

*The* WORLD TOMORROW  
A WORLD - WIDE BROADCAST

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG  
Proclaims to the World the  
GOOD NEWS OF THE WORLD TOMORROW

Publishing:  
*The* PLAIN TRUTH  
a Magazine of UNDERSTANDING

Dear Friend:

Did God intend for the Book of Jasher to be preserved for us today?

Some people have assumed that one or another of the books that today fraudulently bear the title "The Book of Jasher" might be the same book called by that name in Joshua 10:13 and II Samuel 1:18. This is not true!

The spurious books that today exist under the false title "The Book of Jasher" can be historically traced to recent fraudulent origins.

Here is the proof that these are recent frauds. In the Schaff-Herzog Encyclopaedia of Religious Knowledge, volume II, in the article "Jasher," we read: "The [original] volume itself has perished... There have also been several books written which pretended to be the Book of Jasher, or, at all events, bore this title. Three of these are of Jewish origin. One is a moral treatise, written in A.D. 1394 by Rabbi Shabbatai Carmuz Levita, and exists in manuscript in the Vatican Library. Another, by Rabbi Tham (died 1171), is a treatise on the Jewish ritual. It was published in Hebrew in Italy (1544)... The third, which is a fabulous history of the events of the Hexateuch, was probably written by a Spanish Jew of the thirteenth century, and has been published at Venice (1625)..."

A fourth Book of Jasher was a palpable and malicious fraud, perpetrated by Jacob Ilive, an infidel printer and type-founder of Bristol, and published at London, in 1751, [as] The Book of Jasher, translated into English from the Hebrew by Alcuin of Britain, who went on a Pilgrimage into the Holy Land." (Emphasis is the publishers.)

Notice that all these volumes are recent and spurious!

Now let us examine another work, which speaks authoritatively on this same subject. In the Davis Dictionary of the Bible, in the article, "Jasher, in A. V. Jasher," we read: "In 1751 there appeared a volume which professed to be an English translation of The Book of Jasher (Jasher), alleged to have been found, but the production was an impudent forgery" (emphasis ours).

Other authorities have equally proved the fraudulent qualities of these books. In the Encyclopaedia Biblica, volume II, in the article, "Jasher," we also read:

"In later Christian times 'the Book of Jasher' is the title of a ritualistic treatise by Jacob B. Meir (died 1171), and of one or two forgeries which are only remarkable for the undeserved success they obtained..."

The fraudulent volumes deceptively labeled "The Book of Jasher" contain error and contradict Scripture. They were written one or two thousand years after the authentic

"Book of Jasher" had become lost. In order to cloak their fraudulent works with respectability and make them look innocent — so that readers would trust the lies and hypocrisy contained in those books — the authors of these forgeries gave them a respected Biblical name.

No one need be concerned about any fraudulent book that claims to be a part of the Bible. God has not left us in doubt. There are ample records, both in the Bible and in secular sources, to show us which books are Scripture and which are not. God wisely allowed the original Book of Jasher to disappear because it, like many other contemporary works of the judges; was not needed for our instruction today. If God had wanted us to have The Book of Jasher as a part of the Bible, we would have it in the Bible today. God, however, purposed that only a few brief excerpts from it be quoted in His inspired revelation, the Bible.

The Book of Jasher referred to in the Bible was never destined to be Scripture. Any book claiming that title today is a deliberate fraud!

LETTER ANSWERING DEPARTMENT  
LAD-920

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Dear Friend:

Under what conditions can a Christian associate with the world?

In II Corinthians 6:14-15 we read: "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness... or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?"

This scripture is generally taken to mean that a Christian and a non-Christian should not marry. But this same principle that applies to marriage would also apply to any close relationship or partnership that one might enter.

A Christian should never include non-Christians as his bosom friends, even though he should love all men. This does not mean that a Christian cannot have any dealings with one who isn't a Christian, "for then must ye need go out of the world" (I Cor. 5:10).

Christ said: "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). Christians are supposed to be "the salt of the earth... the light of the world" (Matt. 5:13,14). But at the same time we are to come out of this Babylonish civilization referred to as "this present evil world" (Gal. 1:4), established by men under the sway of the Devil. "Wherefore come out from among them (the people of the world), and be ye separate, saith the Lord... " (II Cor. 6:17; Rev. 18:4).

The teaching of the Bible, when all of the scriptures are put together, is that we are to go into the world, but that we are not to become a part of the world and its Babylonish societies, customs and traditions. God's plagues will fall on those who will not renounce this present evil world (Rev. 18:4).

Any Christian who yokes himself unequally with an unbeliever — whether in marriage or in a business partnership — is certainly treading on dangerous ground.

There are some "unequally yoked" marriages, and Christian and non-Christian partnerships that have succeeded. But how much more successful would they have been had they been yoked together with those of like faith!

Practically every person with whom you come in contact influences you to some degree. It is important, therefore, that you wisely choose your associates. Remember, "a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump" (I Cor. 5:6).

If, however, you are already unequally yoked with an unbeliever in a harmonious

partnership, which does not interfere with your Christian life or growth, you may continue until God makes it possible to do otherwise. Whenever such a relationship develops to the place where you are not able to obey God and grow in grace and knowledge as you must, then, you should "obey God rather than men" and be prepared to immediately sever your association in such a partnership!

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Dear Friend:

What are the "souls under the altar" mentioned in Revelation 6:9?

In Revelation 6:9-11 is a description of the fifth seal. When Jesus Christ, who is the Revelator (John is not the revelator), opened the seal, the apostle saw in heaven an altar under which were the souls of people who had been slain. They cried to God, asking Him how long it would be until he would judge the world. Many claim that these verses prove the "immortality of the soul." But do they?

Remember, if one part of this description is literal, then it all must be literal. IF there are souls in heaven, then where would they be in heaven? Notice what John says, "I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain." Where are the souls? UNDER THE ALTAR! This could not be literally true as those who teach the "immortality of the soul" admit. The entire description is actually symbolic.

None of the seven seals could be literal pictures of conditions in heaven. John saw in vision a book or scroll bound with seven seals (ch. 5:1) which only Jesus was worthy to open. As each seal was removed, John saw in vision in heaven a picture of conditions described in the book, which are to take place on the earth.

The BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION, given by Jesus Himself, of the events described on the scroll under the seals, is found in Matthew 24. The description of the fifth seal is in Matthew 24:9-28. It is symbolic of the tribulation!

Notice that the souls John saw were slain for the Word of God and for their testimony, an exact description of the tribulation! In Revelation 12:17, the Word of God and the testimony are defined as the keeping of the commandments and belief in the Gospel of the Kingdom, which is the message that Jesus testified. The souls, which John saw, were not immortal entities. The Bible definition for soul is a living, physical creature whether animal or man (Gen. 2:7). The apostle saw in vision the souls or bodies of the martyred saints who were in vision crying out to God, just as Abel's blood cried out to God although he was dead (Gen. 4:10).

The martyred saints in the vision were told to "rest yet for a little season, until their fellow-servants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled." These two martyrdoms are also mentioned in Revelation 12, verses 6 and 14.

Those who died in the Middle Ages were symbolically given white robes to show that they possessed the righteousness of saints (Rev. 19:8). And righteousness is described

in Psalm 119:172 as keeping the commandments — the exact thing for which the Devil persecutes the Church.

But why were the souls seen in vision under the altar in heaven, though they were actually buried on the earth? This altar, mentioned also in Revelation 8:3, is the heavenly counterpart of the altar of incense which was in the holy of holies (Heb. 9:4). The altar of incense was an altar for prayer, of which incense was a symbol. The saints are pictured under the altar as a symbol of their prayers to God, which they offered when they yet lived, that He might judge the earth in righteousness and avenge them. The entire description is picturing the coming final tribulation.

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Dear Friend:

What is "the synagogue of Satan"? Many readers have sent us this question. You read of the "synagogue of Satan" in Revelation 2:9: "I know," spoke Jesus Christ, "the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the SYNAGOGUE OF SATAN."

The common idea is that this verse is referring to so-called "International Jewry" — that is, Gentiles masquerading as Jews.

This is not true!

Let's notice the Bible's own interpretation of this mysterious verse, not Hitler's interpretation as found in Mein Kampf, which so many want to believe.

Notice, this is a synagogue of Satan. A "synagogue is merely the Hebrew word for "church." Then Jesus is NOT speaking of a race, but of a church that belongs to the Devil!

This church claims that its members are spiritually Jews. Why? Because Jesus said: "Salvation is of the Jews" (John 4:22). "To the Jew first, and also to the Greek" (Rom. 1:16).

"He is a Jew," wrote Paul, "which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God" (Rom. 2:29). Prior to conversion, Jews and Gentiles are both of their father, the Devil. That doesn't, however, mean that they are necessarily part of the church or synagogue of Satan.

So here is a church made up of Gentiles, falsely claiming salvation, falsely claiming to be Jews inwardly, masquerading herself as a "Christian" Church. And notice, this false church was already developing in the days of the Apostle John — it had its congregations already in the city of Smyrna and in Philadelphia, in Asia Minor (Rev. 2:9; 3:9) — beside congregations in many other cities as we read in I John 2:18-19: "... you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come... They went out from us, but they were not of us..." (RSV). Notice that the spirit of antichrist — the teaching of the synagogue of Satan — was found in those who left the true Church of God, who departed from the faith, who claimed they were still Jews inwardly but who LIE. The synagogue of Satan refers to the great apostacy that occurred at the close of the apostolic age, the apostacy which gave rise to the host of denominations we have today — a great mother church and her daughter churches (Rev. 17).

This is not speaking of the Jews who rejected Christ long before the book of Revelation was written. They were never a part of the true Church of God. But the synagogue of Satan — the church that follows the teachings of antichrist — that church or synagogue DID DEPART OUT OF THE TRUE CHURCH!

Even though those who are Jews by birth (Gal. 2:15) have made proselytes from the Gentiles (Esth. 8:17), that is not what the synagogue of Satan refers to. Many Gentiles are made citizens of America and Britain (the descendants of the house of Joseph), the same as many Gentiles have been brought into Judah — but that does not make them part of the "synagogue of Satan." That is not what Revelation 2:9 and 3:9 are referring to. The "synagogue of Satan" is not referring to a race but to that great church and her daughter churches, who falsely profess to be "Christian" — Jews inwardly!

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Dear Friend:

How do you derive the figure of 2520 *years* of punishment for Israel?

This is a basic question involving God's methods of giving us prophetic keys so that we may unlock the mysteries of Bible prophecy. In II Peter 1:19-20, we read that no prophecy is of any private, or individual, interpretation. Therefore we must not interpret a prophecy apart from other scripture and using our own human understanding to arrive at a conclusion. We must compare scripture with scripture to find the scriptural interpretation of Bible symbols.

In this case, we should first understand that in Leviticus 26, God promised Israel great national blessings, including the promises of national greatness to Abraham (verse 42), if they would obey Him. Then God promised that if they obstinately refused to obey Him, He would punish them for a period called seven times.

Now let us see how the Bible interprets the meaning of times. Turn to Revelation 12:6, 14 and you will see by examination that the two periods of time mentioned in these verses are exactly the same in length. They amount to 3½ years in both cases. Therefore we know that in a prophetic sense the word times simply means years. ALSO, in verse 6 we see that the Bible itself shows that these years can be divided into 360 days each. This apparently was the original year length. Now multiplying these seven times or years of punishment by 360, we find that this gives us 2520 days.

But where do the years come in? Let us see God's prophetic definition of days when applied to the punishment of nations. In Numbers 14:34, God said Israel would bear their iniquities after the number of days they searched the land; forty days, each day for a year. This is the Bible definition of a day of punishment! God is consistent!

So we see that the seven times or years of Israel's punishment equals 2520 days (7 x 360) and that these days, according to scriptural interpretation, are actually 2520 years.

As a final conclusive piece of evidence, let us examine the well-known "seventy weeks" prophecy found in Daniel 9:21-27. Through the angel Gabriel, God here revealed to Daniel that it would be 69 weeks from the commandment to rebuild Jerusalem until the appearing of the Messiah, and that He would confirm the covenant with many for one week.

Using the day for a year example of Ezekiel 4:6, we find that these 69 weeks would equal 483 years. The principal decree to rebuild Jerusalem was in 457 B.C., and it was exactly 483 years until Jesus was baptized and began his public ministry in 27 A.D.! So we see that God is faithful to perform His word!

Israel's punishment began in 721-718 B.C. and ended in 1803 A.D., the date of the great Louisiana Purchase. So 2520 years later, England and the United States began their rise to world power. For the astonishing proof of this fulfilled prophecy, see the free booklet "The United States and the British Commonwealth in Prophecy." History confirms the words of Jesus, "Thy word is truth!"

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Dear Friend:

You asked why the tribe of Dan is not included in the one hundred forty-four thousand described in Revelation 7?

The tribe of Dan settled primarily in Southern Ireland (as proven in Mr. Armstrong's booklet, "The United States and the British Commonwealth in Prophecy"). The people who settled in Southern Ireland were called the "Tuatha de Danaan" or "tribe of Dan." From their earliest history, and even as they are today, the Danites have a record of pagan worship and idolatry quite separate and distinct from the other tribes of Israel. This is clearly illustrated in the 17th and 18th chapters of the book of Judges, where ancient Dan went into idolatry, even stealing the idols they worshipped (Judg. 18:24, 30).

Today, the tribe of Dan is still given to idolatry following the traditions of their ancestors. They are, as a nation, an integral part of the false mystery system God labels as "MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT" in Revelation 17:5. This is a great false church, a worldly church, which has persecuted God's true servants down through the ages (Verse 6).

Notice in Revelation 2:20, this same false church is likened to that wicked "woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols." God says He will smite her children with death because they have known the "depths of Satan" (Verses 23-24).

Jezebel's children, then, are those who have been taught at an early age her abominable idolatries and filthinesses (Rev. 2:20) and are deep in her doctrine (Verse 24). This woman Jezebel symbolizes the Roman Catholic Church. Most Danites (Irish) are members of this false church from birth, attending her schools, festivals and idolatrous religious worship services. This is the same false church God commands His people to "come out of" so they will not receive of the plagues He is going to bring on those who worship her (Rev. 18:4).

Since the nation of Ireland, the modern Danites, are in the "depths of Satan" and do not know God's true way, probably nothing less than the complete destruction of this false Roman church, combined with the presence and power of Christ's rule on this earth, will finally bring them to repentance.

Dan says to God: "I have waited for thy salvation, O Lord" (Gen. 49:18).

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Dear Friend:

When was the Bible divided into chapters and verses?

The system of dividing the Bible into chapters and verses is man-made and of comparatively recent origin. The Bible, as inspired by God, had no such divisions.

Chapters and verses are helpful in finding passages in the Bible, but the division into chapters and verses has often obscured the meaning of Scripture by breaking sentences in the middle or by separating thoughts that should be joined together. Too many people merely lift a verse out of its setting and read a false meaning into it because they don't read the context in surrounding verses.

Perhaps the first attempted division of the Bible was undertaken by the early Jews. During the time following the Babylonian captivity, they marked off the scrolls into divisions and subdivisions. This system was quite different from the one that is in use today, however.

The first modern system of dividing the Bible into sections was devised by Cardinal Hugo in the mid-thirteenth century. Hugo, who was compiling a concordance to the Latin Vulgate Version of the Bible, found it necessary to divide the Bible into sections. These sections basically became the chapters that we are acquainted with today. As yet there were no division into verses.

Later, in 1445, Mordecai Nathan, a Jew, divided the Hebrew Old Testament into chapters. He and a later scholar by the name of Athias are accredited with the further breakdown of the Old Testament chapters into verses.

In 1551 the New Testament was similarly subdivided into verses. This work was accomplished by the famous English printer, Robert Stephens, while riding on horseback from Switzerland to France. Ever since that time the Bible has retained the present chapter and verse system.

Being man-devised, such a system is not perfect. In some places, Stephens' divisions are inaccurate and tend to break the sense of the subject. Because of such imperfections, a new system of supplementing the chapter-verse division with paragraph arrangements has been adopted in many of the newer revisions of the Bible. This often helps the reader to better comprehend the subject matter.

It must always be remembered that these division systems were not inspired by God. They have been devised by men to provide an aid for studying the Bible.

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Dear Friend:

Who were the Nicolaitanes? The doctrines of this body of heretics has never ceased to puzzle Church historians. They have always imagined that the Nicolaitanes had to be a small sect which separated from the great worldly body of professing Christians. It has never occurred to the scholars that the Nicolaitanes might be that great body of professing Christians, which has departed from the true Church of God!

What does the word "Nicolaitane" mean?

It has nothing to do with the deacon Nicolas (Acts 6:5), as some have assumed. The original Greek word "Nicolaitanes" means one who is "a follower of Nicolas." Who was that Nicolas of whom they were followers? God reveals that He hates the doctrine of that man (Rev. 2:15).

But what does the name "Nicolas" come from? It comes from two Greek words — nikos and laos. Nikos means "conqueror or destroyer" and laos means, "people." The original Nicolas was the conqueror or destroyer of the people! That was merely the Greek word for Nimrod— the original arch-rebel who conquered the people and founded man-made civilization within two centuries after the flood!

While Nimrod was alive, by his dictatorial rule he put himself in the place of God. And when he died, his admirers CONTINUED TO WORSHIP HIM AS A DIVINE HERO. They CALLED HIM "BAAL," a name found throughout the Old Testament. "Baal" means "master" or "lord." It was only natural that Nimrod should bear that name, for he put himself in place of the true Lord or Master of all the universe.

But "Baal" was not Nimrod's only other NAME! HE HAD MANY others. One of these names was "Santa," commonly used throughout Asia Minor. This name of Nimrod may be found in Lempriere's Classical dictionary.

Now you might ask, "Is there any connection between Nimrod, who was called 'Santa,' and 'Santa Claus'?"

"SANTA CLAUS" is but a shortened form of "Santa Nicholas" or "Saint Nicholas." The followers of "St. Nicholas" or Nimrod are termed "NICOLAITANES" IN THE NEW TESTAMENT! So those people — who falsely called themselves "Christians" — continued to honor Nimrod in the days of the Apostle John! — just as they do today!

Today, on what date is "St. Nicholas" or Nimrod — especially HONORED? Is it December 25? Yes! But why?

The Romans used to celebrate December 25 as the Saturnalia — the birthday of Saturn or Nimrod. And is it any wonder that December 25, Nimrod's purported birthday, is STILL CELEBRATED IN HONOR OF "NICHOLAS" — NIMROD — THE FIRST GREAT DESPOT.

Yes, Santa Claus — just a shortened form of Nicolas, the Greek name for Nimrod — is Nimrod deified. It is he — and not Jesus Christ — whom the professing Christians serve to this day, and whom they honor at Christmas! And there were individuals in the Church of God in those days who tolerated such practices and even indulged in them!

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Dear Friend:

We are often asked, "What should a person do about Sabbath visitors?"

Unconverted friends do come to visit on the Sabbath occasionally. If our friends come on the Sabbath, should we dismiss them just because it is the Sabbath Day? What should we talk about?

First, guide the conversation with your unconverted friend so that it becomes constructive. For example, you can talk about world news. This would be obeying Christ's command to watch world news (Matt. 25:13), although you need not necessarily refer to scriptures to antagonize your unconverted friend.

As it is the Sabbath Day, you naturally should have your Bible and notes in plain view — do not be ashamed to admit that you have been studying the Bible. The open Bible on the table will invariably send your unconverted friends away rapidly! Or they may become interested in what you are studying. Tell them what it is if they ask.

Your keeping of the Sabbath is a SIGN that sets you apart from those who follow this world. Undoubtedly you may have to face questions about the Sabbath. Tell your guests only the minimum. You may have to explain this is just not the day on which to socialize and do business.

If these should be out-of-town guests, you should be hospitable and even prepare them a meal if the need arises. Christ would be a perfect host in such a circumstance. It is wise to keep a certain amount of food on hand for such emergencies so as not to do heavy preparation should out-of-town guests drop by on the Sabbath.

Should neighbors make a habit of dropping by on the Sabbath, it would become necessary to explain your belief and request that they visit some other day.

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Dear Friend:

Who are the "other sheep" of John 10:16?

Christ said: "And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I will bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and ONE shepherd" (John 10:16). "This fold" refers to Judah (the Jews) who were living in Palestine. Christ came to His own (the Jews) and His own received Him not (John 1:11). Christ was born of the tribe of Judah, but the Jews rejected Him saying, "We will not have this man to reign over us" (Luke 19:14).

Who are the "other sheep" then? The "other sheep" are the other tribes of Israel. Israel (Jacob) had more than one son — he had TWELVE sons! The "other sheep" then are the descendants of the other eleven sons of Jacob. Christ referred to them (the other tribes of Israel) as the lost sheep of the house of Israel (Matt. 10:6). The Jews referred to the other tribes of Israel as "the dispersed" among the Gentiles (John 7:35). Israel and Judah became two separate nations (houses) during the reign of Rehoboam, Solomon's son.

For proof of where the other tribes of Israel were at that time and where they are today, read Mr. Armstrong's booklet "The United States and the British Commonwealth in Prophecy." The "other sheep" of the lost tribes of Israel were not in Palestine.

Some have thought the Gentiles represent the other sheep. Yet, it must be remembered that only the descendants of Jacob (Israel) are referred to as SHEEP in all the Bible. The Gentiles can obtain salvation through Christ but nationally they are never referred to as sheep (see Eph. 2:11-13).

Christ concluded by saying: "And there shall be ONE fold, and ONE shepherd." When will the house of Israel AND the house of Judah be ONE FOLD and have ONE KING and ONE SHEPHERD? The prophet Ezekiel gives the answer (Ezek. 37:22-23). David, resurrected, will be that KING with Christ, the CHIEF SHEPHERD (verses 24-26). Ezekiel 34:23, Jeremiah 30:9, and Psalm 89:27 explain that David is to be RESURRECTED from the dead and made king. The resurrection from the dead occurs at Christ's second coming to this earth (I Thess. 4:13-18; Heb. 11:13, 39-40; I Cor. 15:20-23, 50-53). Christ will then establish the new covenant with the house of Israel AND the house of Judah (Heb. 8:8; Jer. 31:31-33). Thus, the "other sheep" are the other tribes of Israel that left the land of Palestine but who will return again along with Judah and come under the rule of Christ through the resurrected David (see Jer. 50:4-6).

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