITH THE HYPOCRITES AND THERE WILL BE WEEPING AND GNASHING OF TEETH

There can be no doubt that BELIEVERS / THE CHURCH must go THROUGH GREAT TRIBULATION BEFORE THE LORD RETURNS.

There is every indication that this tribulation HAS ALREADY BEGUN IN THE SPIRITUAL REALM and will shortly manifest in the physical realm - in fact, the war in Israel is almost certainly the beginning of this.

I hope to furnish further information shortly.

Shalom and God Bless you

James Robertson

IS RICK JOYNER A PROPHET? (RE: PERSECUTION OF CHRISTIANS)

Friday, November 10, 2000 1:43 PM

In response to the mail on "Persecution of Christians", the following comment was received:

"1) I don't believe Rick Joyner went to heaven in any way, shape or form, so his comments and books are irrelevant.

2) It sure did not sound like the apostle Paul whom I read in the pages of the bible speaking. It sounded more like....Rick Joyner!"

As written earlier, each of us must discern the truth and each of us will be judged accordingly. WE MUST KNOW THE TERROR OF THE LORD REGARDING HIS JUDGEMENT and we must therefore reverently fear His judgment and fear being found wanting on that Day!

Before one states that they "*don't believe*" and that therefore what Joyner writes is "*irrelevant*", one must take account of **Matthew 10:40-41 (Jesus speaking)**:

40 "He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me.

41 "He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward. And he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward. (NKJ)

Joyner COMES IN THE NAME OF A PROPHET and claims that JESUS SENT HIM. If he is correct and we receive him as a prophet, we receive Him who sent him (Jesus) AND we receive a prophet's reward - the reward of the service of the prophet and the blessings that come from receiving a prophet.

IF WE DO NOT RECEIVE HIM AS A PROPHET AND HE IS IN FACT A PROPHET THEN WE REJECT JESUS AND ARE JUDGED ACCORDINGLY!

I personally am absolutely certain that Joyner IS A PROPHET and that he WAS sent by the Lord Jesus Christ.

I also am absolutely certain that what is reported by Joyner in what was quoted in the previous posting IS OF GOD. The church is far removed from what Jesus has called us to be. This is being confirmed through many at this time.

Please carefully consider before rejecting Joyner's message in the books "The Final Quest", "The Call" and "Visions of the Harvest". If you have not

read them, please make every effort to obtain them and read them as a matter of urgency. They contain a vital message for the church in this age!

Shalom

James Robertson

WHEAT AND TARES (RE: PERSECUTION OF CHRISTIANS)

Friday, November 10, 2000

Further to the mail on "Persecution of Christians", a number of comments have been received.

It appears that the mail created the impression that I was suggesting that we should not pray for those who are being persecuted.

Apologies for that, it was certainly not the intention -- it IS right AND scriptural to pray for suffering saints AND for their deliverance.

However, the point of the email was regarding the fact that the Word of God to the church as a whole today is that the church is VERY FAR REMOVED from what God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ require it to be and that where the church is "free" and comfortable, the church tends not to seek Jesus Christ as first and VITAL NECESSITY and therefore tends not to love God with all their hearts, minds, soul and strength.

In assessing this mail, each of us must discern the truth and each of us will be judged accordingly.

2 Corinthians 5:9-11

9 Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him.

*10 For **we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.***

*11 **Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences.***
(NKJ)

WE MUST KNOW THE TERROR OF THE LORD REGARDING HIS JUDGEMENT and we must therefore reverently fear His judgment and fear being found wanting on that Day!

The point of the previous posting, for the sake of clarity, is that almost the entire church, barring a small group who are greatly persecuted, is so far removed from what we are called to be that we are not recognizable as Christians! -- i.e. we are not noticeable different from those who do not believe -- Therefore, since it appears that Christians only truly lay down their lives for the Gospel WHEN THEY ARE PERSECUTED, we should ask ourselves whether it is not US that requires prayer and that, in fact, we should pray for judgment, tribulation and persecution to come upon US as well!

There may be people who received the mail who have undergone massive persecution, both physical and spiritual, but the VAST majority of Christians (and even those of us who have been intensely persecuted) are luke warm

and may well find on the day of judgment that they are counted amongst the goats, the tares, the foolish virgins and the workers of iniquity:

Matthew 25:33-46

33 **"And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.**

34 *"Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:*

35 *'for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in;*

36 *'I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.'*

37 *"Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink?*

38 *'When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You?*

39 *'Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?'*

40 *"And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'*

41 **"Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels:**

42 *'for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink;*

43 *'I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.'*

44 *"Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?'*

45 *"Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.'*

46 *"And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life." (NKJ)*

Matthew 13:24-50

24 *Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field;*

25 *"but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way.*

26 *"But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared.*

27 *"So the servants of the owner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?'*

28 *"He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' The servants said to him, 'Do you want us then to go and gather them up?'*

29 *"But he said, 'No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them.*

30 *'Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will*

say to the reapers, **"First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn."**

36 Then Jesus sent the multitude away and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field."

37 He answered and said to them: **"He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man.**

38 "The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked one.

39 "The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels.

40 "Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age.

41 **"The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness,**

42 "and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

43 "Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!

47 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered some of every kind,

48 "which, when it was full, they drew to shore; and they sat down and gathered the good into vessels, but threw the bad away.

49 **"So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come forth, separate the wicked from among the just,**

50 "and cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth." (NKJ)

Matthew 25:1-13

1 "Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.

2 "Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish.

3 "Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them,

4 "but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.

5 "But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept.

6 "And at midnight a cry was heard: 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!'

7 "Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps.

8 "And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.'

9 "But the wise answered, saying, 'No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.'

10 "And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut.

11 "Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!'

12 **"But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do**

not know you.'

13 "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming. (NKJ)

Luke 13:23-30

23 Then one said to Him, "**Lord, are there few who are saved?**" And He said to them,

24 "Strive to enter through the narrow gate, **for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able.**

25 "When once the Master of the house has risen up and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock at the door, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open for us,' and He will answer and say to you, 'I do not know you, where you are from,'

26 "then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets.'

27 "But He will say, 'I tell you I do not know you, where you are from. **Depart from Me, all you workers of iniquity.'**

28 "There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when **you [Jesus is speaking to believers NOT unbelievers] see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and yourselves thrust out.**

29 "They will come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and sit down in the kingdom of God.

30 "And indeed there are last who will be first, and there are first who will (NKJ)

Matthew 7:12-23

12 "Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

13 "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it.

14 "Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

15 "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.

16 "You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles?

17 "Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit.

18 "A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit.

19 "Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

20 "Therefore by their fruits you will know them.

21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.

22 "Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?'

23 "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'" (NKJ)

ALL OF THESE PASSAGES ARE ADDRESSED TO BELIEVERS!!

For anyone who fears this judgment, the visions in the book titled "The Final Quest" are salutary and prophetic and rank as close to modern scripture as we are likely to be granted the privilege of receiving. I strongly urge all readers to get this book and also "The Call" and "Visions of the Harvest", also by Joyner which each give a startling perspective on the state of the church today.

The bottom line - **Galatians 2:20**

20 "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. (NKJ)

Many Christians appropriate this verse, few have actually reached the level of holiness and sanctification which is associated with it. Until we reach this level, it is probably true to say that Christ is in us but we are not yet IN Christ. Even when we reach that level, we can STILL fall at any time.

1 Corinthians 10:12

12 Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. (NKJ)

2 Peter 3:17-18

17 You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked;

18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen. (NKJ)

Shalom

James Robertson

If you do not want to receive further mails on this and related subjects. Please email james@end-time-issues.org.za stating "Please do not mail me again".

**EXTRACTS FROM "THE CALL"
FURTHER INDICATIONS OF SOON COMING JUDGMENT
ON THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD**

Tuesday, November 14, 2000

Greetings.

Further to recent emails on "Wheat and Tares", "Coming Tribulation", "Persecution of Christians", etc following are extracts from prophetic visions given to Rick Joyner which forcibly confirm the previous messages.

It is vital that all who call themselves by the name of Christ sanctify themselves and do everything that is necessary to draw **VERY CLOSE TO HIM** as a matter of great urgency, **NO MATTER WHAT THE COST!!**

James Robertson

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ABSTRACT AND SOME THOUGHTS AFTER READING

"THE CALL"

By

RICK JOYNER

(Published by Morning Star Publications 1999)

by

James Robertson

)))))))))

To all who call themselves by the name of Christ and truly seek to serve Him with all their hearts, all their souls, all their minds and all their strength.

Greetings in the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth,

Shortly after completing a series of emails on "Persecution of Christians", "Wheat and Tares (re: Persecution of Christians)" and "Judgment and the Church - Tribulation FIRST", I started reading the book, "The Call" by Rick Joyner. This is a report of a series of prophetic visions as a sequel to the visions reported in "The Final Quest". As I read, I became increasingly aware that what was reported was in line with the earlier emails and became increasingly convinced that time is now **RAPIDLY RUNNING OUT.**

If our LOVE HAS GROWN COLD, we do not have much time to address the problem.

Matthew 24:12-13

12 *"And because lawlessness will abound, **the love of many will grow cold.***

13 *"But he who endures to the end shall be saved.
(NKJ)*

It there is NO OIL (anointing) IN OUR LAMPS, we do not have time before we are found to be foolish virgins.

Matthew 25:3-4

3 *"Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them,*

4 *"but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. (NKJ)*

Matthew 25:11-13

11 *"Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!'*

12 *"But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.'*

13 *"Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming. (NKJ)*

Judgment is at hand, it is at the very door and anyone who fears God MUST put aside all the cares of this world and focus their attention on getting closer to God the Father (YAHWEH¹) and to Jesus than they ever have before.

Mark 4:19

19 *"and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. (NKJ)*

The following are extracts and paraphrases of passages in the book "The Call", up to page 76, which seem important in the context of the previous messages.

37. The whole world still lies in the power of the evil one.

We walk on the edge of hell every day.

**Through the midst of this, there is a path of life.
There are deep ditches on either side of the path of
life, so we must not deviate from the narrow way.**

38. If one falls into these ditches, no-one can find their own way out.

**Following our own way is how we fall into them, and our
own way will NEVER get us out.**

Jesus is the only way out.

**When you fall, do not waste your time, trying to figure
everything out, for you will only sink deeper into the mire.**

Just ask Jesus for help.

**He is your shepherd and he will always help you when you
call on him.**

40. **KEEP YOUR EYES ON JESUS!**

**Pray that the eyes of your heart may be opened to see into the
Heavenly Realm and to see what the Father is doing.**

42. **ASK FIRST FOR HIS
JUDGMENTS TO COME TO
YOUR OWN LIFE.**

THEN BEGIN ASKING FOR THEM TO COME TO THE WORLD.

MAKE HIS JUDGMENTS KNOWN!

43. His judgments would not be true if they were not the same for all.

Therefore, the CHURCH MUST BE JUDGED FIRST!!

45. Understanding His judgments is NOT enough -- you must AGREE WITH HIM.
46. We CAN come boldly before His Throne of Grace but we rarely come!
49. The sin of wanting to trade with the world has entangled the church.

Joyner was told: "many will repent and be saved if you will go to those to whom Jesus sends you and give His warning."

50. CALL ON JESUS TO ASK WHAT HE WANTS.
51. **God's house exists for Him. [NOT for us!]**
54. **THE OVERCOMERS DID NOT WASTE THEIR TIME.**

Jesus will NO LONGER allow us to presume on His Mercy.

DENY YOURSELF DAILY.

- 55-56. SEEK HIM IN PROSPERITY and not just in adversity.

62. IT IS WISDOM TO COME TO JESUS EVERY DAY.

Know Jesus as "I AM":

- Wisdom
- The Lord of Judgment
- The Lord of The Sabbath
- The Lord of Hosts
- The Prince of Peace
- The Lion of Judah
- The Lamb

It is wisdom to know His times.

He may have DIFFERENT TIMES in different cities and nations.

64. **HEAR HIS MESSENGERS AND ACT.**

65. **The time is PAST when Jesus will tolerate those who say they serve Him but who DO NOT OBEY HIM!**

The "lukewarm" are about to be removed.

COME TO THE THRONE OF GRACE DAILY FOR GRACE TO SERVE HIM.

71. **Murder will be released on the earth as never before.**

Even the two World Wars were but BIRTH PANGS leading to what is to come!

BUT LOVE IS STRONGER THAN DEATH!

If you do NOT FEAR DEATH, you WILL overcome it!

72. Only TRUE LOVE can bring TRUE UNITY.
73. As the LORD'S people begin to love He will use them to release His judgments.

His judgments are TO BE DESIRED.

His people will stand as Elijah's in the last days. Their words will shut up the heavens or bring rain; they will prophesy earthquakes and famines and they will come to pass and they will stop earthquakes and famines.

74. When they release armies in heaven, armies will march on the earth. When they hold back armies there will be peace. They will decide where He shows His mercy and where He shows His wrath.

They WILL HAVE THIS AUTHORITY BECAUSE THEY LOVE AND THOSE WHO LOVE WILL BE ONE WITH HIM.

Peace will be taken from the earth, but [Joyner and other servants] are called to help restore it.

Peace prevails in heaven and His servants are called to bring heaven to earth.

THOSE WHO ABIDE IN HIS PRESENCE WILL KNOW PEACE AND WILL SPREAD PEACE.

75. **The earth itself will shake and tremble.** Times of trouble greater than have ever been known will begin to move across the earth like great waves of the sea.

Even so, those who know Him will not be troubled. They will stand before the raging of the seas and say, "Peace, be still" and the seas will be calm.

Even the least of His little ones will be like a great fortress of peace that will stand through all that is coming.

His glory will be revealed to His people first and then through them.

Even the creation will recognize Him in His people and will obey them as it does Him.

76. OBEDIENCE BRINGS LIFE - DISOBEDIENCE BRINGS DEATH.

The most powerful weapons are truth and love!

**When truth spoken in love is rejected,
DEATH HAS BEEN CHOSEN OVER LIFE.**

Walk with God and learn His ways. Your authority is His authority and you must be one with Him in order to use it.

**LOVE YOUR ENEMIES - DO NOT DESIRE THAT ANY
PERISH!**

Extra time has been given to the church but FEW HAVE USED IT WISELY.

IF you fear HIM you do not need to fear anything that is coming on the earth.

**ALL OF THE EVIL SOWN IN
MANKIND IS ABOUT TO BE
REAPED. SO IS ALL THE
GOOD!**

During the darkness that is to come, Jesus' people will stand as a testimony that not only has He redeemed man but He has REMOVED SIN FROM THEM (His true people)!

These are immensely challenging statements. We are all well advised to take them to heart and to act on them.

It is VITAL to understand that the indications are that as much as 99% of the church IS NOT WHERE GOD WANTS THEM TO BE AT THIS TIME IN TERMS OF PREPAREDNESS -- NOT ONE OF US DARE READ WHAT IS CONTAINED IN THIS DOCUMENT AND PRESUME THAT THEY ARE IN RIGHT STANDING WITH GOD!!

May YAHWEH

(THE LORD) bless you and keep you and make His face to shine upon you, in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, King of Kings and Lord of Lords and saviour of the world.

James Robertson

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SOME FACTS ON ISRAEL - HELPFUL INFORMATION

Greetings

I received this a few days ago and thought it might interest you.

God bless

James Robertson

Some facts on Israel - Helpful information

Nationhood and Jerusalem:

- * Israel became a nation in 1312 B.C.E., two thousand years before the rise of Islam.

- * Arab refugees in Israel began identifying themselves as part of a Palestinian people in 1967, two decades after the establishment of the modern State of Israel.

- * Since the Jewish conquest in 1272 B.C.E. the Jews have had dominion over the land for one thousand years with a continuous presence in the land for the past 3,300 years. The only Arab dominion since the conquest in 635 C.E. lasted no more than 22 years.

- * For over 3,300 years, Jerusalem has been the Jewish capital. Jerusalem has never been the capital of any Arab or Muslim entity. Even when the Jordanians occupied Jerusalem, they never sought to make it their capital, and Arab leaders did not come to visit.

- * Jerusalem is mentioned over 700 times in the Tanach, the Jewish Holy Scriptures. Jerusalem is not mentioned once in the Koran.

- * King David founded the city of Jerusalem. Mohammed never came to Jerusalem.

- * This "third holiest site in Islam" is ignored by modern Muslims, other than those living around Jerusalem. Muslims are required to make a religious

pilgrimage (the Haj) to Mecca and Medina during their lifetime. There is no obligation to visit Jerusalem and few do so. Israeli Muslims not living in Jerusalem make no special effort to go there to pray even though they may do so at any time.

* While Jews do not generally revere places, the Temple Mount is the only remains of the only holy temples ever to be built in their capital, Jerusalem. Jews come from all over the world to pray at the Western Wall of the Temple Mount. Even the Pope and the Dali Lahma have prayed there in recognition of its symbolism.

* Jews the world over pray facing Jerusalem. If they live in Jerusalem, they face the Temple Mount. Muslims pray facing Mecca (in Saudi Arabia). If they live in Jerusalem, they turn their backs on the Temple Mount (El Aksa mosque) to turn towards Mecca.

Arab and Jewish Refugees:

* In 1948 the Arab refugees were encouraged to leave Israel by Arab leaders promising to purge the land of Jews. Sixty-eight percent left without ever seeing an Israeli soldier. The Jewish refugees were forced to flee from Arab lands due to Arab brutality, persecution, seizing of land and property, and pogroms.

* The number of Arab refugees who left Israel in 1948 is estimated to be around 630,000. The number of Jewish refugees from Arab lands is estimated to be the same.

* Arab refugees were intentionally not absorbed or integrated into the Arab lands to which they fled, despite the vast Arab territory. Out of the 100,000,000 refugees since World War II, theirs is the only refugee group in the world that has never been absorbed or integrated into their own peoples' lands. Jewish refugees were completely absorbed into Israel, a country no larger than the state of New Jersey.

The Arab - Israeli Conflict :

* The Arabs are represented by eight separate nations, not including the Palestinians. There is only one Jewish nation, representing one tenth of one percent of all Arab lands.

* The Arab nations initiated all five wars and lost all of them. Israel defended itself each time and won. The lands occupied after the Six Day War in 1967 were not occupied out of imperialistic goals, rather to produce defensible borders for the next attacks. Prior to 1967, Syrians shot freely at Kibbutz farmers living and working below the Golan Heights. And, the hilltops in Judea & Samaria (The West Bank) were used by the invading Jordanian armies to fire on populated areas in Israel. Israel was easily able

to return all conquered lands to Egypt because of the natural defence provided by the vastness of the Sinai desert separating the two countries.

* The PLO's Charter still calls for the destruction of the State of Israel. Israel has given the Palestinians most of the West Bank land, autonomy under the Palestinian Authority, and has supplied them with weapons for their police force (these same weapons are currently being used against Israeli soldiers and citizens).

* Under Jordanian rule, Jewish holy sites were desecrated and the Jews were denied access to places of worship. The Israeli government has never destroyed a single mosque in its territory, including those that have been long abandoned. While under Jordanian rule, there was no call for a liberation of Jerusalem, no call for East Jerusalem to be given to Palestinians, and no call for the return of lands in Jordan that were originally proposed to be part of Palestine in the original partition plan.

* Under Israeli rule, all Muslim and Christian sites have been preserved and made accessible to people of all faiths.

The UN Record on Israel and the Arabs:

* Of the 175 Security Council resolutions on all topics passed before 1990, 97 (55%) were directed against Israel.

* Of the 690 General Assembly resolutions on all topics voted on before 1990, 429 (62%) were directed against Israel.

* The UN passes resolutions directed against Israel before any investigation of facts takes place.

* The UN was silent while 58 Jerusalem Synagogues were destroyed by the Jordanians between 1948 and 1967.

* The UN was silent while the Jordanians systematically desecrated the ancient Jewish cemetery on the Mount of Olives, using the headstones for road pavers and toilets.

* The UN was silent while the Jordanians enforced an apartheid-like policy of preventing Jews from visiting the Temple Mount and the Western Wall.

These are incredible times. We have to ask what our role should be.

Noah K. Goldstein

Ramat -Yishai, Israel - utopian30@mac.com

Who sits on Moses Seat?

To Be Added

Responding to rebelliousness or treachery on the part of a wife

To be added

LORD TEACH ME HOW TO LOVE

Friday, November 17, 2000

Hi

I recently read the book "Lord Teach Me How To Love" by Creflo Dollar.

It had a tremendous impact on me and, if I take it seriously, I pray that it will continue to impact me for a considerable amount of time to come.

As I was reading I recorded headlines, key points and thoughts.

These points seem so significant that I thought I would type them up in the hope that they would be a blessing to others.

Hope you are challenged AND blessed by them.

Shalom

James Robertson

As I read, it became apparent that I really had no appreciation or even basic understanding of the enormity of the Love of God, or how to live according to His principles to the depth that was presented in the book. I had considerable knowledge of the Word of God and significant personal experience of His guiding hand on my life, including miraculous interventions. BUT, I had hardly comprehended His love at all in the measure that it was presented in the book.

This led me to conclude that there were probably others who would also be challenged by this teaching. For that reason, the summary that follows has been prepared, in the hope that it will bless others and encourage them to draw closer to God.

This document, sets out the headlines that were recorded while reading the book.

PAGE

11. BE TRANSFORMED BY LOVE

13. **NEVER be too busy to love.**

Never be too busy to listen to others.

16. **THEY WILL KNOW US BY OUR LOVE**

John 13: 35 "By this shall all men know you are my disciples, if they have love one to another."

Declare war on complacency

Be consistent in your love to others.

17. **Forget the past -- Not only what we are ashamed of but also what we are proud of always press on.**

LOVE WITH INTENSITY

20. **GOD'S LOVE IN YOU GROWS AS YOU LOVE OTHERS.**

23. **LOVE IS A DECISION.**

LOVE IS A FORCE.

Lack of love can stop you receiving results from God! Satan can **HINDER YOUR FAITH** by attacking your ability to love! **You're a liar if you say you love God but don't love others!**

You can prevent God's blessings for manifesting in your life because of your unwillingness to love!

NB: perfect love drives out fear in other words if a man loves his wife perfectly she will not have fear!

1 John 4: 8 *"God is love"*

John 14: 15 *"if you love me keep my Commandments"* - OBEDIENCE

26. Learn to LOVE GOD before you can love others.

When we know what to do but procrastinate, that puts us in a questionable position in terms of our love for God.

NB if we allow our love for others to get before our love for God we are in a questionable position.

PROCRASTINATION IS DISOBEDIENCE!

PARTIAL OBEDIENCE IS DISOBEDIENCE!

We are not truly in covenant with Him, if we don't obey Him.

We are His friends IF we keep His commandments.

29. OBEY GOD AT ANY COST!

1 John 4: 20 ***"if you don't love your brother whom you see daily, and you say you love me whom you have not seen, you are a liar."***

Love that endures and covers with silence.

He who loveth God loveth his brother also.

30. To the degree you love others you love Him.

"Inasmuch as ye have done unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me" Matthew 25: 40.

31. LOVE THE WHOLE BODY OF CHRIST.

- including the denominations and groups we don't understand or don't agree with. It is NOT for us to decide if they are part of the Body - that is Jesus job - Anglican, Presbyterian, Catholic, Seventh Day Adventist, Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints (Mormon) - if they call themselves by the name of Christ - LOVE THEM!! They may have obvious error, but what about the planks in our own eyes?

32. Straighten out the relationships we have with the people we see every day.

NBB Forgive those who have wronged YOU!

IF I DON'T WALK IN LOVE, I AM NOBODY IN HEAVENS SIGHT.

Allowing one's love for one's wife to become more important than your love and obedience to God is a major mistake!

37. Anointed to love

ROOTED AND GROUNDED IN LOVE

38. If you are not rooted in love do not expect miracles!

39. The Bible is a revelation of God's love.

40. There is NO POWER WITHOUT LOVE!

42. PRAYER

= COMPASSION

= POWER

FIRST - VERTICAL LOVE WITH THE FATHER

SECOND - HORIZONTAL LOVE WITH THE PEOPLE

THEN God's power can WORK.

Lust takes as much as it can without giving in return.

43. You will never see the power of healing operate in your ministry until you **first see Jesus.**

When I [Creflo Dollar] understood Jesus compassion, I saw Him.

Prayer = Compassion = Power

First vertical love between Jesus and the Father then horizontal love from Jesus to the people

Our motivation for displaying His power must be SINCERE COMPASSION to see others saved, delivered and healed, rather than for earth's praise and recognition.

44. **WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?** (The love of God)

Bear one another's burden's Galatians 6:2 - your thinking should be "I love others with the love of God, I want so much for their lives to be changed. I

want so much for their bodies to be healed. Oh God, help me to help them!!

See the massive hurt in marriage and seek God's compassion to see marriages healed!

45. GOD'S LOVE MUST BEGIN OPERATING IN MY LIFE

46. PUT THE NEEDS OF OTHERS FIRST IN OUR PRAYERS!

If I do not have LOVE, I am nothing (A USELESS NOBODY)

LOVE UNCONDITIONALLY

52. Galatians 5:5,6 *"For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by Faith. For in Jesus Christ, neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor un-circumcision; but **faith which worketh BY LOVE**".*

FAITH WORKS BY LOVE

OUR FAITH WILL NOT WORK IF OUR LOVE IS NOT WORKING!

Love is damaged by offense, un-forgiveness and disobedience - then we cannot expect answers to our prayers!

55. Meditate on the Word Day and Night.

56. Allow God to handle our circumstances.

58. **If we don't like our harvest we need to change the seed.**

61. **Without love, faith will not work - NOT prosperity or ANYTHING.**

- 62-63. If we are not walking in love, then when God blesses us, our pride and arrogance will take over.

When LOVE is truly operating THEN the power will flow.

66. Only when we love God and love one another and only when we keep God's Commandments, will God bring us to the harvest of our dreams and desires.
69. Satan attacks our love with anger, thus destroying our faith.
71. **It doesn't mean anything to come to church all the time if you are not willing to work out misunderstandings, mend broken relationships, and love even when it is difficult to do so. True Christianity is walking in love to the point that every time others are around us, they somehow are positively affected by our genuine love.**

LOVE YOUR ENEMIES!

72. God's love is unconditional.
73. God's love endures.

Even when we distance ourselves from a sinning brother, NEVER STOP LOVING THEM!

74. **Romans 2:4 "*The goodness of God leadeth to repentance*" (i.e. love brings about change).**
75. Romans 5: 3 "*Tribulation worketh patience*" - worketh = employs - use patience to pull you through tribulation.

Love others:

- when we first meet them,**
- when they mess up,**

**- AND when they have
straightened out.**

**STOP ONLY LOVING WHEN SOMEONE
PLEASES US!**

ENVY STOPS PROMOTION - Rejoice when others get blessed!

Love is never jealous.

77. Love is not proud - give God the glory.

78. God hates the proud look proverbs 6:16,17.

God has a problem with people who are always boasting about their accomplishments.

GIVE GOD THE GLORY ELSE YOU MAKE YOURSELF YOUR OWN IDOL!

**Wherever you see the spirit of
"I" you see the spirit of Satan!**

Brag on God.

79. Acknowledge God in ALL the good He has done to us.

**We don't do ANY THING without the help
of the MASTER - it's ALL GOD**

**God is a good God and his handiwork is
worthy to be displayed - acknowledge Him
in ALL THING's.**

80. **Restrain your MOUTH.**

= **speaking without restraint is pride**
==> **"regardless of what the Word says, I'm going to say and do what I want this time" - refusing to comply with God.**

Rather say "Thank God I'm saved".

Love enables us to shut our mouths, turn our heads, and bless those who curse us.

81. **Rudeness is NOT Boldness!**

MANNER's - love is not rude or un-mannerly.

82. Be a perfect gentleman.

Love is not self seeking.

Real love ALWAYS GIVES.

God loves us so much that He GAVE!! - love and giving go hand in hand.

Give that it COSTS!

83. Love is not touchy, fretful, or resentful - GROW UP!!

84. LOVE LET'S GO!

Love does not take account of the evil done to it; it doesn't pay attention to a suffered wrong.

**NB We don't love based on how we feel.
We love others because God first loved us!**

"And what can separate us from the love of God? Nothing!" Romans 8:39.

87. Love covers with silence, 1 Corinthians 13:6 *"love rejoiceth not in iniquity."*

Help the person get back on his feet.

Confess your faults one to another -- that ye may be healed -- confess your struggles to a trusted friend.

88. **GOD'S SYSTEM IS AN EXCHANGE OF WEAKNESSES AND STRENGTHS UNTIL WE ELIMINATE WEAKNESS.**

BUT we have to walk in love in order for people to trust us.

COVERING OTHERS WITH LOVE.

1 Corinthians 13 6-7 (AMP) *"It [love] does not rejoice at injustice and unrighteousness, but rejoices when right and truth prevail. Love bears up under anything and everything that comes, is ever ready to believe the best of every person, its hopes are fadeless under all circumstances, and it endures everything [without weakening]."*

89. Reporting an incident of ministry to a "fallen" preacher..... "Then I [Creflo Dollar] sat down with him to make a covenant agreement with him. I grabbed his face and said, 'I promise to love you forever. And if you should die, I'll see to it that you wife is taken care of and that your children get a first-class education. I will not leave you, no matter what you do. I LOVE YOU UNCONDITIONALLY.'"

This seems to me to be a critical example of how Christian love should seek to restore a fallen brother.

90. ***The gifts and calling are without repentance - God does not change His mind.***

91. COVER SIN WITH LOVE AND SILENCE.

Love covers all transgressions - Proverbs 10:12 AMP.

Love covers a multitude of sin's - 1 Peter 4:8 AMP.

= referring to sin confessed to us.

93. **Do not be concerned about what others think if we associate with a known sinner.**

Are you without sin? NO!!

94. **DON'T GOSSIP ABOUT OTHERS SIN!!.**

Be prudent with your testimony - share only what is necessary for them to know.

95. **We MUST confess our sin's:
Proverbs 28:13 "He that covereth his sin's shall not prosper: But whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy."**

96. **Don't violate the LAW OF LOVE!!**

99. **LOVE THAT FORGETS**

Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you and pray for them which despitefully use you and persecute you that ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven, for He maketh his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sendeth rain on the just and the unjust.

100. **DO RIGHT EVEN WHEN SOMEONE ELSE IS DOING ME WRONG!!**

Take it to God if you have problems letting go.

102. **DON'T RETALIATE -- LOVE, GIVE, FORGIVE.**

Let go of past offenses -- FORGET

Give the hurts to God in prayer and let them GO.

104. **By holding on to past offenses you establish your own righteousness and forfeit the righteousness God has given you through Jesus Christ.**

Mark 11:22-26 Have faith -- *What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them. And when ye stand praying FORGIVE!*

105. Unforgiveness hinders spiritual growth - it stops you from operating by or receiving the end of your faith.

Without faith it is IMPOSSIBLE TO PLEASE GOD - Hebrews 11:16.

- 106 The JUST shall live by faith : Romans 1:17.

IF we do not forgive, we are NOT JUST!.

CONFESSIONS OF FAITH ARE USELESS - NOTHING MORE THAN IDLE WORD'S WITHOUT FORGIVENESS.

108. Matthew 18:35 we will be handed to the tormentors if we do not forgive!

IF SOMEONE DOES YOU HARM

109. **Our spiritual circumstances are a result of our failure to forgive and our failure to walk in LOVE.**

111. Say " Bless You" in the midst of persecution.

115. FAMILY LOVE

Love people where they are - spiritually, mentally AND emotionally.

116. True love does not give up on people just because they are irritating or make mistakes.

LOVE IS WILLING TO CHANGE

Change is the EVIDENCE OF LOVE

= to line up with what God wants.

117. **SOW change to REAP change.**

= DO IT FIRST YOURSELF.

119. The Fear of God is to be willing to align ourselves with his Word - no matter what the cost. *The fear of God is to obey Him* Psalm 55:19
"God shall afflict those who do not change" because they do not fear God.

LOVE IS NOT RUDE.

120. **WATCH YOUR TONE OF VOICE.**

LOVE IS NOT SELFISH

= DOES NOT INSIST ON ITS OWN RIGHTS OR ITS OWN WAY.

LOVE is more concerned about how you can meet the needs of another than how you would like your needs met.

LOVE IS NOT EASILY PROVOKED.

Take our eyes off our own agendas and desires to serve our family's.

Thinks no evil - not quick to take offence, not touchy or fretful, not resentful.

121. A loveless home = a loveless society.

120 LOVE DISCIPLINE'S.

123. **You don't really love your children if you don't take the time to correct them.**

Children should show respect - "Yes ma'm and no ma'm."

124. **Your children are way they are because of you.**

Most children rebel because they want to get their parents attention.

Children desire to be loved and appreciated (as do wives).

125. **Your children are MIRROR IMAGES of you.**

PRAY FOR YOUR CHILDREN DAILY.

131. THE FATHERS LOVE

God loves us with unconditional, everlasting love.

132. Ephesians 3: 19 *know the love of Christ which passes knowledge that ye might be filled with all the fullness God.*

Love is the avenue to being filled with everything God has to offer.

LORD, open my eyes to see JESUS in Your Word and to see Your Love in Your Word.

133. **Unless you have a revelation of the importance of love and the greatness of God's love for you, YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO EXPERIENCE THE FULLNESS OF GOD!**

134. **God's love is TOUGH - it is marked by discipline.**

135. The true proof of love is in a person's honesty - In other words, they love you enough to tell you when you are wrong.

136. **If someone says they love you and then lets you go on doing the wrong thing then they are lying.**

137. He only disciplines those He loves therefore REPENT and change your heart, mind and direction.

God's love is unconditional and everlasting.

God's love is the ultimate source of power.

141. **Love conquers ALL.**

GOD IS LOVE.

A love relationship only works when both parties involved put forth the effort to maintain it!

God ALWAYS loves us, so if we don't experience His love, it is because we are not putting in the effort to LOVE HIM and to receive HIS love.

142. God's love is mature - it does not exhibit childish characteristics such as jealousy, envy and selfishness.

Children don't know any better - ADULTS ARE WITHOUT EXCUSE!

Only a child would hold a grudge or disrespect another person.

DOES GOD KNOW YOU?

144. **God should be the FIRST AND LAST person you talk to each day!**

145. RELATIONSHIP BEFORE SERVICE

If we don't spend sufficient time with God our batteries run flat and we run on our own instead of HIS POWER!.

146. **Obedience NOT service determines how much we love God.**

LISTEN TO GOD.

149. A series of helpful prayers and confessions are contained as an appendix to this book.

We should ALL examine ourselves in the mirror of God's Word as presented in this book.

We should all seek, by faith, to put these principles into practice in our lives.

For those who do, it is certain that they will experience a new dimension of walking with God and will have a profound impact on the lives of those around them.

May THE LORD bless you and keep you and make His face to shine upon you, in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, King of Kings and Lord of Lords and Saviour of the world.

James Robertson

THOUGHTS ON MODERATING DISCUSSION LISTS

22 November 2000 02:27

Hi

As I have been preparing to establish our discussion list on divorce, I have been pondering the issues surrounding moderation of lists.

Please will you let me have your comments.

Please feel free to make use of this as you see fit.

Shalom

James Robertson

BODY OF MESSAGE

SUGGESTED CRITERIA FOR MODERATING DISCUSSION ON A CHRISTIAN INTERNET DISCUSSION LIST

by James Robertson

DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION

1. INTRODUCTION

Recently, in participating in a number of discussion lists, it has been apparent that it is very easy for discussion to become contentious and unfruitful resulting in dramatically increased volumes of postings many of which are not necessarily moving discussion forward.

As a consequence, it can reach a point where people may lose interest in the list and where newcomers find the list to be contentious and unfruitful and therefore do not actively participate or leave after a short period.

As we will, God willing, shortly be instituting a list specifically relating to the scriptural issues associated with reducing the epidemic level of divorce in the church, I have been praying for guidance on how this should be handled.

On the one hand, a list which is not moderated can result in items being posted in error or in unpleasant or inappropriate messages being posted. On the other hand, a moderated list can lead to the moderator being called to judge the suitability of postings which, in

turn, can lead to the moderator becoming proud or imposing any bias that he, himself, may have, on the list. This can become particularly problematic where a list is intended for discussion of matters relating to scripture and faith and where the moderator finds a thread evolving in a direction which is contrary to his understanding but does not allow for the possibility that his understanding is in error with the result that the list becomes biased to his error over time.

This has repeatedly exercised my attention as I have participated in various lists over the past few years and has, in fact, been one of the factors that has caused me from hold back on starting up the divorce list. It IS important to avoid interfering unnecessarily in the discussion on the list BUT **the list owner and his ministry will be judged if unGodly material, lies, abuse, etc are published on the list.**

After considering this subject for some time, the following are the conclusions reached as a basis for discussion. In presenting this analysis, it should be stated that I have concluded that it is necessary to moderate a list for the following reasons:

2. MAIL SENT IN ERROR

People do from time to time inadvertantly select a wrong email address and may therefore send completely irrelevant items to the list.

In some cases these items may be of a confidential or personal nature which the person sending the mail really would not like distributed to dozens or hundreds of people.

By the same token, such mail could contain content which people on the list could find really inappropriate or offensive.

By moderating the list, such mail can be screened out.

3. DELIBERATELY OFFENSIVE MAIL

There does appear to be a legitimate concern that certain individuals might send mail to an unmoderated list with the specific objective of posting something which is highly objectionable or offensive.

There does appear to be an onus of responsibility on the person responsible for a list not to permit the list to be used in such a fashion. By moderating the list, such mail, if ever received, can be avoided.

4. OFF TOPIC MAIL

It has become increasingly apparent to me that it is necessary for a list to have a clear definition of what it's focus is. The moderator should then seek to restrict discussion to that topic. If the list is a general discussion list, then no moderation will be required. However, if it is a list concentrating on, for example, divorce and how to prevent

divorce, mail regarding the healing of marriage is appropriate but mail regarding whether the rapture will take place before the tribulation is not relevant and should be avoided, unless as a headline notice to advise members of another list which is discussing such issues.

At the same time, the moderator should be willing to consider motivation from a person submitting a mail that is initially rejected, as to why the mail IS germane to the topic of the list.

For this reason, it is necessary for the moderator to give a reason for rejecting any mail that is not listed and afford the person submitting the opportunity to amend the mail and resubmit OR to motivate why the mail should be posted.

5. UNPLEASANT AND ARGUMENTATIVE MAIL

There is a tendency for certain people to take anything said that contradicts their opinion as an insult and to start making use of judgmental and abusive terms. Words like "idiot", etc are not appropriate on a list that seeks to be Christian and can inflame the list and cause people to leave. Jesus said in **Matthew 5:22**:

22 "But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire. (NKJ)

Proverbs 26:21 states:

21 As charcoal is to burning coals, and wood to fire, so is a contentious man to kindle strife. (NKJ)

The more we argue for the sake of arguing, the worse the situation becomes!

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 provides a definition of LOVE which can be readily applied to moderating this type of mail:

4 Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up;

5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil;

6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth;

7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. (NKJ)

There is therefore a need to restrict mail that meets these criteria. Again, the moderator should briefly respond, possibly quoting the above scriptures and request that the other party adjust the wording to remove accusatory, judgmental and insulting language.

6. JOKES, ETC

Most jokes involve a partial or complete untruth and often contains an implied or stated insult towards another person or group. The criteria of 1 Corinthians 13 provide a solid basis for dealing with this.

Proverbs 26:18-19 states:

18 Like a madman who throws firebrands, arrows, and death,

19 Is the man who deceives his neighbor, and says, "I was only joking!" (NKJ)

Furthermore, **Revelation 21:8** states:

8 "But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death." (NKJ)

Virtually all jokes, quips, etc contain an element of untruth and many are outright lies. Since Revelation 21:8 makes it quite clear that ALL (not some) liars will have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, moderators have a responsibility to point this out to the person submitting and not to permit lies to be published on the list which will, in turn, bring judgment on the list and the list owner for publishing such information.

On a Christian discussion list which has presented itself as a serious forum for discussion of particular topics, it seems that there should be little or no basis for posting "jokes".

7. TALEBEARING

It is very easy on a list to get involved in discussing individuals and ministries, thereby touching "The Lord's Anointed". **Proverbs 26:22** states:

22 The words of a talebearer are like tasty trifles, and they go down into the inmost body. (NKJ)

Talebearing is seductive and attractive to our carnal nature BUT we MUST avoid the temptation!

Psalms 105:15 states:

15 "Do not touch My anointed ones, and do My prophets no harm." (NKJ)

In **1 Samuel 24:5-7** we read:

5 Now it happened afterward that David's heart troubled him because he had cut Saul's robe.

6 And he said to his men, "The LORD forbid that I should do this thing to my master, the LORD'S anointed, to stretch out my hand against him, seeing he is the anointed of the LORD."

7 So David restrained his servants with these words, and did not allow them to rise against Saul. And Saul got up from the cave and went on his way. (NKJ)

Here we see David, already anointed to be King over Israel but pursued as a criminal by Saul. Saul had already been rejected by Yahweh and was holding on to the kingdom contrary to the Word of God through Samuel. Saul was effectively pursuing David BECAUSE God had said He would give the kingdom to David and Saul wanted to prevent it. If David's heart should trouble him after he has cut off a "corner of Saul's robe" because Saul had ONCE been anointed of God, then surely, no person should touch Yahweh's anointed! Telling tales and speaking against other men and women of God IS SIN! It should not take place privately and CERTAINLY not on a discussion list or web site!

It is vital for a moderator to prevent this type of discussion. If there are general scriptural principles germane to the subject of the list, then it is possible that such discussion may be permissible, but it should not take a form that identifies a man or a ministry.

Note also that all rulers in the world are appointed with God's permission. So it is not wise to even speak against them by name!

Proverbs 26:20 states:

20 Where there is no wood, the fire goes out; and where there is no talebearer, strife ceases. (NKJ)

It is important that discussion lists should not become places where fires of denominational or other dissention within the Body of Christ are fanned and propagated.

Proverbs 10:12 states:

12 Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all sins. (NKJ)

If we hear of sin on the part of another brother or sister in Christ which is NOT DIRECTLY AGAINST US PERSONALLY, it is NONE OF OUR BUSINESS and we have NO BUSINESS PUBLISHING such information! Love COVERS SIN. We are told to restore such a one in **Galatians 6:1-5:**

1 Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.

2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

3 For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.

4 But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another.

5 For each one shall bear his own load. (NKJ)

We should bear his burden and restore him. We are also told to examine OUR work. This relates also to not examining the speck in another's eye. **Matthew 7:1-5:**

1 "Judge not, that you be not judged.

2 "For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.

3 "And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye?

4 "Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank is in your own eye?

5 "Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck out of your brother's eye. (NKJ)

Accordingly, if there is sin or error in another person, group or denomination, it is not for us to broadcast that information. If we do, we will be judged and the list and list owner will be judged.

If Yahweh shows error or sin to one of His prophet's, it is the responsibility of that prophet to intercede for the person or ministry sinning and to go privately, on behalf of Yahweh to the leader of that ministry with whatever message is given to him by Yahweh. That prophet has NO BUSINESS discussing that word with ANYONE else, except in certain instances with another prophet where Yahweh EXPRESSLY permits such disclosure.

If a brother or sister in Christ sins against US PERSONALLY, we are to go to them privately, **Matthew 18:15-17:**

15 "Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother.

16 "But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that 'by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.'

17 "And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector. (NKJ)

If they do not listen to the aggrieved person or to that person together with one or two others, THEN TAKE IT TO THE CHURCH. The implication of this is that IF the relationship between the aggrieved party and the sinning party exists PRIMARILY ON THE SPECIFIC LIST, then that list constitutes the "church" for those two parties.

In other words, if the sin takes place ON THE LIST or in an OFF LIST discussion, then the list moderator and perhaps one other should be approached to communicate with the sinning brother or sister and ask them to repent. If they DO NOT, then this sin should be told to the church which is represented by the list on which the parties met. It should NOT be reported on other lists unless there are a network of lists which are closely associated and which, collectively, form a "church" on a particular subject.

Remember also **Titus 3:9-11**:

9 But avoid foolish disputes, genealogies, contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and useless.

10 Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition,

11 knowing that such a person is warped and sinning, being self-condemned. (NKJ)

Clearly we should not get embroiled in disputes, contentions and strivings about Torah or scripture. Unfortunately, today, there is great lack of clarity on the truths of scripture, but that does not mean that we should get embroiled in disputes. The next section contains a proposed approach to resolving disputes on a Christian discussion list.

8. ENDLESS DEBATE

Something that I have observed on most lists is a tendency at times to get locked into endless debate. The topic goes round and round with neither party being willing to let the other have the final say. The process becomes time consuming and tedious for all concerned and quite frequently seems to degenerate into insults, etc.

At the same time, there has to be a distinction between throwing the same information around in different fashions as compared to progressively seeking greater understanding in order to make an informed decision.

This may well be the area where moderation is most important, but moderation with wisdom is essential. Some time ago, it occurred to me that the process followed in court would be a useful guide in dealing with situations like this. In other words, when a moderator realizes that a debate is becoming circuitous, abusive, etc. He could declare an end to the debate by applying certain principles based on court procedure.

a. THE APPROACH USED IN COURT

For the sake of communicating this point, let me summarize the court procedure as I have experienced it in South Africa.

i. The plaintiff is called to the witness box and is led by their advocate in presenting their plea and case. All relevant facts concerning the matter in dispute must be presented. The plaintiff MAY NOT raise new issues after the initial pleading.

ii. The plaintiff is cross examined by the advocate for the defense. This takes as long as the defense advocate requires and the defense advocate must obtain clarification on all points of difference with his client's testimony and defense and take all necessary measures to identify anomalies in the defendants evidence and pleading with a view to demonstrating to the judge that the plaintiffs case is unfounded and that the defense is in right standing before the law.

iii. The plaintiff is then re-examined by the defense BUT ONLY FOR CLARIFICATION. The witness is NOT ALLOWED TO CONSULT with their legal representatives during the period of cross examination or prior to re-examination. The objective of the re-examination is to afford the defense the opportunity to clarify any point which may not have been clear which may have caused confusion during cross examination. The plaintiff may NOT raise any new issues apart from responding to new issues raised by the defense. The objective is to obtain CLARITY on the plaintiff's pleading and position.

iv. Defense witnesses are called and examined first by the plaintiff's advocate and then they are cross examined by the defense. They are then re-examined by the plaintiff's advocate, as for the plaintiff. Again, neither party can recall a witness except at the request of the presiding judge and then, ONLY for clarification NOT to raise a new issue.

v. The plaintiff's advocate then sums up his case and finalizes the pleading, the defense advocate responds with his defense and pleading as to why the case should be dismissed and the plaintiff's advocate then has a final right of reply.

vi. The judge then deliberates and makes his judgment, sometimes days or weeks later, generally in writing.

vii. This is the end of the process unless one of the parties goes to appeal. Appeal follows essentially the same process.

b. SUGGESTED APPROACH TO BE USED BY LIST MODERATORS

Based on this approach, it is suggested that once a moderator becomes aware that a debate is not progressing to conclusion, the moderator could apply roughly the following procedure. This procedure assumes that there have been several rounds of email and that there is therefore no need to invite an initial presentation of the case. This process assumes that at the point it is initiated, the issues have been debated in detail.

- i. Declare a decision to close the debate.
- ii. Invite the person who posted the mail (the protagonist) that triggered the debate to sum up concisely, summarizing their key points, scriptures, arguments and conclusion. There should be a clear cut conclusion.
- iii. Invite any others in favour of the case to submit one last email in support of the position BUT ONLY if it adds materially to the summing up presented by the original protagonist.
- iv. Invite the person who has been at the forefront of the debate against (it seems to me that most times there is only one or two) to sum up their case against.
- v. Invite any others who are against the proposition to submit one last email against the proposition BUT ONLY if it adds materially to the summing up presented by the original opponent.
- vi. Afford the protagonist the opportunity to clarify and points raised where there was lack of clarity.
- vii. Advise all parties that the discussion is closed and do not permit any mails to be posted on that topic for a period of, say, three months. Advise all readers of the list to reach their own conclusions.
- viii. Given that the list owner has a particular objective and standpoint in establishing the list, it seems appropriate that, provided the list owner was not one of the key parties in the debate, they should have the prerogative to provide a concise summing up and finding of the outcome, as they see it. Note that if the list owner is one of the key parties to the debate, it might be appropriate for him to request another member of the list to moderate the above process.

9. KEY CONSIDERATIONS

While the preceding points provide guidelines for moderators, it is important to recognize that the key reason for a list is to share ideas,

answer questions and assist others to gain new knowledge that will be profitable for them in their Christian walk.

For this reason, many well meaning participants who are firmly persuaded of the rightness of their case feel that they must keep debating until the other person sees the truth that seems so obvious to them. They seem to feel that they have a responsibility towards others to ensure that they agree with them. Since we are all human and none of us see all the picture, this can result in pride creeping in or simply in debate that goes nowhere. The procedure advocated above will go a long way towards constructively ending such a debate without any party feeling aggrieved, however, it seems that there should be some guidelines that will assist list participants from getting trapped in this situation in the first place.

The first point to recognize is that **Ezekial 33:7-9** provides a clear basis as to how we should deal with such a situation:

7 "So you, son of man: I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore you shall hear a word from My mouth and warn them for Me.

8 "When I say to the wicked, 'O wicked man, you shall surely die!' and you do not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand.

9 "Nevertheless if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul. (NKJ)

Clearly, if we have been given a message or a truth by God, we are responsible for sharing it with others. If, however, that person does not receive the message, that is between them and Yahweh. We have no further accountability, PROVIDED we delivered the message accurately AND IN LOVE.

Consider also **Matthew 4:1-11**:

1 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

2 And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry.

3 Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."

4 But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"

5 Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple,

6 and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you,' and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.' "

7 Jesus said to him, "It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the Lord your God.'"

8 Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.

9 And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me."

10 Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.'"

11 Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him. (NKJ)

There are some lessons to be learnt from Jesus' response.

Often on a list, the temptation is to prove ourselves right or to prove the other wrong OR even to prove to the other party that they are in error in order that they may come to repentance. None of these motives, although they sound fine, have any scriptural basis. God's love is about giving people free choice and leaving them to make their choice. So, as the passage from Ezekial indicates, we should simply give the message and leave it at that. If we do anything further, we should simply intercede.

The bottom line is that it is for each person to discern the true meaning of the Word of God and the truth in any word that is spoken, ostensibly given by God through a person who claims to be a prophet.

If the person IS a prophet and we reject him, we reject the one who sent him, **Luke 10:16** states:

16 "He who hears you hears Me, he who rejects you rejects Me, and he who rejects Me rejects Him who sent Me." (NKJ)

By the same token, if the person IS a prophet and we RECEIVE him, **Matthew 10:41** states:

41 "He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward. And he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward. (NKJ)

Thus, there is a strong scriptural incentive for each of us to correctly discern the truth, for, after all, **2 Corinthians 5:10-11** states:

10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

11 Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences. (NKJ)

We MUST ALL appear before the judgment seat of Christ and we should know the terror of The Lord. We should also seek to persuade men of the truth of the judgment and should be concerned about their welfare.

1 Corinthians 3:11-21 states that work which is NOT OF CHRIST will be burned on the day of judgment:

11 For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

12 Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw,

13 each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is.

14 If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward.

15 If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

16 Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

17 If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.

18 Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise.

19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, "He catches the wise in their own craftiness";

20 and again, "The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile."

21 Therefore let no one boast in men. For all things are yours: (NKJ)

Jude 1:20-23 confirms this and enjoins us to have compassion on some and to pull others from the fire:

20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,

21 keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

22 And on some have compassion, making a distinction;

23 but others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh. (NKJ)

Accordingly, we find a number of challenges. We SHOULD seek to share knowledge to turn others from sin to life and we SHOULD seek to pull those in deception into truth. HOWEVER, we saw earlier, if they will not listen after the first and second admonition or after they have been approached by several people and the church, they should be shunned. In some cases they can be handed over to Satan for disciplining. **1 Corinthians 5:5-7** provides the basis for this:

5 deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

6 Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?

7 Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. (NKJ)

This is a simple act of prayer to the Father in the name of the Son and it not the harsh action that most Christians believe. It is an act of Mercy. Human beings are not able to correct one another with regard to spiritual matters. The Father will correct us and we should leave it at that.

At the same time, we must be willing for the Father to judge US when we ask Him to judge another. In fact, we should ask for His judgment BEFORE we consider asking Him to judge another. If we are NOT prepared to accept HIS JUDGMENT IN OUR OWN LIVES, we should not judge others or ask Him to judge them.

10. GUIDELINE TO LIST MEMBERS REGARDING PARTICIPATION

While the above provides proposals for use by list moderators in moderating a list, it is apparent that it would be helpful to provide list members with a concise guideline. The following is proposed:

In seeking to contribute:

- a. Are you seeking to share knowledge which you truly believe God has given to you.

OR

b. Are you seeking to gain clarification and greater understanding regarding what has been posted by another.

If your motivation is not one of the above you should probably not post.

Unless a person is honestly seeking information to assist them in their walk with God or to share that which they honestly believe God has given them, discussion is time consuming and fruitless and should be avoided.

It is suggested that this test should be applied by every person contributing to a list and should be considered by any list moderator when in doubt as to whether to accept a posting or not.

Note that there is no reason why individual parties should not continue with their discussion off the list. However, they should apply the same considerations.

11. CONCLUSION

A scriptural basis for an approach to moderating Christian Internet Discussion Lists is presented.

It is hoped that this will assist others in formulating an approach to moderating their own lists.

May Yahweh (The Lord) bless you and keep you and make His face to shine upon you, in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, King of Kings and Lord of Lords and saviour of the world.

James Robertson

EXTRACTS FROM SERGEI TWO WOMAN WHO CHANGED A DESTINY

Greetings

Following is an extract from the book "Sergei" and some brief comments
to challenge us all.

God bless

James Robertson

)))))))))

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EXTRACTS FROM SERGEI TWO WOMAN WHO CHANGED A DESTINY

by

James Robertson

)))))))))

**To all who call themselves by the name of Christ and
truly seek to serve Him with all their hearts, all their
souls, all their minds and all their strength.**

Greetings in the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth,

Recently I delivered a message on the subject "Do You Love Like Jesus
Loves?". The essence of the message was that Jesus gave His life without
protesting because of His love for us and that we should ask ourselves if
we were prepared to do the same.

1 Peter 2:21-24 makes it clear that we are called to this:

21 ***For to this you were called***, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, **that *YOU should follow His steps***:

22 *"Who committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth";*

23 ***who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously;***

24 *who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness-- by whose stripes you were healed. (NKJ)*

As part of this message, reference was made to the testimony of Sergei Kourdakov, a young Russian who fled Russia in a miraculous fashion and came to salvation as a consequence of the life testimony of two Christian women. This testimony is reported in the book "Sergei" published in Afrikaans by "Christelike Uitgewersmaatskappy", P O Box 132, Roodepoort, South Africa as a translation from a book published by Marshall, Morgan and Scott.

We subsequently translated two passages from this book for inclusion in another teaching for international distribution and it seemed to me that these testimonies were so moving that they should be more widely distributed.

This message should be read in the light of various messages relating to "Persecution of Christians" and "Prepare for Tribulation", distributed previously.

The context of the two stories is as follows:

Sergei Kourdakov was born of a father who was a General in the Russian Army during World War II. Shortly after the war his parents were murdered as part of political cleansing and he was brought up in various orphanages, learning an extremely brutal way of life which included physical violence, etc. He rose to become Leader of the Communist Youth League in the Naval Base to which he was sent for military training and was co-opted by the KGB into a special squad which was deployed to break up the church of Believing Christians in the town. A clear distinction was drawn by the KGB between nominal Christians and Christians who were "Believers". The nominal Christians were not regarded as a threat and were easily kept under control through formal

state monitored religion. The "Believers", however, were regarded as the most serious threat facing Communism and were to be ruthlessly eliminated or "re-orientated". To do this, Kourdakov and a small group of extremely strong and fit young men were detailed to break up every church meeting they could find and brutally assault all they found attending these "illegal" meetings. From time to time, people died brutally, girls were raped and generally the Believers were harassed to an appalling extent. Generally, those who were the victims of one of these assaults were not again found in secret meetings. Those that were found again at such meetings were frequently sent to correctional camps for long periods of hard labour.

The two extracts from the book report the two incidents which Sergei Kourdakov indicates were responsible for his coming to accept the Lord Jesus Christ as personal saviour.

i: A BEAUTIFUL 18 YEAR OLD WHO WOULD NOT FORSAKE HER SAVIOUR : PAGE 167 to 173

We raced down the street and jumped out of the pick-up van before it had time to come to a halt. We rushed to the front door and forced it open. To our amazement the room was full of young people. We had uncovered a secret youth meeting and caught everyone by surprise. We started "work" immediately, grabbed them, hit them, kicked them and punched them.

"There he is, grab him," I shouted as I pointed in the direction of the 23 year old leader. Some of my team grabbed him and others used some of the other Believers as punch bags. I glanced round the room and could hardly believe my eyes. There she was again, the same beautiful girl. Only three nights ago she was badly hurt and abused at the other gathering, and here she was again! This is the first time I could have a good look at her. She was more beautiful than I could recall, a really beautiful girl with locks of long blond hair, big blue eyes and a beautiful complexion. She was one of the most beautiful girls I had ever seen.

Victor had also spotted her and called out: "She's back. Look here guys, she's back!"

"Well," I replied, "it doesn't look as if we did a good enough job the last time, Victor. You did not teach her the lesson she needed to learn and now it is my turn."

I lifted her and threw her face down onto the table. Two of us stripped her naked. One of us held her down while I started striking her with my flat hand as hard as I possibly could. Again and again I struck her until my hands started to burn from the pain. Blisters started forming on her skin. I continued striking her until pieces of bloody flesh stuck to my hands. She groaned and bravely fought not to cry. To do this, she bit her lower lip until blood was pouring down her chin.

At last she gave up and started crying. At that stage, I was so exhausted that I was unable to lift my arm to strike her even once more and her body was a mass of raw flesh, I pushed her off the table and she collapsed on the floor in a heap.

I left her there and looked around. The young Believers were lying all over the room. There was no reason to prolong the task as we already had the leader. "We have our man," I called. "Get the names of all these people and let us get out of here".

When we arrived back at the police station, Nikiforov was at the front door smiling broadly. "Well, my children," he said, "that was quick!".

"Here's your man," I said and pushed the 23 year old to Nikiforov. He was immediately taken downstairs for "questioning".

Meantime, I looked at the names of the other youngsters. I could understand how old, foolish people could believe these things, people that were mixed up with religion before the coming of Communism, yes. But *young people* who believed in God! That was one too much for me. These were people of my age, my generation! I was astounded.

But that one girl had undoubtedly learnt her lesson. I teased Victor again. "You didn't do it right, old boy. But I taught her a lesson tonight. We will not see Beautiful again!"

The following day, when I reported back to the police station I walked in while Nikiforov was busy questioning the young leader from the night before. I listened in amazement to Nikiforov's technique of interrogation. Swapping between brutal breaking down, and sudden softness, he used both hard and soft tactics to confuse the young believer. He was doing what he enjoyed most - trapping a man.

"Do you believe in God?"

"Yes".

"Tell me, are you stupid, insane or just plain mad:"

The young Believer replied: "Well, Sir, you will not be able to understand why I believe what I believe, because what I believe is something that is very hard to explain. I believe in God, because He lives, and because He lives within my heart."

Nikiforov exploded with anger. "Why do you say that I cannot understand? Do you think I am stupid? I have also read this Book." He pointed to the confiscated Bible. "Do you think I cannot read?"

The young man was brutally beaten the previous night and had to endure further abuse in the prison cell, but responded firmly: "You may be able to read, but you need eyes to see and ears to hear and a heart to understand what the Spirit of God is saying in His Book".

I listened in total amazement, totally caught out by this. Nothing made the least sense to me.

"If you only read to attack," the young man continued, " you will never know what it really says. Only God can open your eyes so that you can understand what we believe and why we are willing to pay any price for our faith".

Nikiforov interrupted. "I must admit, there are certain things I do not understand".

The young man answered: "Well, Sir, you have answered your own question. You do not understand because your eyes are closed to the truth. If you will open your heart to God, your eyes will open to understand His Word, then it will become just as real to you as it is to me and those other young people. Why don't you open your heart to God? He will change your life and"

"Keep quiet!" Nikiforov nearly exploded. "Don't preach to me, you fool, or *I will change your life ... forever!*" He called the guards and the young man was taken to the cell. He was later sent to a punishment camp for a number of years. I had attended many such interrogations, but they never made any sense to me. *These*

Believers never lose courage, I thought. They even try and convert the police!

Nikiforov returned. "These people are mad," he said and I totally agreed with him.

I was interested to find out more about Natasha Zhdanova. Because the youth league is responsible for young people, we keep a file on everyone in the district. We know exactly who they are, where they grew up, went to school, everything. I went through Natasha's file.

She was born in the Donet region of the Ukraine, in a small village with the name of Bachnaya. Her parents were workers on a collective and very poor. To seek a better place in life, Natasha left the region when she was small, and came to live with her uncle in Petropawlowsk. She had attended the schools there and completed her education at the Maxim Gorky School Number Four.

After that, at 18 years of age, she became a proof reader at the *Petropawlowsk Prawda* newspaper. When I went through her report, I was stunned to find that she was a member of the Komsomol - our communist youth league - in the school, and had done well. The report clearly showed what had happened. Once she left school, she fell into the hands of the Believers and soon became one herself - a perfect example of how the Believers took people prisoner in their poisonous web.

I then went to the offices of the newspaper and enquired about her. "She is an outstanding worker," one of her seniors said. "We have never had any problems. She's friendly, reliable and honest, an outstanding worker." That sort of report had always confused me. With other workers we had problems of drunkenness, theft, laziness and incompetence. But whenever I had to complete a police report on the life of a Believer, the answer was always "outstanding worker" or "very reliable" or "never drunk". One thing about these Believers that I found out - they were earnest and hard-working. I wondered a lot about this, but it was not my job to wonder. It was my job to take action.

"Why do you want to know?" they asked me.

"We have on two occasions found her in secret meetings of the underground churches. She is a Believer."

There was a gasp. The workers looked at one another. It was as if it had just been said she was a leper or a mass murderer.

"Well," one said, "now that you mention it ...," and then there came a stream of complaints. Suddenly they had many bad things to say about her!

I left a message in her office to report to me at the police station at a fixed time. I knew this would frighten her and that was my objective.

She entered my office half hesitantly and sat down in the chair across desk. I could see she was afraid. *Such a beautiful person! And here she was sitting in my office, with her head hanging, and just staring at the floor ...* I asked her why she was a Believer.

"What must I be?" she asked. "An alcoholic? A prostitute?" And then: "Did you find anything wrong in my work report?"

"No, I did not," I had to admit.

"Why do you have an objection to my personal beliefs? Am I harming anyone?"

"No. But somewhere you went wrong and you are mixed up with people who are a great danger to our country." I then quickly preached to her and warned her of great trouble if she continued.

At last I realised that this was not producing any fruit. Again I warned that this would be recorded on her file and that she should not be found in the company of Believers again.

Notwithstanding her initial fear, she began to explain to me why she believed in God. I thought that the assault, together with the interview at the police station would cause her to come to her senses and that Natasha Zhdanova would not cause us any problems again. But she was a remarkable girl.

While we were talking, I became aware of the deep marks on her lower lip where she bit herself while I was beating her. *What a pity*, I thought. That cut spoiled an otherwise perfect face. *If only we could have met under different circumstances.* I could really be interested in a girl like her!

As soon as I had obtained all the information from her, and completed my lecture, I dismissed her summarily. This was part of the intimidation program, and I congratulated myself with my own conduct.

About a week later we were called to the police station for action against a secret church. I went through the routine procedures of street map investigation to locate the address. This gathering was in a house in Pograshny Street. On this occasion there were only six of us in the paddy wagon: Alexander Gulyaev, Vladimir Zelenov, Anatoly Litovchenko, Victor Matveyev, Nokolas Olysko and myself.

When we reached the place, I set guards and blockaded the street, and then we stormed in, and swung our truncheons wildly.

The well mannered, confused Believers began running around and trying to shield themselves against the rain of blows. The meeting room was very small and with 8 Believers and 6 of us it was chock full. There was much noise and much shouting and crying. *This won't take very long*, I thought and then I saw something familiar. I could not believe it. Here she was again - Natasha Zhdanova!

Some of my men also spotted her. Alex Gulyaev moved toward her, hate in his eyes, and his truncheon lifted above his head. Then something happened which I would never have thought that I would see. Without warning Victor jumped between Natasha and Alex and looked at Alex.

"Out of my way," shouted Alex.

Victor did not move. He lifted his truncheon and threateningly said: "I'm telling you, Alex, leave her alone. Nobody touches her!"

I listened in disbelief. Unbelievable, but Victor, one of my cruellest men, was busy protecting one of the Believers! "Stand back," he ordered Alex. "Stand back or I'm ready for you!" He was shielding Natasha who was lying on the floor.

Angrily Alex cried out: "You want her for yourself, not so?"

"No," Victor shouted back. "She has something that not one of us has. Nobody touch her. Nobody!"

I had to break it up, and quickly. Alex's wild temper would result in a fight. "Listen, Alex," I said and pointed to another Believer who was attempting to escape. "Catch him!" His attention distracted, Alex chased after the other man. I sighed with relief.

Victor was still standing with his arms outstretched protecting Natasha, looking around him challenging anyone to dare touch her. Natasha stood behind him and did not understand what was happening. This was not the sort of treatment she expected from our group. I nodded my head at her, indicating that she could leave. She turned and ran. I looked on approvingly.

For one of the few times in life, I was deeply moved. It was like the time when my friend, Sasha, died. Natasha *had* something! She had been abused in a hideous fashion and beaten, she had been warned and threatened, she had suffered unbelievably ... but here she was again. Even tough old Victor was touched by it, and had seen it. She had something that we did not have. I wanted to run after her to find out what it was. I wanted to talk to her, but she was gone. This heroic Believer girl who had suffered so much through us, touched me in one or other manner and also made me think ...

Shortly afterwards Natasha left the province and returned to her place of birth. The gossip and mockery by her co-workers got too much for her. I sent her personal file to the Communist Youth League in her home town, and gave them a detailed report on her life as a Believer.

I was strangely heartsore that she was gone. For the first time I felt that the Believers were perhaps not the fools and enemies that we thought they were. **Natasha had toppled all my ideas about the Believers.**

ii: THE ELDERLY WOMAN WHO PRAYED FOR THE ONE ABOUT TO BEAT HER : PAGE 197 -198

At the door we stopped for a moment - my men awaiting my signal. Suddenly I shouted: "Now!" The raid had started. The door was unlocked - obvious that they weren't expecting us - and we burst in. As the spy had said, there were 15 or 16 Believers present, all pressed tightly together in the small space. We had trapped them in the middle of prayer.

Vladimir Zelenov grabbed a Bible from a Believer and tore it to pieces. One of the women called out: "Why? Why are you doing this?" It was a heartbroken, deep cry, but irritated Vladimir, so that he hit her right in the face. It was a professional, well aimed blow, that would flatten any man, what more to say, a small frail woman. She fell backwards against the other Believers, and collapsed on the floor, her face bloodied.

Screams cut through the air as my men went to work. I pressed the lever on my truncheon and set it at it's shortest so that it was more usable in that small room. Truncheons and fists were already at work and the cries of the Believers were enough to burst your eardrums - some were screaming out of fear and others from pain.

I saw an old lady near the wall, fear on her face, her lips quivering in prayer. As a consequence of the noise, I could not hear what she was saying, but her prayer angered me. I took a few paces forward and lifted my truncheon to strike her. She saw me, ready to strike, and prayed out loud. I hesitated for a moment, more out of curiosity than anything else.

While my arm was in the air, ready to bring my truncheon down on her defenceless head, I heard her words: "God, forgive this young man. Show him the true Way. Open his eyes and help him. Forgive him dear Father."

I was astounded. Why did she not pray for help for herself? She was one about to be struck. I was furious that she - an unknown woman - was praying for me, Sergei Kourdakov, leader of the Communist Youth League. In a fit of rage I gripped my truncheon more tightly and prepared to bring it down on her head. I was going to strike with all my strength, enough to kill if necessary. I began to swing.

And then a most peculiar thing happened. I could not explain it. Someone or something gripped my wrist and pushed it back. I was astonished. It really hurt. It was not my imagination; it was a real pressure on my wrist until it hurt. I thought it might be another Believer and turned around to hit them.

But there was no one!

I looked again. *No one* could have gripped my arm, and yet I had felt it. It was still sore. Shocked, I stood still. I felt the blood rise to my head and I became warm, while fear spread over me. This was beyond my comprehension, it was confusing. Unreal.

And then I forgot everything. I dropped my truncheon and ran outside with a warm, blushing feeling in my face and blood throbbing in my head. Tears began streaming down my cheeks.

Since the age of four, I had only cried once, that I could remember. Even during those brutal beatings of uncle Nichy in the orphanage I had never cried. I was too tough to cry, so I thought. I swore that nobody would ever make me cry. Tears were a sign of weakness.

But now, as I was running away from that nightmare scene, I cried. Real tears were streaming down my cheeks. I was confused and lost. Things that I did not understand were busy happening to me.

I ran and walked and then ran again and could not remember anything. Hours passed. I could not remember anything, except the running and the crying. I do not know how long I walked, or where I was, but when I came to myself, it was already dark.

Slowly I found my way back to the police station. It was about 9 pm at night. I had hardly entered the room when Nikiforov exploded: "Where have you been, Kourdakov?" It was more of challenge than a question.

"I had to think things over," I replied, "and I have decided to stop doing this type of job."

iii: THE OUTCOME

Kourdakov was given furlough and subsequently a tour of duty on a Naval Vessel undertaking surveillance off the Pacific Coast of the USA and Canada. One night, in the midst of a raging storm, five miles off Vancouver, Canada, he leapt off the ship into the sea with a home made life jacket. Despite being tossed backwards and forwards, washed back to the ship and washed up on rocks out at sea, he finally staggered ashore outside Vancouver having been miraculously saved from what should have been certain death after He prayed to God to save him!

Sergei subsequently came to salvation and started sharing His testimony in the USA and Canada. He was eventually assassinated by the KGB but not before he had touched the lives of many and revealed what was truly being done to the Believers in secret in Russia.

Based on his testimony, it is clear that he ONLY came to salvation as a consequence of the life testimony of the two women who were prepared to lay down their lives and die if necessary rather than deny their Saviour and who furthermore were prepared to pray for their enemies.

The vital question that this testimony raises is "WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED IF THOSE TWO WOMAN HAD TRIED TO SAVE THEIR LIVES IN THEIR OWN STRENGTH INSTEAD OF LAYING DOWN THEIR LIVES?"

This testimony and many like it from around the world in this age MUST be pivotal in the thinking and prayer of anyone who truly claims to love the Lord Jesus Christ. We must each examine our hearts and, if we could not conduct ourselves the way those two women did, we need to ask the Holy Spirit to perform drastic open heart surgery on us!

May YAHWEH bless you and keep you;

YAHWEH make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you;

YAHWEH lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace.

JAMES ROBERTSON

END OF VOLUME