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# BIBLE NEWS PROPHECY

## INDIA, PROPHECY, and the BEASTS of REVELATION 13



**Miracles of Jesus –  
Water into Wine**

**The Tenth Commandment.**  
Do not covet.



# BIBLE NEWS PROPHECY



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**About the Front Cover:** Artwork developed for the Continuing Church of God based on a c. 1760-1770 photograph of someone (perhaps the rider of the white horse of Revelation 6) bowing down before one who seemingly resembles the Beast of Revelation.

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# Turning the Hearts of the Children to their Fathers

The Book of Malachi teaches:

5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. 6 And he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse. (Malachi 4:5-6)

The late Pastor General of the old Worldwide Church of God, Herbert W. Armstrong, interpreted this to at least partially mean that the church would try to take some steps to better reach the youth in the church.

How do we try to do that in the Continuing Church of God?

Well, in addition to providing biblical instructions, we have taken several steps.

Perhaps the first direct step was putting together a sermonette video titled Five Rules for Effective Parenting. There was also a related article published. Here are the five rules:

First, spend time with your children and teach them God's ways (Deuteronomy 6:6-9; Proverbs 22:6).

Second, do not lie to them — ever (Exodus 20:12,16).

Third, do not live like a hypocrite (Job 8:13; Matthew 15:7-9).

Fourth, you need to teach children about God and His laws (Deuteronomy 6:6-7), which also gives them boundaries.

And fifth, do not be afraid to provide proper discipline (Proverbs 15:10, 23:13, 29:17).

Furthermore, we have attempted to provide ways that give parents and children teaching opportunities.

In addition to regular sermons and sermonettes, we have also produced some animated videos.

We are also looking at the possibility of producing some animated literature, perhaps in a comic book like format.

We also have been in the process of reviving and updating the old Youth Bible Lessons from the old Worldwide Church of God. However, since the levels of the lessons stop earlier than we think they should, as well as for other factors, we also have been in the process of making a set of lessons that take off where the others end.

Additionally, we have begun to put more youth oriented information in this magazine. We began a while back with a Q&A section, plus now we have added a more youth directed article in this issue. It is our intent to see if we can continue with such an article in each issue.

In parts of Africa we have also had youth camps in an effort to better teach the youth and young adults the ways of God and His church.

Since the Book of Malachi prophesies that turning the hearts of the fathers to their children and vice versa needs to happen at the end , we thought we would share some of what we have been working on related to that.

# The Parable of the Mustard Seed

**By Bob Thiel**

Jesus spoke many parables. One was a comparison of the kingdom of God and a mustard seed. It is mentioned in Matthew's, Mark's, and Luke's gospels. Here is Luke's account:

The He said, "What is the kingdom of God like? And to what shall I compare it? It is like a mustard seed, which a man took and put in his garden; and it grew and became a large tree, and the birds of the air nested in its branches" (Luke 13:18-19).

Jesus is teaching that the Kingdom of God will start small, but it will massively increase.

Jesus called the mustard seed "the least of all seeds" (Matthew 13:32), yet it can grow 12 feet high. Some have considered that since other seeds in other regions can be smaller than perhaps Jesus was in error--He was not. Notice what one scholar states about the Greek word used in this parable:

A question is sometimes raised about this statement because the passage declared that the mustard seed is "the smallest of all your seeds" (v. 32). Actually, the text in the Greek New Testament is comparative (mikroteron) which means that it is smaller. Some hold that this is an error in Scripture because the seed of the orchid, for instance, is still smaller. This, however, is ruled out by the passage itself which limits the seeds under consideration to those that are planted in the Holy Land. The fact that smaller seeds are found elsewhere in the world is without significance (Walvoord John F. The Prophecy Knowledge Handbook. Victor Books, Wheaton (il), 1990, p. 375).

Jesus' parable suggests that, at first, the kingdom of God is quite small.

This is somewhat confirmed by the verses of another parable that follows.

The next parable compares the kingdom of God to leaven (Luke 13:20-21) which is very small. After



hearing these parables and walking further (vs. 22) notice what was taught:

Then one said to Him, "Lord, are there few that will be saved?" And He said to them, "Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you will seek to enter and will not be able" (vss. 23-24).

So after hearing the parable of the mustard seed and the one with leaven, the disciples began to realize that Jesus was teaching that only a few will be called for salvation in this age (see also our free book Hope of Salvation: How the Continuing Church of God differ from Protestantism).

Also notice what happened shortly before telling the parable about the mustard seed:

...the disciples came and said to Him, "Why do you speak to them in parables?" He answered and said to them, "Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him. Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand"(Matthew 13:10-13--note this same discussion also precedes the parable of the mustard seed in Mark's account as well).

Jesus explained that He spoke in parables so that most would not understand what He was teaching as access to the kingdom has not been given to most in this age. So because of all this, recall that His disciples figured out what He was teaching.

Yet the parable of the mustard seed is a classic example of people not quite understanding the parables--as some scholars erroneously feel that it shows that the Christian Church would quickly be large (Walvoord, pp. 374-375).

The Nelson Study Bible almost gets it right. It interprets Matthew's account of the parable to mean:



The parable of the mustard seed affirms that during that time period, the number of people who inherit the kingdom will be very small at first. But though it begins like the smallest of seeds, the nucleus will enjoy growth completely out of proportion to its initial size...The kingdom, though having only a small number of people at the beginning of the age, will ultimately be large and prosperous” (p. 1598).

Actually, if these authors kept and understood God’s Holy Days, they probably would have understood this parable correctly. It is true that there will be few in the beginning of the kingdom. The Feast of Pentecost (also known as the Feast of Firstfruits) which occurs in the Spring, pictures that a small harvest will occur in this age. The Feast of Tabernacles (and the Last Great Day) which occurs in the Fall, pictures the large harvest which will occur at the end of the age.

Since these commentators do not observe the God’s Holy Days (Lev 23:1), they have a different definition of the kingdom than those in the Churches of God. Notice further what The Nelson Study Bible commentators teach:

The kingdom of heaven is most likely synonymous with ‘the kingdom of God’. Both terms seem to be used consistently throughout the New Testament to refer to God’s heavenly kingdom coming to earth in the person of Jesus Christ. This kingdom begins with the incarnation of Christ, continues with the inception of the church, and will be fully manifested when Christ returns (p.1570).

In other words, these Protestant scholars are not looking for a literal kingdom.

The New Testament teaches that the true Church of God would be quite small in this age:

32 Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. (Luke 12:32)

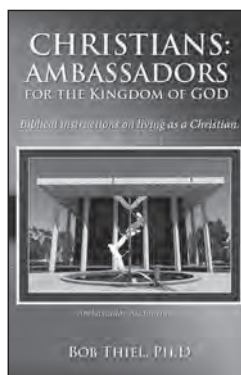
5... at this present time there is a remnant according to the election of grace (Romans 11:5)

27... The remnant will be saved. 28 For He will finish the work and cut it short in righteousness, Because the Lord will make a short work upon the earth (Romans 9:27-28).

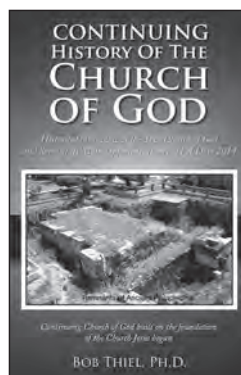
As far as the short-work goes, we are working and preparing for it (check out the article at cogwriter.com: Preparing for the ‘Short Work’ and The Famine of the Word). As far as God’s plan for those beyond the remnant, check out our free book, online at ccog.org, Universal OFFER of Salvation, Apokatastasis: Can God save the lost in an age to come? Hundreds of scriptures reveal God’s plan of salvation.

As far as the kingdom of God goes, one portion will begin at the start of the Millennium (which is the time of the first resurrection, Rev 20:4-6) and will have its largest harvest afterwards. The kingdom of God starts very small (Daniel 2:36b), but will take over the whole earth (vs. 36b,44-45). This appears to be the meaning of the parable of the mustard seed. This is something that most scholars who read it simply do not seem to understand.

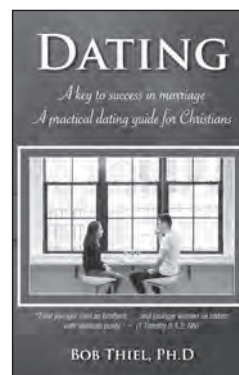
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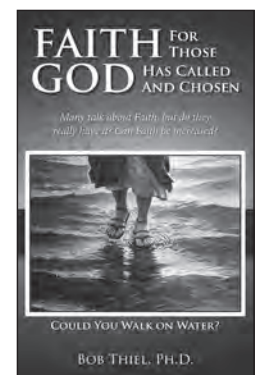
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# Love is the Greatest Commandment

## *But Should We Extend Love to Our Enemies?*

**By Bradox Ouma Ochieng**

Many people all over the world may have had the opportunity to read about love in the Bible, but only some few practice the love that the Bible talks about.

Let's take a look at what the Bible tells us:

"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the law?" Jesus said to him, "you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your souls and with all your mind" This is the first and the great commandment" The second is like this, you shall love your neighbor as yourself". (Matthew 22:36-39)



*Bradox Ouma Ochieng*

Even though some few try to practice love in this ancient world, many do not really know what love means. Or if some do know the meaning, they take it for granted.

I can remember clearly that during my childhood, I used to sing John 3:16 as my choral verse, "For God so loved the world that he gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life"

### **But What Really is Love?**

Love is genuine outgoing concern, that when appropriate, results in actions to assist others:

1 "Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become a sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. 2 And though I have the gift of prophecy and understand all mysteries and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so as to remove

mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing."

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.

8 Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge,

it will vanish. (1 Corinthians 13:1-8)

As I read the thirteenth chapter of 1st Corinthians, I see Paul seeming to say, "That's not love ... this is love!" I find it difficult, if not impossible, to believe the Corinthians deliberately chose to abandon Christian love. I believe they were so caught up in certain spiritual gifts that they have unconsciously abandoned true love. They were something like Samson after Delilah cuts his hair. Samson leaps to his feet, fully expecting to be able to handle the Philistines, not knowing that God's power had departed.

Before going on, I must pause to ask, what is distinctive about Christian love?

Paul takes what are considered to be the greatest gifts anyone could possess, and grants that each could be exercised to the fullest possible extent. Even then, these spiritual gifts would be of limited value unless exercised out of a position of love.



Some who call themselves Christians who go to church every Sabbath, who preach to other people but do not practice love, should understand that all that is not of any profit.

34 “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:34-35)

There are many things that identify believers and set them apart from the world, but the one thing that trumps all the rest is when believers love one another as Christ loves them. So here the Bible tells us very clearly that it is through the practice of Godly love that we can be identified by other people as the children of God.

It's not through loud preaching, it's not singing in loud choirs, it not performing miracles or even speaking in tongues as 1st Corinthians tells us but it's through practicing love to one another that we can be identified.

The early church understood Christ-like love and fellowship:

44 “And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; 45 and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need. 46 Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.” (Acts 2:44-47)

Until we as a body learn to love, church will be a mere shell of what it is supposed to be. When we do learn to love, we will experience God's family the way it was meant to be.

Too often, Christians treat people who are hurting and suffering by judging them, alienating them, and ignoring them, hoping they, like a pesky insect, will just go away and leave us alone to worship and praise God. This is not love. It is NOT Philadelphian.

The early church loved being around each other, not because it was the right thing to do in a legalistic sense, but partially because they really enjoyed one another. Their hearts were full of gladness, sincerity, and the praise of God. This wasn't a fake ritualistic thing that “good Christians” do. They loved what they were doing because they loved their adopted family in Christ. At its essence, the early church was one big extended family with a great many brothers and sisters in the Lord. Surely, it wasn't perfect, but it was a place where people knew that they would be loved.

## Extend Love to Enemies?

But should this love extend to our enemies?

Brethren, this is the toughest thing that many including those who call themselves real Christians will not love to do. I remember during a Sabbath when I was giving a sermon, I asked those who attended the service that, “In case God can give you an opportunity today to control the rain — having in mind that most of us depend majorly on the farm produce — what will you do to your enemies?”

You won't believe the answers I received. One guy said, “I not send rain to his farm so that he would in turn die of hunger” This guy was just being funny as he didn't mean what he said. But he was trying to tell us what many would do to their enemies if given a chance.

But what does the Bible tell us about our enemies? Jesus explained to His followers that they should adhere to the real meaning of God's law by loving their enemies as well as their neighbors.

A Pharisee once asked Jesus, “Who is my neighbor?” (Luke 10:29). Jesus then told the Parable of the Good Samaritan. Here Jesus taught that His followers must demonstrate love to all kinds of people — no matter what faith, nationality, or personality — enemies included. If you love your enemies and “pray for those who persecute you,” you then truly reveal that Jesus is Lord of your life.

When Jesus said we are to love our enemies, He was creating a higher standard for relationships. He proclaimed to the crowds listening to His sermon on the mount that they knew they were to love their

neighbor because the command to love our neighbor was a law of God (Leviticus 19:18). He pointed out that we should therefore hate our enemy was an inference incorrectly drawn from it by the Jews.

While no Bible verse explicitly says “hate your enemy,” the Pharisees may have somewhat misapplied some of the Old Testament passages about hatred for God’s enemies (Psalm 139:19-22; 140:9-11). But Jesus replaced this idea with an even higher standard: “Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:44-45). Jesus goes on to explain that loving those who love us is easy and even unbelievers can do that. Then He commands us to “be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect” (Matthew 5:43-48).

## What Does It Really Mean That Love Your Enemy?

In Proverbs 24:17 we’re told not to gloat when our enemy falls. In Proverbs 25:21 we’re told to feed our enemy when he or she is hungry. But the blatant instruction to love our enemies came from Jesus in His sermon on the mount.

43 “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ 44 But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. 46 If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? 48 Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.” (Matthew 5:43-48)

How we love is of the utmost importance. We aren’t really able to love our enemies, as we should, without the help of God. Hating an enemy is what comes naturally. We need supernatural help to overcome that. If we try and love our enemies apart from the help of God, it will not be true love.

“But to you who are listening” I think that the listening here (Luke 6:27-36), in the Bible, refers to those who are filled with the Holy Spirit. Those who are able to

follow the teaching of the Bible, with the Holy Spirit leading and guiding them, and willing to love and to do good to their enemies.

27 “But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. 29 If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. 30 Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. 31 Do to others as you would have them do to you.

32 If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. 33 And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. 34 And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full.

35 But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. 36 Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.” (Luke 6:27-36)

Brethren, I want to assure everyone, including nonbelievers, however much our enemies hate us and constantly do bad thing or even curse us, we are commanded to pray for them and constantly bless them. Our good and merciful God has promised to revenge.

The apostle Paul showed this truth in the first part of this letter to the Romans. Let me remind you of how he said it: “The wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth” (Romans 1:18).

Let us again take a look at Romans 12:19-20, “Beloved, do not avenge yourselves but rather give place to wrath; For it is written vengeance is Mine, I will Repay says the Lord. Therefore, if your enemy is hungry, feed him, if he is thirsty give him a drink for in so



doing, you will heap coals on fire on his head”.

We are to answer evil with good. The trap is to be overcome by evil, to be so hurt, so wounded, that we too choose an evil path by personally trying to settle the score. But God says, try paying back evil with good. What happens is even more devastating to the person who hurt you.

Everybody understands tit for tat. That’s the way the world works. But they have a really hard time with paying back evil with good. It makes their conscience burn. It drives them to rethink their approach because it’s not producing what they expected. That’s the way to overcome evil. Not by fighting it. Not by punishing it. Not by stamping it out. But by smothering it with kindness and generosity until it can no longer breathe. Don’t do evil just because someone did evil to you.

They did the wrong thing. You do the right thing. One of our frustrations with love is our complete inability to keep it. Like sand slipping between our fingers, the harder we grasp the faster it seems to fall through. It would be nice if love was as simple as baking a batch of cookies or building a bird house for the backyard; a simple set of ingredients, a logical list of steps to take. But we all know the truth; love cannot be manufactured. It cannot be bought or traded. It cannot be forced. It cannot be controlled. It cannot be plotted. Honestly, true love has never really been about romance or passion at all. It is about truth and value. It is about vulnerability and acceptance. It is about wholeness and finding peace. It is about discovering a foundation on which we can build our lives and on which we can place our hope and confidence. It is about feeling like we are worth something. It is about sharing vulnerability and in the midst of it, feeling loved unconditionally. We probably know already but are not willing to admit. Unconditional love, the kind that pours meaning and significance into your life, is hard to find in another human being because we are all too self-interested and too self-motivated. Our hearts are bent toward protecting and promoting ourselves. It is not hard to see! We live in a culture that constantly measures every relationship by what we get out of it.

The Bible speaks clearly to this fact. It calls our bent toward self-interest, sin, and it was neither the way humanity, nor the world was created originally. Adam

and Eve were the first to experience love and it was much deeper than what we call love today. Adam and Eve’s relationship was perfectly woven together with one another, with God, and with the enjoyment of creation around them. There was no self-interest. Instead, their whole lives were shaped by caring for each other, caring for the world around them, and thanking God for the experience. Neither Adam nor Eve ever felt a moment of fear, rejection, or failure. Our value and our identity are secured for all eternity with Jesus, who loves us so passionately that He gave His own life. When you understand that truth, transforms the way we think about love.

The reason we have to love our enemies is that it reveals something of the way God is. God is merciful. Remember the bible says “That you may be sons of your Father in heaven; For He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good and sends rain on the just and the unjust” (Matthew 5:45).

“He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor punished us according to our iniquities”. (Psalm 103:10)

“And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another even as God in Christ forgave you”. (Ephesians 4:32)

Brethren if we can commit our daily lives into doing all that the above verse tells, then I am sure we would not be hearing about wars, demonstrations, looting and many major conflicts that we see or hear about around the world.

None has ever gone through what Jesus Christ our Savior went through. He was willing to forgive our sins, so that instead of death, we who were created in the image of God, would have eternal life. However much He was persecuted, instead of cursing those who persecuted Him, He asked the Father to forgive them. “Then Jesus said, Father forgive them for they do not know what they do” (Luke 23:34).

Finally, this should be the prayer for everyone and then we would love to live together with our neighbors and we shall no longer call anyone an enemy. May God Bless all the Brethren all over the world as we practice to show love to our enemies, by doing good to them and blessing those who curse us, and finally feeding our enemies whenever they are hungry.

# India, Prophecy, and the Beasts of Revelation 13



*Someone (perhaps the False Prophet) Bowing Before the Bhagwan Kalki*

## By Bob Thiel

There are over 1.2 billion people who live in India, and most of them are Hindus. There are also ethnically Indian people in many other countries, with majorities in places like Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

Will most Indian people, at least cooperate with the coming European Beast power of Revelation 13?

If so, why?

Does the Bible teach that they will likely also support False Prophet/Antichrist?

What does the Bible teach? What do Hindu and Catholic prophecies suggest? By what means will Indians accept, at least to a degree, the Beast power of Revelation 13?

This article will try to address that and more.

## India, the Beast of Revelation 13, and Bible Prophecy

Bible prophecy teaches that the whole world will worship the Beast of Revelation 13 and that a second Beast will assist with this:

1 Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten

crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name. 2 Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority. 3 And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast.

4 So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?"

5 And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months. 6 Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven. 7 It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation. 8 All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

9 If anyone has an ear, let him hear. 10 He who leads into captivity shall go into captivity; he who kills with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.

11 Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon. 12 And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. 13 He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. 14 And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded



by the sword and lived. 15 He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed. (Revelation 13:1-15)

The above includes people in India. The Bible is teachings that people on the earth will worship the Beast, they will be taught to do so, that signs and wonders will be involved, and the fear of death will be involved. Other passages of the Bible also indicate that religion factors (Revelation 17) and economic influence (Revelation 13:16-18; Revelation 18) will also play a role.

Bible prophecy shows that people in India (and elsewhere) will be deceived by signs and wonders:

9 The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, 10 and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. 11 And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, 12 that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness. (2 Thessalonians 2:9-12)

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. (Matthew 24:24-25)

These signs, economic, and other factors will persuade most in India to follow, to a degree, the Beast of the sea (Revelation 13:1-10) as well as the Beast of the earth (Revelation 13:11-15).

And, according to the Bible these will be European leaders (cf. Daniel 9:26-27). The Beast of the sea is also known as the King of the North in Daniel 11. He also seems to be the same person some Roman and Orthodox Catholic prophecies refer to as the 'Great Monarch.'

## Roman Catholic Prophecy, Fatima, and Indians

Certain Roman Catholic writings and private prophecies point to involvement of the Indian peoples

(most of which, because of the multitude of Hindu gods and goddesses, are considered to be pagans) in their religion. Here are some:

**St. Bridget** (14th century): Before Antichrist comes, the portals of Faith will be opened to great numbers of pagans (Birch, DA. Trial, Tribulation & Triumph: Before During and After Antichrist. Queenship Publishing Company, Goleta (CA), 1996, p. 449).

**Venerable Magdalene Porzat** (died 1850) (Great Monarch) ... shall ... restore to their dominions the legitimate kings. A just and pious man born in Galacia shall be the Supreme Pontiff: then the whole world will be united and prosperous. One faith only and one emperor shall reign over the whole earth (Connor, Edward. Prophecy for Today. Imprimatur + A.J. Willinger, Bishop of Monterey-Fresno; Reprint: Tan Books and Publishers, Rockford (IL), 1984, p. 38).

**Cardinal La Roque** (c. 18th century): A regeneration of Faith will appear in Asia (R. Gerald Culleton. The Prophets and Our Times. Nihil Obstat: L. Arvin. Imprimatur: Philip G. Scher, Bishop of Monterey-Fresno, November 15, 1941. Reprint 1974, TAN Books, Rockford (IL), p. 193).

**Elizabeth Canori-Mora** (died 1825): Such is the glorious triumph reserved for the Catholic Church; she shall be praised, honored and esteemed by all men. All men shall become Catholics, and shall acknowledge the Pope as Vicar of Jesus Christ." (Connor, p.24).

**Alphonse Eppinger** (1867): "After God has purified the world faith and peace will return. Whole nations will adhere to the teachings of the Catholic Church." (Connor, p.25).

**Pope Leo XIII** (1893): The Orient, courageously and successfully explored by the Portuguese, is coveted by many today for its lucrative trade. We, however, have a more noble purpose in mind ... To take care, therefore, of the preservation and propagation of the Catholic religion among the Hindus, a Hindu clergy has to be formed that could administer the sacraments and govern the Christian people properly, no matter how

menacing the times ... Be sure that the role of Christianity in such remote regions becomes well known. Make your people understand that something must be done for the Hindus. (Leo XIII. AD EXTREMAS ON SEMINARIES FOR NATIVE CLERGY. Encyclical of Pope Leo XIII promulgated on June 24, 1893).

But this acceptance of the “Catholic” leaders and teachings by those of Indian heritage will not last. Perhaps it should be mentioned that even many Catholic writers have warned that one that they call an “antipope” will lead a changed church calling itself “Catholic” that will be an ecumenical world religion that many all over the world will follow, but should not.

Lest anyone think that these old private prophecies are not of any relevance, it needs to be clear that Catholic leaders of the 20th and 21st century have expected that some version of ‘Mary’ would help bring the those of Indian heritage to their faith.

Archbishop Fulton Sheen was a very famous Catholic archbishop in the mid-20th century, He essentially thought that part of the purpose of the appearance of the Marian apparition in Fatima in 1917 was to result in Muslims (and possibly Hindus) ultimately accepting his faith. He wrote:

Our missionaries report the most extraordinary reaction of these peoples as the Pilgrim statue of Our Lady of Fatima was carried through the East. At the edge of Nepal, three hundred Catholics were joined by three thousand Hindus and Moslems, as four elephants carried the statue to the little church for Rosary and Benediction ... The final evidence of the relationship of the village of Fatima to the Moslems is the enthusiastic reception that the Moslems in Africa and India and elsewhere gave to the pilgrim statue of Our Lady of Fatima ...

Missionaries in the future will, more and more ... be successful in the measure they preach Our Lady of Fatima....

Archbishop Sheen also wrote:

At Patna, the Brahman Hindu governor of the province visited the church and prayed before

the statue of Our Lady. In one tiny village of Kesra Mec, more than twenty-four thousand people came to see the statue.

Now, that was not an isolated incident.

Notice the following account of a group of Hindus who visited Cova da Iria (part of Fatima in Portugal) in 2004:

Hindus ... were allowed to conduct a pagan prayer chant at the altar in the sanctuary of the Little Chapel of the Apparitions ... on May 5, 2004 ... a national television station in Portugal broadcast that a group of Hindus from Lisbon was allowed to commandeer the Shrine for a pagan prayer chant, with the Hindu “priest” standing at the Catholic altar invoking false gods in the causes of peace, while the Hindu congregation in the Little Chapel responded with a chant. This is a desecration ... since Sacred Scripture teaches “the gods of the Gentiles are devils” (Psalm 95:5).

This Hindu ceremony, as expected, upset some Catholics. (Note that Psalm 95:5 in the DRB is Psalm 96:5 in the NJB/NKJV which use the word “idols” instead of “devils.”)

Notice that is not just Hindus, but the Muslims in India and elsewhere that the Church of Rome also wants to reach (some Muslims claim that Muhammad’s daughter Fatima was ‘the Lady’ that appeared in Fatima, Portugal in 1917 and that Fatima should be a Muslim, not Catholic shrine.

The fact that the Catholic leaders in Fatima, Portugal allowed Hindus to conduct one of their ceremonies at a Catholic shrine shows how serious the Church of Rome is to reach out ecumenically to Indians. The fact that the current Pope Francis is so Marian and Fatima-focused suggests that he too, expects his church to reach the Indians. On October 13, 2013, Pope Francis consecrated the world to the immaculate heart of the Fatima statue (Francis consecrated world to the ‘immaculate heart’ of an alleged ‘Fatima’ statue). This likely has appeal to Hindus and others.

Notice something else from the 21st century:

Jaffa, Israel, Aug 2, 2013 / 04:10 am (CNA/EWTN News). - Preparations for the Feast of



the Nativity of Mary this September are already underway in the Holy Land, particularly among Indian migrant workers.

“Mother Mary is revered with great devotion by the Indian community as a mother and a spiritual figure of maternal protection,” said Friar Jayaseellan Pitchaimuthu OFM, head of the Indian Chaplaincy in Holy Land.

She is acknowledged as the “protector and patroness” of the Indian Chaplaincy in Holy Land because she is a “model” for the migrants, he told CNA. He noted that the Holy Family took refuge in Egypt for safety and settled for livelihood in Nazareth, and that Jesus carried out his apostolic mission in Judea, Galilee and Jerusalem.

Many Indian Catholic migrant workers “seek grace and invoke (Mary’s) motherly protection,” he said ...

The friar explained that the Marian feast day is particularly important in the Indian context because of its relation to other faiths.

Members of other religions, including Hindus and Muslims, “regard Marian devotions in esteem,” he said.

Thousands of devotees – both Catholics and non-Catholics – flock every week to the Marian apparition site at Velankanni, near Chennai in South India, and other shrines that have recorded various miracles, he said.

In this way, the friar explained, “Marian devotion also leads to a platform for inter-religious dialogue.” (Gonzales AA. Indian migrants in Holy Land prepare for Marian feast. CNA, August 2, 2013. [www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/indian-migrants-in-holy-land-prepare-for-marian-feast](http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/indian-migrants-in-holy-land-prepare-for-marian-feast)).

There basically is an ecumenical Roman Catholic plan that expects to use ‘Mary’ to reach those of Indian heritage. But this is a false gospel (cf. Galatians 1:6-7), and those of Indian heritage need to avoid that (cf. Revelation 18:1-5). The apparitions that are claimed to be Mary of the Bible are false — Mary is dead awaiting the resurrection. But Pope Francis continues to push

his version of ‘Mary’ to reach whoever he can.

Furthermore, notice that Roman Catholics have been working in India to get Hindus and others in India to be trusting of their church:

BERHAMPUR, India, SEPT. 13, 2010 (Zenit.org).

- The principal challenge facing the Church in India is not the reconstruction of buildings destroyed by anti-Catholic violence by Hindu fundamentalists, but rather the restoration of interreligious trust, says a bishop of Orissa ...

Q: Why, if Christians make such a small percentage of the population, are the Hindus so threatened by the Christians in this area?

Bishop Nayak: There are many reasons why this threat perception is there. First of all, the Christian presence, though we are hardly 2%, our service in terms of education, the social services, and the health service is almost 20% — service that we are giving.

And they say that this is the reason for the increase of conversions in the area, so this is one. They are threatened by this increase in number ... if you allow Christians to grow in number they will take over India.

Q: They will eventually conquer.

Bishop Nayak: They will conquer, so that is the fear — that is the unfounded fear ...

Q: Don’t they have a point? If Christianity continues to grow and the Christians are teaching that everybody is equal, it is a threat to the caste system. Is it not a reality at some point that the Dalits will say: Why should we be treated differently? We are the same and Christianity teaches us as such. So, in fact the Hindus do have a point that it is a threat to the caste system.

Bishop Nayak: Yes, it is really a threat to the caste system. Why should there be a caste system there, making people less than a cow, less than an animal?

... building up solidarity locally among different groups of different religions will be the first, and to build up the lost trust, to bring back, again

that we can live together as we have been living from time immemorial. That will be the first priority. (zenit.org/article-30328?l=english).

Although Bishop Nayak tended to downplay it, the reality is that it is the goal of his church to get the Indians in it (see also Will the Interfaith Movement Lead to Peace or Sudden Destruction? [www.cogwriter.com/interfaith.htm](http://www.cogwriter.com/interfaith.htm)).

Apparitions of Mary, inter-religious dialogue, and other factors will get the majority of Indians to support the final Beast power.

Notice the following related to a world interfaith prayer meeting from a Hindu leader who participated:

20 September 2016

(Vatican Radio) Indian writer and activist Sudheendra Kulkarni is one of the estimated 450 religious representatives of various faiths participating in the World Day of Prayer for Peace in Assisi ...

Kulkarni, who is of Hindu faith, heads the Observer Research Foundation, an independent think tank, based in India. He is particularly concerned with interfaith dialogue, specifically India/Pakistan dialogue for peace and cooperation.

He told Vatican Radio's Christopher Altieri that the message of the World Day of Prayer for Peace is more relevant today than ever: ... "Pope Francis is at one level the head of the Catholic Church in the world, but at another level he is the moral conscience keeper of the world. His message is for the entire humanity. Today he is one of those rare voices in the world, which is reminding us that we have to change this world. We have to change this world in a way that the poor are respected, the poor have justice, and the poor can live in a secure world. Second, he is one of those great global leaders who are speaking very spiritedly for the protection of ecology. He is in fact known as a green Pope and we in India respect him for this, and will be very happy to see Pope Francis visiting India at his earliest opportunity".

([www.archivioradiovaticana.va/storico/2016/09/20/](http://www.archivioradiovaticana.va/storico/2016/09/20/)

[hindu\\_assisi\\_participant\\_%E2%80%98pope\\_francis\\_is\\_moral\\_conscience\\_/en-1259481](http://hindu_assisi_participant_%E2%80%98pope_francis_is_moral_conscience_/en-1259481)).

I have warned for years that Hindus will temporarily accept the Vatican's future ecumenical/interfaith agenda. The statements by Sudheendra Kulkarni are consistent with that assessment.

Perhaps it should be mentioned that the final European Beast power will feign a version of Roman Catholicism for a time, apparently long enough to get a certain following, and then later his followers will betray it according to biblical prophecy (Revelation 17:15-18).

## **Hindu Prophecies and Writings May Get Indians to Support the Beast and the False Prophet**

It is not just goodwill gestures and signs and wonders from Catholic-connected sources that will likely persuade the Indians. As mentioned before, the Bible tells about social, persecutory, and economic pressures as well. Furthermore, there are Hindu prophecies and writings that also seem to be possible internal reasons that many in India will decide that supporting the upcoming European Beast power will be culturally acceptable.

Within Hinduism there is the belief that a leader called the Kalki who is to rise up with the promise of bring peace — and while most views suggest he is Indian, that could be a matter of interpretation — Hinduism mainly is looking for a leader to rise up. Related to that, here is a section of my book 2012 and the Rise of the Secret Sect that would like to quote:

A Hindu from India named Vijay Kumar (he refers to himself as "The Man who Realized God In 1993") makes the following claims ...

For the society to climb back to its pristine glory of the golden era ... even the meek would handle metal (pick arms). Whatever the poor and the downtrodden lay their hands upon would become their weapon. In the last phase of the Kali Yuga we are passing through ... the complete society has been taken to ransom by about 6% corrupt population comprising of politicians, bureaucrats, judiciary and police

force ... people await with abated breath the coming of Bhagwan Kalki ... one who delivers the mankind from the existing ills of today. Bhagwan Kalki would be a spiritual master of the highest order with the deadly combination of a wise dictator (Chanakya of the modern era) ... (Kumar, Vijay. End of the World 2012. [www.godrealized.com/2012.html](http://www.godrealized.com/2012.html))

Notice that Vijay Kumar's writings support a warring power — something the Bible warns against in Revelation 13:3-10. This type of warring power will not bring in a true age of peace, even though many may proclaim that it will (cf. Ezekiel 13:10-16; 1 Thessalonians 5:3).

Also notice the following about the Avatar/Bhagwan Kalki:

Whenever there is a withering of the law and an uprising of lawlessness on all sides, then I manifest Myself.

For the salvation of the righteous and the destruction of such as do evil, for the firm establishing of the Law, I come to birth, age after age. (Bhagavad Gita, Book IV, Sutra 5, 7, 8) ...

In all, the Hindu text of Kalki Purana is comprised of 6100 verses describing ... Kalki, who is considered the last Avtar or incarnation of Vishnu or the Supreme Being, who will establish the Age of Truth or Age of Purity on Earth. ... As agreed by all the religious prophecies, the Awaited One will not be a man of peace like Jesus Christ or Buddha, but a man of war who will destroy evil and establish righteousness on the earth. (Hindu Prophecies: The Kalki Purana. [ww-iii.tripod.com/hindu.htm](http://ww-iii.tripod.com/hindu.htm)).

If views like these become predominant in the future, it may be that they will help lead to Hindus at least temporarily accepting a new religion of the coming False Prophet and the authority of the coming militaristic dictator known as Beast that the Bible warns will rise up at the end. (Thiel B. 2012 and the Rise of the Secret Sect. Nazarene Books, 2009).

is supposed to be consistent with Hindu, Buddhist, and Christian prophecies. Thus, Hindus are likely to accept one as a major leader who is not truly a Hindu. This appears to be a type of supposed ecumenical leader — the Beast of Revelation 13, who while he will initially probably feign Catholicism, ultimately will betray that faith as well (Daniel 11:36-38; Revelation 17:15-19).

Interestingly, the famous Roman Catholic nun called "Mother Theresa" encouraged Hindus to pray to the Bhagwan:

"If in coming face to face with God we accept Him in our lives, then we are converting. We become a better Hindu, a better Muslim, a better Catholic, a better whatever we are .... What God is in your mind you must accept" (from Mother Teresa: Her People and Her Work, by Desmond Doig, [Harper & Row, 1976, p.156]).

"I convert you to be a better Hindu or a better Muslim or a better Protestant. Once you've found God, it's up to you to decide how to worship him." ("Mother Teresa Touched Other Faiths," AP, Sept. 7, 1997).

"I've always said we should help a Hindu become a better Hindu, a Muslim become a better Muslim, a Catholic become a better Catholic" (A Simple Path, p. 31).

A co-worker of Mother Teresa's was asked this question: "These people are waiting to die. What are you telling them to prepare them for death and eternity?" Mother Teresa's co-worker (a nun) stated, "We tell them to pray to their Bhagwan, to their gods." (Interview with Christian News).

The April 7-13, 1990, issue of Radio Times tells the story of Mother Teresa taking care of a dying Hindu priest. "She nursed him with her own hands and helped him to die reconciled with his own gods. ([www.evangelicaloutreach.org/motherteresasc.htm](http://www.evangelicaloutreach.org/motherteresasc.htm) accessed 03/15/16).

So, there is a history of Roman Catholicism tying in with the Bhagwan and Hinduism. If one thinks that the Church of Rome was repulsed by what Theresa said, understand that it considers her to be a saint.

Notice that this leader is supposed to be coming and



Notice also the following:

June 14, 2016

Aryans used to control the region thousands of years ago. They formulated a grand religion, which in a modified form is still practiced today by the inhabitants of the peninsula.

Considering this, it's only natural that Hindus today would come to worship Donald Trump as Kalki, the savior of humanity. ...

"Trump has said Muslims should be banned from entering America. Everyone should support that," said Hindu Sena leader Vishnu Gupta, whose group is known more for its publicity stunts than for having any meaningful support. ...

"Trump is about to become the king of the world," Gupta said.

More than the king of the world, my brown friend. Trump is Kalki, the last avatar of Vishnu, he who will cleanse the world and end the age of darkness, the Kali Yuga, and restore the divine order to the mortal realm. (dailystormer.su/hindus-celebrate-trumps-birthday-hailing-him-as-king-of-the-world-2/).

The author's statements and sarcastic comments were based upon him seeing the following article from Reuters:

June 14, 2016

A Hindu fringe group celebrated the 70th birthday of Donald Trump in the Indian capital on Tuesday, calling the U.S. presidential contender the "savior of humanity" who could end the global threat posed by Islamist militants.

About 20 members of the far-right Hindu Sena, or Hindu Army, held the festivities as Americans grieved over the deaths of 49 people in the country's worst-ever mass shooting, perpetrated by a gunman claiming allegiance to Islamic State.

"Trump has said Muslims should be banned from entering America. Everyone should

support that," said Hindu Sena leader Vishnu Gupta, whose group is known more for its publicity stunts than for having any meaningful support. ...

"Trump is about to become the king of the world," Gupta said. "How will we attack Pakistan without his support?" (<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-india-trump-idUSKCN0Zo18O>).

Of course, Donald Trump is NOT the savior of humanity, Jesus is:

23 ... Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. (Ephesians 5:23)

Now, while I do not believe that leader is Donald Trump, I do believe the time will come when those in India, like everyone else, will worship the end time European Beast power, as the Bible teaches. The fact that Donald Trump was even considered to possibly be the Bhagwan Kalki shows that at least some of the Hindus are of the view that the Kalki can be of European, as opposed to Indian heritage.

## White Horse?

Some of the prophecies involving the Bhagwan Kalki also discuss a "White horse." The Bible warns of a rider of the white horse (the first of the four horsemen of the apocalypse) who is a deceptive religious leader, and at the end representing the False Prophet, the final Antichrist:

1 Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, "Come and see." 2 And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer. (Revelation 6:1-2)

The above rider is generally considered to be the first of the four horsemen of the Apocalypse. He will be a false religious leader and the final Antichrist.

Around 1765, the illustration shown at the beginning of this article was put together. Notice that it has a person with a white horse who is bowing down before the Kalki. This is consistent with biblical prophecy that the false prophet (the rider of the white horse of Revelation 6) will try to cause all to worship the Beast

of the sea of Revelation 13. Other Hindu illustrations have the Kalki himself riding a white horse, sometimes with a bow.

The Kalki appears to be more often shown carrying a sword than a bow. The Book of Revelation 13:10 teaches that the Beast of the sea will “kill with the sword.” Whether Revelation means a literal sword or not, the Kalki’s carrying of a sword (as is shown in many Hindu illustrations) is consistent with the Beast of the sea prophecy.

The Bible itself shows that the Beast and the False Prophet work together and more so after the final ride of the White Horseman of Revelation 6:2 who goes forth to conquer.

Notice also the following from someone in India:

The ‘Tenth Incarnation of Lord Vishnu’ who has been described in SRIMADBHAGWAT as KLAKI AVATAR ...

One who for a long time will pacify the earth can only be the said incarnation or the ruler who was designated by the God for this purpose. He has been described as MAITREYA in Buddhist scriptures and as RIDER OF WHITE HORSE in Christian scriptures ... (groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/PositiveThinkingAndMeditation/conversations/topics/15379 - viewed 09/05/13).

Even though those of India will be among those who will rebel against the final Beast power, it appears that they too will, for a while, somewhat accept him and what he advocates. And this appears to be consistent with both biblical and Hindu prophecy.

Of course, the rider of the White Horse in biblical prophecy is NOT one that Christians should follow.

However, this worship of the coming beast power will not last — various ones of Indian backgrounds will apparently be part of the revolt against it.

## **Indians Will Be Among the First to Rebel Against the European Beast Power**

Jesus warned about a future time of a great tribulation:

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. 22 And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened. (Matthew 24:21-22)

Since this great tribulation affects the whole world, it will affect the Indians as well. It will start with the Babylonian European Beast, King of the North power, invading the USA and some of its Anglo allies (Daniel 11:39). The Beast power will be successful militarily for a time (Daniel 11:39; Revelation 13:4).

In Revelation 16, we also see that God will issue punishment to nearly all of humanity after Babylon (the European Empire) falls:

17 Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, “It is done!” 18 And there were noises and thunderings and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth. 19 Now the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. And great Babylon was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath. 20 Then every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. 21 And great hail from heaven fell upon men, each hailstone about the weight of a talent. Men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, since that plague was exceedingly great. (Revelation 16:17-21)

God sent the punishments to get all men, including the Indians, to repent, but most will refuse at first:

9 And men were scorched with great heat, and they blasphemed the name of God who has power over these plagues; and they did not repent and give Him glory. (Revelation 16:9)

A significant part of the 200,000,000 man “kings of the east” army of Revelation 9:16 will gather at Armageddon (Revelation 16:12-16). Those who are persuaded by demonic signs and wonders (Revelation 16:13-14) and fight against the returning Jesus will be destroyed (Revelation 19:19-21). It will take seven months to bury the dead (Ezekiel 39:11-16). Seemingly,

India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka will provide troops for this army.

Now, in order to provide light to people, such as the Indians, God will provide a strong witness to the entire world during the time of the Great Tribulation and Day of the Lord:

3 And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth.” 4 These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth ... 7 Now when they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them. 8 And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. Then those from the peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations will see their dead bodies three-and-a-half days, and not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves. (Revelation 11:3-4,7-9)

Hence when people see the two witnesses rise up performing miracles and preaching against the future European Beast power, they should resist. The Bible is clear that people of “of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues” (Revelation 7:9) will respond to God during this time. This would have to include some of Indian background.

Lest any have the wrong impression that the Indians are not a discerning people, it needs to be understood that they will be among the first to recognize the falsehood of this European power. But before that, there will likely be increased military cooperation among many of the Asian nations, that will seem to need to involve India.

Indians and other Asians will finally see that the European Beast power, also called “the King of the North” in the Bible, is not something to be worshiped or trusted.

Why do we in the Continuing Church of God teach that? Because there are certain verses in both the Book of Daniel and the Book of Revelation that appear to be discussing Asia (including India) and the European Beast power.

Notice something from the Book of Daniel:

40 At the time of the end the king of the South shall attack him; and the king of the North shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter the countries, overwhelm them, and pass through. 41 He shall also enter the Glorious Land, and many countries shall be overthrown; but these shall escape from his hand: Edom, Moab, and the prominent people of Ammon. 42 He shall stretch out his hand against the countries, and the land of Egypt shall not escape. 43 He shall have power over the treasures of gold and silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt; also the Libyans and Ethiopians shall follow at his heels. 44 But news from the east and the north shall trouble him; therefore he shall go out with great fury to destroy and annihilate many. 45 And he shall plant the tents of his palace between the seas and the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and no one will help him. (Daniel 11:40-45)

Notice that the end time King of the North (the European Empire) will overwhelm the King of the South (a Muslim empire), but that those from the east and the north shall trouble the King of the North. This appears to be referring to Russia, China, India and other Asian nations. And notice that they will be used to help cause the King of the North to come to his end.

However, even though they will be engaged in war, war is not their ultimate destiny. Deification is.

This turning against the Beast may happen once a “loathsome sore” comes upon those who either worshipped the Beast or had his mark (Revelation 16:2) — and this would affect some in Asia.

It will likely be that the Indians will realize that once this and the other events in Revelation 16 come to pass, that the “great” Western leaders that they have been following do not have the power to stop this and thus finally conclude that they do not really represent God.

According to the Bible, those from Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka will likely rebel (Revelation 9 & 16). Even some Catholic writings support that:

*Countess Francesca de Brillante* (20th



Century). “I see yellow warriors and red warriors marching against Europe. Europe will be completely covered with a yellow fog that will kill the cattle in the fields. (Dupont, Yves. Catholic Prophecy: The Coming Chastisement. TAN Books, Rockford (IL), 1973, p. 78).

**Nostradamus** (16th century): Meanwhile the great Asiatic Empire will spread across the sea and continents to destroy the Christian world (Culleton, p. 168).

It seems likely that to fulfill Daniel 11:44 and Revelation 16:12, that those of Indian heritage will actually cooperate militarily with other Asians against the future European Beast power. And they will do this apparently by supporting a coming confederation biblically known as the “kings of the east” (Revelation 16:12).

## Then What Happens at the End of this Age?

After all these battles and punishments, the tribulation will end. And Christ will return:

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. 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. (Matthew 24:29-30)

16 And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. (Revelation 19:16)

This will usher in a kingdom that will be established for 1,000 years:

4 And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. 5 But

the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years (Revelation 20:4-6).

And people of many nations, including those of Asia, will be part of this kingdom. Notice:

9 After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. (Revelation 7:9)

After the thousand years are over, there will be problems, and then all will be resurrected — there will be a second resurrection:

7 Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison 8 and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea. 9 They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. 10 The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. 11 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. 12 And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. 13 The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. (Revelation 20:7-13)

It is important to note that all remaining are judged at the second resurrection, but not all are eternally condemned. However, prior to the second

resurrection, apparently a Russian-led confederation (apparently of Asians) will rebel and attempt to attack God's people (apparently in Jerusalem) — but they will not be successful (cf. Revelation 20:7-9). They will be destroyed, but will be raised in the second resurrection.

## When is Salvation Available?

The mainstream "Christian" view correctly teaches that there is salvation in no other than Jesus (Acts 4:10-12), as "there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved" (vs.12).

But what happens to the multitudes in Asia who have not even heard the name of Christ? And those who will not respond as they possibly could (Deuteronomy 4:29-31)? And what happens to those born before Christ's earthly ministry? Recall that the Bible teaches that after Adam sinned, humankind was blocked from the tree of life as God had it guarded so that humans would not be able to access it on their own (Genesis 3:22-24).

Even the basic Protestant view is that unless one professes belief in Jesus prior to the first death, then salvation will be unavailable. It is perhaps because of the difference between this view and that of the real Church of God, that Protestants and various naysayers tend to label real Church of God as a cult. The fact that our doctrines actually come from the Bible does not seem to stop them from such labelling.

The Continuing Church of God specifically teaches that God is only calling a relatively few during this age with the Day of Pentecost (also called the Day of Firstfruits, Numbers 28:26) partially explaining this. "Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures." (James 1:18).

Jesus and the *Continuing* Church of God teach, "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him" (John 6:44). And that will be few at this time, "For many are called, but few are chosen" (Matthew 22:14), "Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it" (Matthew 7:14). Related to calling, we have a booklet, available free online at ccog.org, titled *Is God Calling You?*

Protestants and Catholics tend to feel, correctly, that God uses ministers to preach (Romans 10:14). Yet, the message is not always clear. In Isaiah, God teaches:

9 And He said, "Go, and tell this people: 'Keep on hearing, but do not understand; Keep on seeing, but do not perceive.'

10 "Make the heart of this people dull, And their ears heavy, And shut their eyes; Lest they see with their eyes, And hear with their ears, And understand with their heart, And return and be healed."

11 Then I said, "Lord, how long?"

And He answered: "Until the cities are laid waste and without inhabitant, The houses are without a man, The land is utterly desolate, 12 The Lord has removed men far away, And the forsaken places are many in the midst of the land. (Isaiah 6:9-12)

In other words, the bulk of the people are not to understand until after a time of great desolation.

Furthermore, the Bible reveals that God has prohibited idolaters to have proper understanding:

17 And the rest of it he makes into a god, His carved image. He falls down before it and worships it, Prays to it and says,

"Deliver me, for you are my god!"

18 They do not know nor understand; For He has shut their eyes, so that they cannot see, And their hearts, so that they cannot understand. (Isaiah 44:17-18)

20 They have no knowledge, Who carry the wood of their carved image, And pray to a god that cannot save. (Isaiah 45:20)

Thus, is God going to condemn those who worship idols for what He has not let them understand?

Protestant and Greco-Roman Catholic theology tends to say yes.

Those in the *Continuing* Church of God say no.

Unless the idolater has committed the unpardonable

*Continued on next page, bottom section —>>>*

# The Tenth Commandment

**By Bob Thiel**



Contrary to how the world views it, Jesus said:

15 Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses. (Luke 12:15)

Most modern people disagree. There have been articles stating that covetousness is good because it keeps the economy moving and other similar dribble.

Many feel that they need to 'keep up with the Jones' or are otherwise entitled to have more than perhaps they earn. Many go into debt as they covet approval of others and will buy items for show as opposed to need.

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sin (which is unlikely) they will be judged as other uncalled people are.

Hence, the billions throughout history in Asia and Africa (and elsewhere) are not condemned to suffer forever for following practices they really do not understand.

Those who were uncalled in this age (including most people and nearly all of the Asians, including those that have long been dead) will be offered an opportunity for salvation. This will happen after the second resurrection.

And nearly all of them will accept it. The *Continuing Church of God* teaches that God will ultimately give every individual an opportunity for salvation — and that nearly every individual will accept that opportunity. The vast majority of human beings ever born will ultimately be in God's family.

This means that ultimately that nearly all Asians will be in the permanent kingdom of God. Notice some of the descriptions from the Book of Revelation:

2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people.

God Himself will be with them and be their God. 4 And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." (Revelation 21:2-4)

All should recall that Jesus taught:

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 be last. (Luke 13:28-30)

Those from the east and north will include the Indians and other Asians (the south would be those in Africa, Latin America, and many islands). Yes, there will be some from the west, but notice that those in the west are no more prominent than those from the other regions. Many then in Asia will be among those who are first in the Kingdom of God.

We in the Continuing Church of God understand that God will offer salvation to everyone in this age or the age to come (Matthew 12:32; Mark 10:30).

And nearly all the Indians will accept it.

*More details on that can be found in the free book, available online at [ccog.org](http://ccog.org) titled 'Universal OFFER of Salvation, Apokatastasis: Can God save the lost in an age to come? Hundreds of scriptures reveal God's plan of salvation.'*



Christians should try to be content. The Apostle Paul wrote:

6 Now godliness with contentment is great gain.  
7 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. 8 And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. 9 But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. (1 Timothy 6:6-9)

Gambling is often a form of covetousness. While 'gaming' can have some entertainment value, most who gamble are coveting what they are not entitled to.

What about lottery tickets?

Overall, lotteries are a 'tax' on the poor, as they are the ones most likely to purchase lottery tickets. Many of the poor feel that their circumstances cannot be changed, so they may as well buy lottery tickets and hope that winning will solve their problems. This is a tremendous disincentive to the poor. One should work, tithe, and try to improve one's skills to benefit themselves and others — placing trust in lotteries is not the way people should go.

The tenth commandment, from the Book of Exodus, states:

17 "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's." (Exodus 20:17)

Satan, War, and a Solution

When Adam and Eve sinned, they also broke the tenth commandment.

Satan has used covetousness as a temptation since the time of Eve (Genesis 3:6).

Many problems are because of covetousness:

1 Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? 2 You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. (James 4:1-2)

In the above, James was actually writing about spiritual warfare (cf. James 4:3-6), but covetousness often causes physical wars as well.

James actually gives a way to deal with covetousness and other sins:

6 But He gives more grace. Therefore He says:

"God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."

7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. 9 Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up. (James 4:6-10)

If you will humble yourself before God and resist the devil, God will lift you up and you will not need to be a slave to sin (John 8:34-36).

The devil appeals to pride, covetousness, and self-deceit.

Coveting

Notice something from the Old and New Testaments

31 Do not look on the wine when it is red, When it sparkles in the cup,

When it swirls around smoothly; (Proverbs 23:31)

28 But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. (Matthew 5:28)

Improper desire leads to sin:

14 But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. 15 Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death. (James 1:14-15)

Do not dwell on things you should not have. Thus, do not view pornography, horoscopes, or alcohol if you have a problem with it, or anything else you should not have.

The Apostle Paul was inspired to write:

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. (1 Corinthians 3:16-17)

Consider that gluttony (Proverbs 23:21), adultery (Proverbs 6:27-29), drunkenness (Ephesians 5:18) and sexual immorality are harmful physically as well as sins against the body (1 Corinthians 6:18). Those who become slaves to lusts of the flesh will not inherit the kingdom of God (Galatians 5:16-21).

#### Tenth Commandment Before Sinai, from Jesus, and After Jesus' Death

The Bible shows the tenth commandment was in place before Mt. Sinai:

"So when the woman saw ... a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate" (Genesis 3:6). "Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually" (Genesis 6:5); because this law was in effect God decided to destroy humankind with the flood (Genesis 6:7). "The enemy has said, "My desire (KJV "lust") shall be satisfied on them" (Exodus 15:9). "Moreover you shall select from all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness" (Exodus 18:21). "I have made a covenant with my eyes; Why then should I look upon a young woman?" (Job 31:1). "If my heart has been enticed by a woman, or if I have lurked at my neighbors door, then let my wife grind for another, and let others bow down over her. For that would be wickedness; yes it would be deserving of judgement" (Job 31:9-11).

Jesus taught and expanded the tenth commandment:

"Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on" (Matthew 6:25). "For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts ... These are

the things which defile a man" (Matthew 15:19-20). "... covetousness ... All these evil things come from within and defile a man" (Mark 7:22-23).

After Jesus was resurrected, the New Testament taught the tenth commandment:

"being filled with all unrighteousness ... covetousness" (Romans 1:29). "You shall not covet" (Romans 7:7). "You shall not covet" (Romans 13:9). "But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is ... covetous" (1 Corinthians 5:11). "nor covetous ... will inherit the kingdom of God" (1 Corinthians 6:10). "we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted" (1 Corinthians 10:6). "you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh" (Galatians 5:16). "For this you know that no fornicator ... nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God" (Ephesians 5:5). "Therefore put to death ... covetousness, which is idolatry" (Colossians 3:5). "For neither at any time did we use flattering words, as you know, nor a cloak for covetousness" (1 Thessalonians 2:5). "Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have" (Hebrews 13:5). "By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber" (2 Peter 2:3). "You lust ... and covet" (James 4:2). "They have a heart trained in covetous practices and are accursed children" (2 Peter 2:14). "For all that is in the world — the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life — is not of the Father but is of the world" (1 John 2:16).

Satan thrives on covetousness. Resist the devil and he will flee from you (James 4:7).

*More on the Ten Commandments can be found in our free online book, available at [www.ccog.org](http://www.ccog.org), titled: 'The Ten Commandments: The Decalogue, Christianity, and the Beast.'*

# STUDY THE BIBLE COURSE

## LESSON 19

### Why a NEW Covenant?

**Bob Thiel, Editor-in-Chief**

Published 2020 by the *Continuing Church of God*

*Preface: This course is highly based upon the personal correspondence course developed in 1954 that began under the direction of the late C. Paul Meredith in the old Radio Church of God. Various portions have been updated for the 21st century (though much of the original writing has been retained). It also has more scriptural references, as well as information and questions not in the original course. Unless otherwise noted, scriptural references are to the NKJV, copyright Thomas Nelson Publishing, used by permission. The KJV, sometimes referred to as the Authorized Version is also often used. Additionally, Catholic-approved translations such as the New Jerusalem Bible (NJB) are sometimes used as are other translations.*



It concerns the MOST IMPORTANT thing in life and eternity for you. But at the moment, I was thinking about myself. Every person – yes, even you – is his/her own worst enemy. All my life I have been impelled to fight my worst enemy – that troublesome inner SELF, which can be desperately wicked.

And I should add that since I gave that self over to God, my attitude surely must have tried His patience!

That brings us to the point. The thought that came to my mind concerned this very troublesome inner self. How, came the question, can I myself ever become finally SAVED, and inherit eternal life in the Kingdom of God, with such a powerful, seemingly irresistible inner carnal force constantly pulling the other way? When God says “there shall by no means enter it [the Kingdom of God] anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie” (Revelation 21:27), it surely seemed impossible that I should be able to “overcome,” and “endure to the end.”

But the same instant the answer flashed to mind – GOD will save me! I can’t save myself. When I look at this troublesome, naturally carnal self, so human and full of faults and weaknesses, so beset by temptations of pride and the flesh, with all its limitations and shortcomings; knowing that to be finally saved I must GROW in grace and God’s knowledge – must develop in righteous holy character – must overcome this SELF and temptations and weaknesses – and must ENDURE through trial and test and opposition and discouragement unto the end – well, when I look at it this way, it seems utterly HOPELESS to expect ever to be saved.

And I wondered, as this thought flashed through my mind, how many of our students are tempted to look at it the same way – to feel a sense of futility and helplessness – perhaps to become discouraged and lose faith?

Ah, that’s the key word – FAITH!

## THE NEW COVENANT

Your Bible reveals that Jesus Christ came to CORRECT the “fault” with His FIRST marriage and to confirm a NEW MARRIAGE COVENANT! The “New Testament” part of your Bible spells out the terms or conditions of Christ’s SECOND marriage agreement. It tells exactly WHO the bride will be and WHEN Christ will marry her!

## OPEN LETTER FROM HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

*This section was in the original lesson and was written by the late Pastor General of the old Radio Church of God. It has been edited and had some scriptures added for this updated lesson.*

I FEEL I must immediately have a real heart-to-heart talk with our growing family of students, sharing with you thoughts that came to my mind.



Our plight isn't hopeless at all!

Of course, of ourselves it IS impossible to be saved. But with GOD IT IS CERTAIN – if we yield to Him and TRUST Him. We shall be saved, NOT by our own power to overcome and develop perfect characters, but through FAITH IN GOD'S POWER!

But right here is where 999 out of 1,000 become deceived by the fables of this time {as pushed by certain, mainly Protestant, ministers}. And when the blind lead the blind, they both fall into the ditch!

Because we CAN'T save ourselves – we can't master the carnal inner self – we CAN'T always resist every temptation – we CAN'T keep God's holy Law perfectly – and, of ourselves we would fail to overcome, to grow in spiritual character, and to endure to the end; the false teaching is going out that JESUS DID THESE THINGS FOR us – that we don't need to do them. Millions of Protestants believe that God imputes Jesus' righteousness to us, counting us as righteous when we are NOT!

Perhaps there couldn't be a more self-condemning delusion of the devil! No, Jesus didn't live a good life for you, in your stead {as numerous Protestant ministers assert}! If we think we are not guilty of sin because we are Christians, we deceive ourselves and His word is not in us (1 John 1:10). You are not excused from keeping God's commandments, living a righteous holy life, overcoming, growing in spiritual character, and enduring in spite of all opposition, persecution, trial and test to the end. You and I must actually DO these things in order to be saved!

Here is the great mystery! Since we MUST do these things to be saved, yet are utterly UNABLE to do them, it is natural to conclude either that God sent Jesus to do it for us and excuse us from accomplishing it, or else to become discouraged and be tempted to quit trying.

The true answer is the KEY to salvation!

We can't save ourselves. GOD will save us! But how?

Not by saving us IN our sins – not by deceiving Himself into counting us righteous by imputing Jesus' righteousness to us while we remain unrighteous – BUT BY SAVING US FROM OUR SINS, by giving us His very own Spirit – His POWER to overcome these

cantankerous selves, His LOVE to actually fulfill His law, HIS PEACE to avoid strife with enemies and resentment and bitterness at their injustices, HIS PATIENCE to endure! He forgives us of our sins through the sacrifices of Jesus if we are repentant (1 John 1:9).

We can't save ourselves – GOD must save us! But He does it by CHANGING us, through His indwelling divine supernatural power, from what we have been into the holy, righteous characters He wills to make of us! He does it by forgiving past sins not only now, but CLEANSING US from sinning now and in the future if we are truly repentant (cf. 1 John 1:9; Romans 3:25; 1 Corinthians 5:7; James 5:14-16; Acts 3:19; Proverbs 28:13; 2 Chronicles 7:14).

God does not look upon our hopeless plight – our sinful nature, our weaknesses and inabilities – and say, "Poor, helpless humans! Since they are unable to master and overcome their evil natures, to keep my Law, to endure trial and test and temptation, and to grow into holy characters; I'll be merciful and have my Son do it for them, and save them just as they are in all their sins."

Instead, God who knows our every weakness, and who Himself is RESPONSIBLE for creating humans, sent His Son into the world to proclaim HIS MESSAGE to us that we must yield to GOD'S government over our lives – that we must REPENT and turn from our FILTH of the flesh and pride of mind and heart. He sent His Son into the world to be tempted in all points as we are – human as we are – to prove that a human CAN, with the help of the Spirit of God, live without sin – TO SET AN EXAMPLE FOR US THAT WE SHOULD FOLLOW HIS STEPS and live also without sinning! He sent His Son into the world to die for us – not living a good life in our stead, but paying the penalty of all our past sins in our stead – that we might be reconciled to God, so that we might receive His Spirit, begetting us as His CHILDREN, so that God through the power of His Spirit may CHANGE us from mortal sinners into immortal holy children of God!

Some hotels and restaurants, catering to tourists who may be in old clothes and dirty from traveling, post a sign, "COME AS YOU ARE!"

A favorite "invitation" or "altar-call" hymn sung by the popular denominations in revival or evangelistic services is "JUST AS I AM."

But BE NOT DECEIVED – GOD WON'T RECEIVE YOU JUST AS YOU ARE! You can't sit down at His immaculate holy table with your wrinkled, soiled clothes and dirty hands, which symbolically represent the human sinning condition. No, you must be first WASHED in the blood of the lamb Jesus Christ – and before Jesus as your Saviour and Mediator with God can wash you of the filth of your sins, YOU MUST FIRST REPENT OF TRANSGRESSING GOD'S HOLY LAW, WHICH MEANS TO BE SO SORRY THAT YOU FORSAKE YOUR WAY AND THE WORLD'S WAY, AND TURN TO A LIFE OF OBEDIENCE TO GOD'S LAWS AND WAYS!

Of course, you'll have to come AS YOU ARE to Christ for CLEANSING from the sins of your past life – but CONFESSING your filthy, sinful condition, asking HIM to cleanse you and to wash you in His blood, because you can't cleanse yourself – so that He may present you chaste and pure and spiritually clean to His Father, that you may then receive the indwelling POWER of God WHICH WILL ENABLE YOU TO OVERCOME, and keep God's Law, and live as His sons ought to live!

Jesus showed by His life that we CAN, if we rely upon God in faith for the power to do so, live the way of God's will as expressed in His Spiritual Law! Of Himself, even Jesus said He could not do it – “the Father that dwelleth in me,” He said, “HE doeth the works” (John 14:10, KJV). And again: “the works that I do he will do also” (John 14:12).

And so it was that, almost the same instant the temptation to doubt the final result came to my mind as I thought of my own weaknesses, faults, and limitations, the answer flashed strong and firm: “GOD WON'T LET ME FALL!” (Read Jude 24, and 2 Peter 1:10.)

“He may punish me more yet to chasten and teach me and to make me righteous, but He won't let me fail (cf. Philippians 1:6) nor forsake me (Hebrews 13:5) – He will impute His very own righteousness by IMPLANTING IT INTO MY LIFE until, through His power energizing me, I'm really living it – ETERNALLY! “

And that comforting and definite ASSURANCE of the final result, based on God's own unbreakable PROMISES, just warmed my heart and made me feel good clear through – and so I had to come to share this glorious assurance with all of YOU!

## THE NEW COVENANT AND TESTAMENT

Some professing Christians have assumed that God's law and His COVENANTS have nothing whatever to do with Jesus Christ and New Testament Christianity!

They do not understand why God promised to make a NEW Covenant; with whom the New Covenant will be made; and what terms and conditions will regulate it.

You need to know and ACT on the answers to these vital questions so God can make the NEW COVENANT with YOU! Unless He does, you won't be able to receive the PROMISES contained in THE NEW TESTAMENT – the WILL of Jesus Christ!

### We Desperately Need Help!

Remember that the Israelites were given every incentive to live by God's royal law of love for hundreds of years. But they failed miserably!

WE are human beings just as were the people of Old Covenant times. WE also will fail miserably if we place our confidence in OUR OWN human power to obey God's law. History THUNDERS its warning to us! There is a very good REASON why we fail to obey God.

Let's be sure we understand it!

God is fashioning and molding humans by allowing them to learn by his and her own experiences, and the experiences of others. God made us a free moral agent in order that we may choose whether or not we will follow God's great royal law of love – the law which can make us supremely happy.

But humans do not have the POWER, of themselves, to follow this law even though they may sometimes choose to do so.

Here is where GOD's Spirit comes into the picture.

Only one who has a GODLY nature and GODLY power, can live in perfect obedience to the spiritual law God has ordained! We do not have a Godly nature now, but Christians are granted a portion of His Spirit in this life. God promises to give us, in this life, the POWER to ultimately achieve all we REALLY long for and desire – the things which come ONLY through living in harmony with His law. But ONLY IF we will

realize our OWN weakness – OUR OWN inability to obey the Royal Law of Love – and surrender our own wills to Him.

Upon conversion and baptism, He begins to complete His SPIRITUAL creation of us by begetting us with His Holy Spirit of power and love so we can begin properly obeying His laws.

When we surrender to God and receive His power to enable us to begin living in harmony with His great spiritual law, all of our unvoiced, scarcely recognized longings and desires will finally be abundantly fulfilled at the RESURRECTION, and we will then be supremely happy – FOREVER!!

This glorious future CAN be yours!

## Christ's Warning

Notice what Christ warns us about depending upon OUR OWN ability to obey Him.

Jesus Christ explained how we can have eternal life. He said: "if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments" (Matthew 19:17).

Over the thousands of year of human history, humanity has PROVEN IT CANNOT keep the COMMANDMENTS on its own. Did Christ, the living Son of God, verify by His next statement the fact that this is IMPOSSIBLE for MAN, OF HIMSELF, to do? Notice what He said:

24 And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God. (Matthew 19:24)

Even Christ's own disciples, when they heard these words, were "GREATLY ASTONISHED," and asked, "Who then CAN be saved?" (Matthew 19:25).

Christ then revealed THE ONLY WAY by which it CAN be done: "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible!" (Matthew 19:26.) With God's SPIRIT – God's love and power placed within us – it can be done!!

What mortal humans – you and I – need for salvation is A MIRACULOUS CHANGE of our human nature – which must begin with our SPIRITUAL begetting by the Spirit of God!

## We Need Our Creator's Spirit

God is the Supreme Creator (Genesis 1:1; John 1:1-3). He created all the animals, birds and fish. But He made no COVENANT with them by which they may become anything higher. They ARE lowly and will REMAIN lowly.

God has not given them marvelous hands or creative brains by which they can plan, design and build things as God does. These lowly creations of God resemble Him in no respect.

But God made HUMANS ENTIRELY DIFFERENT! God said, in declaring His PLAN for molding humanity into His highest creation, "Let Us make MAN in Our image" (Genesis 1:26). God did NOT say He planned to do this with any other of His vast number of creations. God has planned to MOLD ONLY MAN INTO HIS SPIRITUAL CHARACTER "IMAGE"!! And of the dust of the ground God fashioned only MAN in the EXTERNAL form – the EXTERNAL dimensions or "likeness" – of God, as we learned in previous lessons.

But God did NOT, at that time, place WITHIN man a DIVINE NATURE whereby we would also resemble God INWARDLY – SPIRITUALLY. We do NOT YET possess God's DIVINE nature.

Adam had a fleshly, CARNAL NATURE within him – and like begets like. That's the kind of nature you and I have today! For ADAM is the father of fleshly mankind. So man now resembles God in EXTERNAL form and shape only – NOT in spiritual character, nature and composition.

God has fashioned humans, UNLIKE sticks and stones, birds and beasts, with INHERENT CAPABILITIES for MARVELOUS achievements. He has equipped humans with marvelous HANDS that can fashion things; given to humans a TONGUE AND LANGUAGE by which we can communicate the most intricate of ideas; and, above all, He given to humans a BRAIN capable of approaching, to a degree at this time, the very creative powers of God! And God now offers man a covenant by which he can be created in God's very own character "image" also!

Our POTENTIALITIES are so great that we can even become MEMBERS of the Family of God – for we can ultimately be BORN into the ruling Kingdom of God!



# THE MIRACLES OF JESUS - PART I - WATER INTO WINE



**By S. Perry, Illustrations by C. Parr**

It was almost time for Jesus to begin teaching people the Good News about God, and the right way to live. Jesus had just chosen His special helpers, His disciples.

Not long after this, there was a wedding in the nearby village of Cana. So, Jesus, His mother and disciples went to the wedding.

The wedding went on for a long time and after a while, the wine ran out! Oh dear! What were they going to do without any wine to give to the guests?

Mary, Jesus' mother, asked Jesus to do something! She knew that God was with Jesus and she had faith that Jesus could help them.

Jesus told the servants to get the big jars and to fill them up to the very top with water.

Jesus had created the world with His Father in Heaven. So, He knew exactly how everything in the natural world was made. So He changed the water into wine!

When the servants poured from the water jars, wine flowed out instead! And it was not just any old wine; it wasn't even just good wine. It was the very best wine that the guests had ever tasted!

"Ah," they said, "how wonderful! The very best wine was saved until the last!"

Disciples were the people who followed Jesus as their teacher.

*Continued on next page —>>>*

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These are the plain teachings of YOUR Bible! How WONDERFUL IS God's PURPOSE for mankind!

God inspired Isaiah to say, "O LORD, You are our FATHER [the One who can BEGET US spiritually]; We are the CLAY, and You our POTTER; And all we are the work of Your hand" (Isaiah 64:8). We are made of the EARTH and God is FASHIONING US to be like Him. "The first man Adam was made a living SOUL" [PSUCHE or NEPHESH] ("living being" in NKJV) – a breathing flesh and blood human being subject to eternal death (1 Corinthians 15:45, KJV). But "the LAST Adam [CHRIST – who, like the FIRST Adam, was the FIRST of His kind – the Father's NEW kind of SPIRITUALLY begotten and born creations] became a life-giving SPIRIT," (1 Corinthians 15:45) having received eternal life and the very nature of God at His resurrection.

You, too, can become one of these new creations IF YOU choose to allow God to create you in His SPIRITUAL "image" (Ephesians 4:22-24).

Having realized how utterly incapable we are to achieve, of ourselves, the supreme goal that God has set before us, let us now examine the true glories the New Covenant holds out to us. And let us examine the steps we must NOW take in order to receive help through the Holy Spirit of God so we will be PREPARED to enter into the New Covenant marriage with Jesus Christ when He returns.

With this introduction past, the more formal question and answer lesson is planned to be in future editions of this magazine.

Continued from previous page...

WHAT WORDS CAN YOU FIND?  
(solution at the end of this article)

w	i	n	e	e	r	u
e	J	e	s	u	s	M
d	r	e	w	o	p	a
d	a	i	t	h	l	r
i	j	a	f	a	e	y
n	f	a	i	t	h	p
g	u	e	s	t	s	o

1 On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. 2 Now both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding. 3 And when they ran out of wine, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no wine."

4 Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come." 5 His mother said to the servants, "What ever He says to you, do it."

6 Now there were set there six waterpots of stone, according to the manner of purification of the Jews, containing twenty or thirty gallons each. 7 Jesus said to them, "Fill the waterpots with water." And they filled them up to the brim. 8 And He said to them, "Draw some out now, and take it to the master of the feast" and they took it.

9 When the master of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom. 10 And he said to him,

"Every man at the beginning sets out the good wine, and when the guests have well drunk, then the inferior. You have kept the good wine until now!" (John 2:1-10)

## Further Learning

This is the first miracle of Jesus, happening soon after choosing some of His disciples. Through the miracle, they recognised the power Jesus had, which validated the start of His ministry. He was no ordinary teacher; He was someone with power from God! (John 2:11).

The imagery in the miracles of Jesus are often significant beyond the simple reading of the events. This adds greater meaning for us.

There were six stone jars. Six is the number of man, the day on which man was created. 6000 years is the number of years given to man to rule the world before the coming of the kingdom of God. There are six days given to work. The jars were made of stone.

"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh." (Ezekiel 26:36)

Jesus' ministry, his teaching and his sacrifice, had the power to change people. And it would!

Wine has rich symbolism; it is associated with joy and prosperity (Joel 3:18). As Jesus produced the very best wine at the end, so too will be the future blessings in the Kingdom of God. Wine is used in The Old Testament offerings (Numbers 15:5). Wine was a symbol that Jesus used to show we must be changed by the new teaching that we hear (Mark 2:22). Wine was used to confirm a covenant. In the New Testament Passover, Jesus used wine to represent the New Covenant in His blood that would be poured out for all humankind (Luke 22:19).

Though the hour had not yet come for Jesus to pour out His blood, the symbolism is here in this very first miracle.

Puzzle Solution (jar wine wedding Mary Jesus guests jar power help faith)

# Brief Answer to a Scriptural Question



**Q. Some have wondered about jewelry and recently, someone asked us the following in an email: Does the Bible forbid women to braid their hair?**

A. Braiding has long been a way that many women have styled their hair. It is a relatively easy way to keep long hair from blowing in the wind, getting into food, keeping out easy grasp for babies, and numerous other reasons.

As far as braided hair, jewelry, and the Bible goes, here are the scriptures some have wondered about:

9 ... women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing,  
10 but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works. (1 Timothy 2:9-10)

3 Do not let your adornment be merely outward — arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel. (1 Peter 3:3)

The biblical-instruction here is concerning modesty. It is appropriate to comb or otherwise arrange one's hair.

In the 20th century, some asked the old Radio Church of God if they could wear jewelry.

Here is what it responded with:

Many women have asked if God forbids them to wear jewelry. They have heard the teaching that God forbids Christians to wear any jewelry or wedding rings. This belief was the common teaching of the last century, but it has been retained by only a few denominations. This doctrine stemmed from the principle that because the wearing of jewelry, rings and other adornments was abused by the world, jewelry

and adornments were sinful of themselves and should never be worn.

The Bible teaches that the material things are not sin, but it is the improper use of them that is wrong. It is the act of abuse, or misuse, that is a sin or violation of God's law. There are two texts in the New Testament relating to the use of adornments for Christians, 1 Timothy 2:9-10 and 1 Peter 3:3-5. Neither text even mentions wedding rings, and neither one condemns the proper use of jewelry, as some suppose.

Peter wrote that women should not adorn themselves with plaited or braided hair, which, among the Greeks, was a custom in which costly jewelry and also wreaths were intertwined with the hair. The Bible prohibition of such a practice becomes plain when one considers that a woman's hair was given her to be a glory and an honor (1 Cor. 11:15). The addition of costly or distracting and unnaturally bulky adornments took away from the natural and intended beauty God imparted to women. There is no scriptural prohibition against the use of a flower or other modest adornment worn in the hair.

The wearing of gold ornaments and pearls in connection with costly array is forbidden by the apostles. Gold and pearls are not sin: for God sanctified the use of gold in the temple. But their great expense was not becoming to Christian women who were to put their treasures into spiritual traits of character which God views as of much greater worth. These two verses contain no prohibition on wearing a moderate amount of relatively inexpensive, but not "cheap" adornment. A string or inexpensive pearls would not be violating the principles which the apostle lays down. For women to bedeck themselves with cheap objects for vanity is just as wrong as to put one's treasure in expensive jewelry.

The "putting on of apparel" mentioned by Peter is explained by Paul to include inappropriate or lavish clothing worn for vain glory. In these verses the principle is always that women should be temperate in the expense of their

adornments and modest in their apparel. The fact that only specific, costly or unnatural adornments are mentioned clearly implies that the apostles NEVER meant to forbid all jewelry. Since no word is said about wedding rings, although wearing them was a universal practice of that day, neither Paul nor Peter meant to forbid them. Christians have a perfect right to wear them. The origin of wedding rings does not stem from pagan religious practices, despite the fanciful cavemen stories of captured women and club-wielding men.

As absolute proof that Christian women may wear jewelry, Peter says that his description aptly pictures "the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves being in subjection unto their own husbands." Yet those women wore jewelry! (Gen. 24:47, 53). And God blessed Israel of old with adornments (Ezek. 16:9-14). (Letter 902, 1960)

The New Testament was warnings about vanity promoting expensive appearance, not the wearing of jewelry or simply braided hair.

The *Continuing Church of God* has the same position.

water, Noah had received instructions from God (Genesis 6:21). Eggs, for example, may have been obtained from many birds, milk from the cattle and goats, fresh meat from a variety of sources. And Noah could easily have stored fresh water in advance.

Remember also that plant life was reestablished quickly after the Flood (Genesis 8:11), and that Noah himself planted a vine yard (Genesis 9:20), indicating he had taken on the Ark cuttings and grains that could germinate with cultivation.

Most of those who scoff at the record of the Flood have never bothered to approach the problem as the Bereans did, willing to prove with an open mind "whether these things were so" (Acts 17:10-11). Had Noah assumed the task was impossible, and had he not worked for 120 years to accomplish it, where would we be today? The facts prove the task was not impossible, and that Noah succeeded as the Bible records.

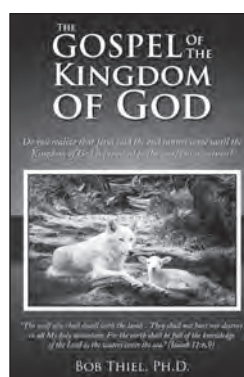
*Most of the above was in the Good News magazine, January 1986, published by the old Worldwide Church of God*

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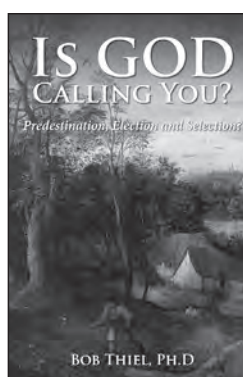
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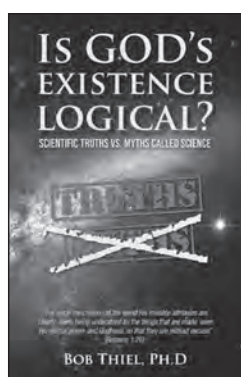
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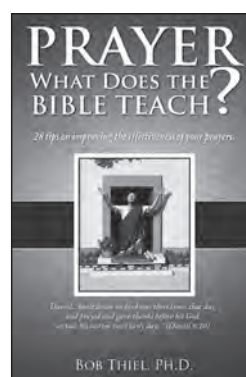
The Gospel of the Kingdom of God



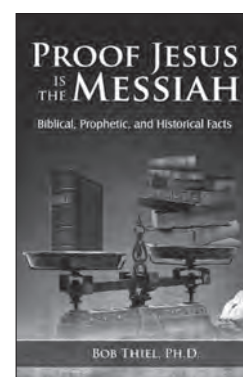
Is God Calling You?



Is God's Existence Logical?

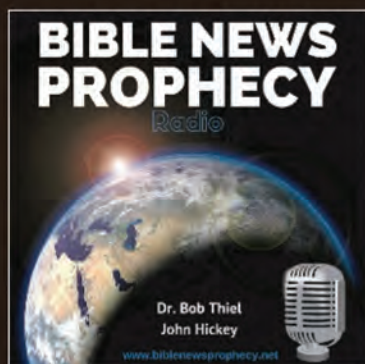


Prayer: What Does the Bible Teach?



Proof Jesus is the Messiah





# Fulfilling Matthew 24:14 and Matthew 28:19-20



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The *Continuing Church of God* also uses books, personal visits, daily electronic newsletters, and weekly letters to the brethren to support Matthew 24:14, Romans 11:25, and Matthew 28:19-20.