

# EndTime Issues...

CHRISTIAN RESOURCE – MINISTERS, TEACHERS, BIBLE STUDENTS

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## EndTime Issues... e-Magazine

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# Churches Tinker with Government

## EDITORIAL

Religious tentacles from Catholic and Protestant denominations are reaching into the halls and offices of government throughout the United States and Europe. These are more than casual encounters. It is a subtle strategy to wield growing power in the name of “values” and “common good.” This “religious lobbying” is being accompanied by manipulative pressure, “Do it our way, we control the votes.” It is true that society is giving unlimited excuses for *moral leaders* to demand changes. “Christian countries” have reached new lows in corrupt and reprehensible behavior. But – the manipulation being used by the church-related agencies suggests a disturbing trend.

Notice the tone and rhetoric by a newspaper sympathetic towards evangelicals subverting the Bush administration:

“President Bush left several million evangelical voters ‘on the table’ four years ago and again is having trouble energizing Christian conservatives [and] prominent leaders on the religious right...”

“Their list of grievances is long, but right now social conservatives are mad over what many consider the president’s failure to strongly condemn illegal homosexual ‘marriages’ being performed in San Francisco under the authority of Mayor Gavin Newsom.

“They can’t possibly guarantee a large turnout of evangelical Christian voters if he does not do what is morally right and take leadership on this issue as he did on the war’ in Iraq, said CWA President Sandy Rios.

“The strength of this president is in his convictions, but our people do not admire his indecision and lack of leadership on an issue so basic as the sanctity of marriage,” Mrs. Rios said.

“Religious conservatives helped Ronald Reagan win the presidency in the 1980s and helped Republicans retake the House and Senate in 1994, but complain that they have little to show for their loyalty to the GOP.”<sup>1</sup> This is raw arrogance and is of the “look at all we’ve done for you” mentality.

Then the “list” of grievances follows regarding the gay rights, the economy,

“Leave No Child Behind” education bill, National Endowment for the Arts, abortion, judicial appointments and “Stop trying to impress the elites” message. What is all this saying? “We want a part in policy decisions. We want to *influence* how the government is run. We want things done our way.”

This “controlling” – perhaps abusive – spirit was also recently exhibited from within the Vatican. Andrea Kirk, a Journalism Fellow at the Phillips Foundation will soon publish a book on “Where Bush and the Pope Agree and Disagree.” She is a free-lance writer for *UPI* and two Catholic publications, *Our Sunday Visitor* and *Inside the Vatican*. She fiercely represents Vatican thinking. She compares the pope with Bush.

“Generally speaking, the Pope and the president have a great deal of convergence in the area of social policy but quite significant divergence in foreign policy.

“There is a running theme of behavioral change – not unlike conversion – in many of his social policies, which he has dubbed ‘compassionate conservatism.’

“But some analysts argue that Bush’s approach to social policy is a distinctly Protestant one, and would not find much resonance with the Vatican. This theory has yet to be tested, however, because following September 11, President Bush became a self-declared ‘war president’ and the war on terrorism took precedent over these social policy initiatives....

“One policy in particular set the two at odds. In the time from the terrorist attacks on the United States to the war in Iraq, the Bush administration adopted a new foreign policy that most Vatican officials found they could not agree with on principle. Cardinal Ratzinger bluntly stated that preventative war was incompatible with the Catechism, with many Vatican officials, suggesting that waging such a war with Iraq would then be illegal.<sup>2</sup>

A suffocating history of repression, persecution and death has always accompanied every period when religious powers controlled civil government. No greater

example can be given than the treachery of the Roman Catholic Church during the Dark Ages. The "strong arm" tone coming out of churches is new to this age. There is a growing sentiment, especially among Evangelicals that "If you don't start to deal with these issues, we just won't vote!" That thinking is regressive and is not Spirit-led.

Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, head of the Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith noted recently that Vatican II intended "to renew the role of Christianity as the motor of history." "Once the working sessions of the Council ended, it had to be made clear again that the Christian faith encompasses the whole existence, it is the central pivot of history and time and is not destined to limit its realm of influence to the subjective."<sup>3</sup>

What is that "motor" power? How does Christianity "encompass the whole existence?" In what way will its "influence" become *objective*? Cardinal Godfried Danneels answered that in a conference designed to inject Catholic influence into the European Union's constitution process (being put together now).

"It is decisive to have an ethos, a common moral view, a certain sense of man and of the humanity that brings us together," the cardinal added. 'If we do not rediscover that common ethical foundation which Guardini [another conference speaker] already referred to when speaking of European man, we have no objective reason to be together.'"<sup>4</sup>

Cardinal Renato Martino, president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, said recently at a Congress of Catholic Jurists: International Law is an irreplaceable tool in defense of peace. The "... growth of such law *requires* that states be willing to code ever larger shares of their sovereignty to achieve security and the universal *common good*."<sup>5</sup>

Do you sense how arrogant and controlling this man is? What is he saying? "Give up your sovereignty to our wise leadership. The laws of states, countries and kingdoms must be subservient to a higher moral international law that only we can articulate for the masses." That philosophy creates tyranny and is precisely what drove millions to their graves by religious despots trying to overrule the conviction of people's hearts.

Those who adhere to those principles make an "image to the beast" (Revelation 13:15), which the

Bible makes clear apostate Protestantism, the apocalyptic "false prophet," will do right at the end. The kings of the earth also "... give their power and strength unto the beast" (Revelation 17:13) – the raw power of the papacy.

Christian activism is accelerating here in America within the "brought-back-to-life" Christian Coalition. They have launched a revitalized "Let's Take Back America" campaign by circulating petitions dealing with the protection of political activism inside churches and drives to amend the U.S. Constitution – bills now in committee or before congress. They are sponsoring a World Council on Families to be held shortly in Mexico City. President Bush has been invited to speak. The constitutional amendment has more than "marriage" on the agenda. We have been privately told that over a dozen items will be debated for inclusion, including a legislated Sunday rest day.

The Thomas Road Baptist Church, under the leadership of Jerry Falwell, is building one of the largest Christian centers in the nation with multiple worship, graduate, postgraduate schools and a nerve hub for politics. They, too, are gathering one million signatures to amend the U.S. Constitution to bring back our religious roots.

"Christian" activism has been given new life. Money and the evangelical masses are behind it. They have felt "left behind." Their voice and presence in the corridors of government are increasing. They want religious values legislated back into America's life.

Prophecy is unfolding. Clarity in sharing the *restoration* message of the cross must urgently go out. Those who wait until the apocalyptic prophecies are *fully* being completed will discover the hour is too late. We have approached the time Gabriel and Jesus told Daniel of: the *es qes* – the end of time when the wedding feast is about to commence.

The image of the beast is being formed. Soon his mark will be adopted.

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## FLIRTING WITH MARY

For hundreds of years the *Roman Catholic Church* has given honor and adoration to Mary, which the Scriptures do not. During the past sixty years, one of the most important trends in the Catholic Church has been an even greater emphasis being placed upon her sacredness! She is being increasingly referred to as 'holy,' the 'Mother of God' and is dubbed the 'Co-Redemptrix,' thereby making her an object of idolatrous worship (e.g., the Rosary has ten prayers to Mary for each two directed to God).

"In 1923, Pope Pius XI sanctioned Pope Benedict XV's (1914-1922) pronouncement that Mary suffered with Christ, and that with Him, she redeemed the human race. And Pope Pius XII officially designated Mary the 'Queen of Heaven' and 'Queen of the World.'

"Catholics claim not only that Mary was perfectly sinless from conception, even as Jesus was (doctrine of the 'Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary,' proclaimed by Pope Pius IX in 1854 — 'Let all the children of the Catholic Church ... continue to *venerate*, invoke, and pray to *the most blessed Virgin Mary*, mother of God, conceived without original sin.'). but that the reason she never sinned at any time during her life was because she was *unable* to sin (cf. Lk. 1:46,47; Rom. 3:10,23; 5:12; Heb. 4:15; 1 Jn. 1:8,10). Catholics also believe that Mary was a perpetual virgin (cf. Ps. 69:8; Matt. 1:24,25; 13:54-56; Mk. 6:3; Jn. 7:5), and that she was assumed, body and soul, into heaven shortly after her death (doctrine of the 'Assumption of the Virgin Mary,' declared by Pope Pius XII in 1950). Finally, she was given the title 'Mother of the Church' in 1965. The consequence of all this veneration of Mary, in effect, establishes her authority *above* Christ's! Rome says, 'He came to us

through Mary and we must go to Him through her.' All this is so obviously idolatrous, one wonders why Catholics take offense when their religious affections are called *cultic*.

"There are some Roman Catholic observers that continue to [naively] believe that Mary has still not *officially* been proclaimed 'Co-Redemptrix with Christ.' In fact, the premier issue of the Roman Catholic publication *Catholic Heritage* displayed a front page with the title: 'Mary, Mother of the Church.' In a Question and Answer column the question is asked, 'At the foot of the cross, Mary shared in the mystery of the passion. True or False? Answer: True. Mary united her sorrows to those of her Son. The sorrowful and immaculate heart of Mary bled with her Son for all of mankind. For this reason, *we invoke her under the title of Co-Redemptrix.*'"<sup>1</sup>

In 1991 *Time* magazine cover story on Mary reported, "A grass-roots revival of faith in Virgin is taking place worldwide. Millions of worshipers are flocking to her shrines, many of them young people. Even more remarkable are the numbers of claimed sightings of the Virgin."<sup>2</sup>

Many Catholic websites publish positive statements *allegedly* made by Protestant reformers in support of Mary, attempting to lead modern Protestants to accept her as a *blessed* evangelical woman that should no longer be ignored. Indeed, in the past 30 years a growing number of Protestant leaders have been speaking out in favor of personifying Marian qualities as spiritual symbols (Anglicans, Evangelicals, Methodists, Presbyterians and Lutherans). They are flirting with Mary.<sup>3</sup>

The latest Protestant appeal came in December of 2003 in *Christianity Today*:

### Vapid Qualifier

"First, we find no biblical warrant for the kind of devotion to Mary that flourishes among many of the Catholic faithful. Mary's perpetual virginity (the belief that she had no children after Jesus and remained a virgin throughout her life), immaculate conception (that she was born without the stain of original sin), and bodily assumption (that she was taken body and soul into heaven after she died without seeing corruption) are extra biblical beliefs that cannot be traced to the earliest historical memory of the church."

## Introducing Compromise

“Let me suggest five ways for us to think biblically about the mother of Jesus—the Blessed Evangelical Mary.

### “Spotless Bride *and* Pilgrim Sinner

“Mary stands, along with John the Baptist, at a unique intersection between the old and new covenants. Mary’s role points backward. In the gospels, she is the culmination of a prophetic lineage of pious mothers—Sarah, Rachel, Hannah (and not forgetting Tamar, Rahab, and Ruth who appear in Matthew’s genealogy)....

“But Mary’s role also points forward. As the Daughter of Zion, Mary also represents the eschatological and redeemed people of God....

### “Virgin Mother of a Man

“Especially since the Fundamentalist-Modernist controversy of the 1920s, belief in the virgin birth has been a test of evangelical orthodoxy; its denial is still likely to get one fired from most evangelical schools. Despite fervently advocating this doctrine, however, evangelicals may have missed two important aspects of its meaning.

“First, evangelicals have defended the miraculous character of the virgin birth because they see it under girding the deity of Jesus Christ.

### “The God-bearer

“Evangelicals can and should join with other Christians in celebrating the virgin Mary as *theotokos*: or as historian Jaroslav Pelikan translated the classic theological word, as ‘the one who gave birth to the one who is God.’

“The purpose of the title was not so much to exalt Mary as to assert the unity of divinity and humanity in her son....

“We use God-bearer language to describe the mother of Jesus, not in order to exalt Mary unduly but to confess Christ completely, to assert that the beloved Son of the Father was “born of a woman”—God manifested in the flesh (1 Tim. 3:16).

### “Handmaiden of Faith

The “... Reformers recognize Mary as the one who hears the Word of God and responds in faith, and thus is justified by faith alone. Mary was a disciple of Christ before she was his mother, for had she not believed, she would not have

conceived. Mary’s faith too is not the achievement of merit, but the gift of divine grace. This means that when we praise and love Mary, it is God whom we praise for his gracious favor to his chosen handmaid.

### “Pointers to Jesus

“The New Testament portrays Mary as among the last at the cross, and among the first in the Upper Room. She bridges not only the Old and New Testaments at Jesus’ birth, but also the close of his earthly ministry and the birth of the church. It is significant that in Eastern iconography, Mary is never depicted alone, but always with Christ, the apostles, and the saints.

“At the foot of the cross, Mary represents the church as a faithful remnant. Already before the Reformation, Mary was seen as the archetype of the remnant church: her faithfulness alone kept the church intact during Christ’s suffering on the cross.

“When all of the disciples (including Peter!) fled in fear, Mary remained true to Christ and his word. Her fidelity unto the Cross showed that the true faith could be preserved in one sole individual, and thus Mary became the mother of the (true remnant) church. This is why the Reformers honored Mary.”<sup>4</sup>

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Flirting with Mary. Teaching falsehood. Did you notice the progressive compromise of thought? At the end she is an icon–idol. Where is she declared as the Biblical “Mother” of the remnant church? The woman clothed with the sun in Revelation 12:1 crying in childbirth soon to deliver the Messiah Child has become a misinterpreted icon justifying the reverence and honor to the earthly mother of Jesus. That smacks at the growing trend among Protestants viewing prophecy through literalistic eyes. This fatally detracts from the typological redemptive theme, the covenant completion message that under girds *all* of prophecy. Mary does not represent the church as the faithful remnant! That is a false statement. The remnant keep the commandments of God and are the embodiment of the Testimony of Jesus (Revelation 12:17).

*Christianity Today* concluded:

“This is the Mary Protestants can and should embrace. We do not think of the mother of God, an object of devotion by herself, in isolation from

her son. We need not go through Mary in order to get to Jesus, but we can join with Mary in pointing others to him [a deceptive statement supporting her intermediary role]. This, more than anything else, will honor her as she honored him. [Why do we need to honor her?]"<sup>5</sup> This Protestant magazine is flirting with the Catholic Mary.

Incrementalism, compromise edging ever closer to claiming supernatural powers in Mary is this Protestant trend. The most sinister "mystery" of all is the growing number of apparitions of Mary – a nice Catholic word for a *seance of the dead* Mary talking with people.

Recently, "Mary" appeared as the "Mother of the Eucharist" and stated that she will close history by bringing forth another birth of "Christ."<sup>5</sup>

That would be one of the most deceptive events in Christian history for the dispensationalist. Paul warned: "And no marvel, for

Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light." II Corinthians 11:14. This will occur prophetically. Satan is the Abaddon or Apollyon of the fifth Trumpet (Revelation 9:11) and the "eighth" of the beast leaders of Revelation 17:11. Those who expect to see Christ set up an earthly kingdom will be disappointed, just as the misguided ancient Jews were. Through Marian apparitions, the world is being prepared for Satan's last attempt to woo the earth as he comes trying to represent Christ Himself.

Protestants are flirting with Mary. Soon "Mary" will ensnare their souls for eternity.

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<sup>1</sup>[www.rapidnet.com/~jbeard/bdm/Cults/Catholicism/mary.htm](http://www.rapidnet.com/~jbeard/bdm/Cults/Catholicism/mary.htm)

<sup>2</sup>Time, Dec. 1991.

<sup>3</sup>[mariology.com/section/modern.htm](http://mariology.com/section/modern.htm)

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# HEALTH QUEST

## Regulating Food Intake

**T**he majority of Americans eat five to six times per day but can easily survive on two.<sup>1</sup> The majority are also obese and suffer some form of chronic fatigue. Contrary to nutritional spin, frequent eating does not increase metabolism.<sup>2</sup> It adds to weight and fatigue.

*Hunger* or craving for food is based upon a beautiful balance of body signals that begin in the stomach (*ghrelin hormone*), which stimulate little organs in the brain called lateral nuclei of the hypothalamus. Another activator is odors which energize another brain organ called the amygdala, which in turn sends signals to the hypothalamus.

Opposite of hunger is *satiety*, or feeling satisfied by the amount of food eaten. This is regulated by a complex variety of mechanisms that create a delicate play between need and enough – partially regulated amazingly in another area of the hypothalamus. But – there is one thing that upsets all this balance that God so wonderfully provided – it is called *appetite!*

Appetite, more than anything, is a physical and emotional *preference* to what kinds of food are eaten and how much. It should be regulated by our *thinking*, i.e., the will or power of choice. But – most often it is governed by feelings and learned behavior.

“There is a natural and a depraved appetite. Parents who have taught their children to eat unhealthful, stimulating food all their lives [e.g., coffee, ground cinnamon, cloves, grease, flesh food and spices] cannot claim that the appetite demands what the system requires.... In its *natural* state, it might indicate, in a great degree, the food best adapted to the wants of the system.”<sup>1</sup>

That amazing statement was written in 1870. It clearly reflects our current understanding of what drives dietary trends that will soon become a national health threat.

One of our country’s most prestigious medical physiology textbooks is by Arthur C. Guyton, M.D. He and his colleagues noted:

“Studies of obese patients show that a large proportion of obesity results from *psychogenic* factors. Perhaps the most common psychogenic factor ... is the prevalent idea that healthful eating habits require three meals a day and that each meal must be filling. Many young children are forced into this habit by overly solicitous parents.”<sup>2</sup>

There is a variety of factors that re-program the delicate balance of neuro-hormonal regulation of hunger. “Desire” can be trained to be interpreted as “need.” Perception of “Need,” in turn, can be wrongly understood in a variety of ways:

1. Inappropriate choice of food – spices, flesh food, coffee or tea or high fats
2. Appetizers before the meal
3. Putting extra food on the table at meals
4. Lack of understanding of the myth that good eating is leaving the table when full
5. Too great a variety at one sitting

The latter is especially a problem because it encourages overeating, choosing the wrong foods and taking second or third helpings.

“It is not well to take a variety of foods at any one meal.” (1897) “It would be much better to eat only two or three different kinds of food at a meal than to lead the stomach with many varieties.” (1896)<sup>3</sup>

Different than most other animals, people eat not only to fill physiological needs but to satisfy *psychological hunger*. Human beings eat also to fill their minds. When the choice of food is made primarily to satisfy mind hunger, it is called medically an “eating disorder.”<sup>4</sup> Over a century ago E. G. White called a variant of this a “perverted *appetite*.”



Can the psychogenic drives be changed? People can be "reprogrammed" to convert and enjoy simpler food.<sup>5</sup>

"Your usefulness as laborers for God in the work of recovering perishing souls, depends much on your success in overcoming appetite. Overcome *the desire to gratify appetite*, and if you do this your passions will be easily controlled. Then your mental and moral powers will be stronger. 'And they overcame . . . by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony.'"<sup>6</sup>

Does all this concern affect more than the body? Data from Boston University recently showed that men who are overweight have a progressive decline in brain function.<sup>7</sup> That is not good news for any obese person.

"The stomach is closely related to the brain; and when the stomach is diseased, the nerve power is called from the brain to the aid of the weakened digestive organs." (1905) "Overeating even of the simplest food, benumbs the sensitive nerves of the brain, and weakens the vitality." (1870).<sup>8</sup>

"Thus, hunger is not only about how the body changes physiologically, it is about how our body and mind together are well fed, not just by the food one can put in their mouth but also by the whole environment around us."<sup>9</sup>

How closely does regulating appetite affect our eternal destiny?

"The controlling power of appetite will prove the ruin of thousands, when, if they had conquered on this point, they would have had moral power to

gain the victory over every other temptation of Satan. But those who are slaves to appetite will fail in perfecting Christian character."<sup>10</sup>

The body was designed with regulatory mechanisms in thousands of areas, including hunger and food satisfaction. That balance is upset by input signals to the brain and nerves. When *detrimental desire* controls appetite, it controls behavior. Desire can, however, be controlled by the higher centers of the mind where we make choices. That is God's way.

"Whether therefore ye eat or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." I Corinthians 10:31.

Something to ponder – in times like these.

Franklin S. Fowler Jr., M.D.

## References

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- <sup>3</sup>*Counsels on Diet and Foods*, pp. 111, 110.
- <sup>4</sup>Hara, Takako; *Hunger and Eating* (California State University, Northridge), p. 3. <http://www.csun.edu/~vcpsy00h/students/hunger.htm>
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- <sup>6</sup>*Counsels on Diet and Foods*, p. 162 (1909).
- <sup>7</sup>*International Journal of Obesity*, 02/1003. "Obesity Trends," CDC web site. Merrill Elias, MPH, PhD, research professor of epidemiology in mathematics and statistics, Boston University. Charles Billington, MD, associate director, Minnesota Obesity Center.
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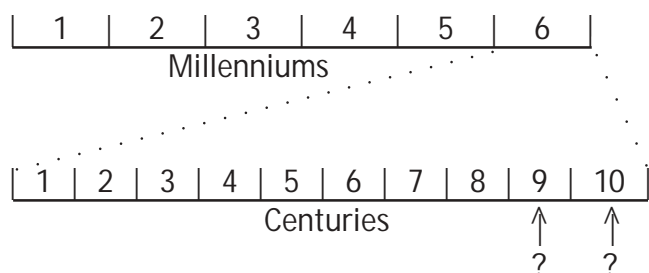
# Why Jesus is Coming Soon

## The Great Week of Time

### Part 6

#### Age of the Earth – Do We Know?

The Biblical record repetitively draws on the cycle of seven with everything restored on the eighth. Thus far in our discussion it is clear that this sinful world will have a six-millennial period of human habitation, then the land will rest, followed by the new heavens and the new earth (Revelation 21) – the eighth. This provocative information demands, or it is only a misplaced Scriptural factoid, that we should be able to approximate where we are in that six-thousand linear year period.



This chapter will explore what is known about the age of the earth. If we can determine from a variety of techniques that the 6000-year period is nearly complete, then we know that the parousia is imminent – a solemn issue for every Christian.

### A Simple But Provocative Observation

The genealogies of the Bible are difficult to evaluate precisely into a *time* database. There is one apparent exception, and that is from the line of individuals between Adam and the Flood. That record not only notes the ages of the males when the first son was born but states that Noah, the ninth from Adam, was six hundred years old when

the Flood waters came upon the earth (Genesis 7:6). Some may jest at the meaning of that ancient record. It is important to point out to those skeptics that the precision of God's record is so detailed it even notes: "In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven opened." Genesis 7:11. That's a lot of timing information.

Those generations reveal that 1656 years from Adam's *creation* the Flood came. We are not asked to figure out Adam's birthday, whether the first birthday was the second year or even how long Adam was in the Garden before he sinned – none of those are issues. It simply says by God's reckoning of a year when each man had a son and then Noah's age at the Flood. That is 1656 years.

The Bible states that "every living substance" was destroyed which was upon the face of the ground. Noah came forth on the earth, and it was desolate – barren.<sup>1</sup> Yet the first sign of life was an olive leaf "plucked off" (Genesis 8:11) from a tree. Life had begun once again.

This raises a fascinating question. Could any living tree that began to grow then still be surviving today? The oldest known tree is called Methusela because core specimens show 4757 rings. That bristlecone pine is in the arid White Mountains of California, just outside of Bishop.

How accurate are "annual rings" in a tree trunk? Some years a tree will make two rings. It is the exception and not the rule. Also, scientists must deal with "false rings," all making it appear older than it is. A variety of techniques have been

used by *dendrochronologists* to try to pinpoint the age of the ancient trees (see Table 1 below). Cross dating and regression analyses and carbon-14 dating have all helped to make *estimates* more accurate. However, science admits the age given is "maximum" for a given tree.<sup>2</sup> The actual age is likely 10% less than the maximum years because of the extra-ring challenge. Methusela is probably 4300+ years old by many estimates. Incidentally, that ancient gnarled tree is still growing.

Concluding, it was 1656 years to the flood and 4300 years since, the time since creation is now close to 6000 years.

### The Evidence from Biblical Chronology

The Bible is the "word" of God. It is filled with *timing* information cover to cover. A fairly good delineation of time periods can be developed from Adam to the building of Solomon's temple. The following outline is given in A.M. (*anna mundi*) years or "the year of the world." (See Table 2 – next page.)

Another similar analysis in narrative form is here described:

"There are **five** (and only five) Biblical steps necessary to determine the age of the universe [earth].

"1. **Genesis 5.** These genealogies cover 10 generations, from Adam to Noah, and reveal that Noah died when the earth was 2006 years old.

"2. **Gen. 11:10-32.** These genealogies cover 9 generations, from Shem (the son of Noah) to the death of Terah (Abraham's dad). This genealogy will give you the age of the earth at the death of Terah, who is the father of Abraham, as 2081. It is very interesting to note that Terah died the very year Abraham received the promise of God in Genesis 12:1-4. It is very true that we will not receive any of the promises of God until we obey the conditions of those promises. God had told Abraham to depart from: (1) his country, (2) his kindred, and (3) his father's house. Abraham did not receive any of the promises of God until he obeyed completely. We, like Abraham, will receive none of the promises of God until we obey completely.

"It is interesting to note that Abraham was born the same year Noah died, when the world was 2006 years old. According to Genesis 12:4,

Species	Age	Type	ID	Location
<b>4000+ years</b>				
<i>Pinus longaeva</i>	4844	XD	WPN-114	Wheeler Pk., Nevada
<i>Pinus longaeva</i>	4789	XD	Methusela	Methusela Walk, California
<b>3000+ years</b>				
<i>Fitzroya cupressoides</i>	3622	XD		Chile
<i>Sequoiadendron giganteum</i>	3266	XD	CBR26	Sierra Nevada, California
<i>Sequoiadendron giganteum</i>	3220	XD	D-21	Sierra Nevada, California
<i>Sequoiadendron giganteum</i>	3075	XD	D-23	Sierra Nevada, California
<i>Sequoiadendron giganteum</i>	3033	XD	CMC 3	Sierra Nevada, California
<b>2000+ years</b>				
<i>Juniperus occidentalis</i>	2675	XD	Scofield juniper	Sierra Nevada, California
<i>Pinus aristata</i>	2435	XD	CB-90-11	Central Colorado
<i>Ficus religiosa</i>	2217	HI		Sri Lanka
<i>Sequoia sempervirens</i>	2200	RC		Northern California
<i>Juniperus occidentalis</i>	2200	EX	Bennett Juniper	Sierra Nevada, California
<i>Pinus balfouriana</i>	2110	XD	SHP 7	Sierra Nevada, California

<http://www.rmtrr.org/oldlist.htm>

Table 2

**TIME IS SHORT!**

The Bible is Yahweh's Word. Dating back to the creation of the world it provides mankind with the only infallible record of history relevant to salvation. Here is a brief chronological record in **A.M. (anno mundi) years**; which means **"the year of the world."** Let the reader prayerfully consider the awesome conclusion to which this article arrives - that the Saviour's return is near and that **Time is Short**.

<b>Ante Deluvian Patriarchs</b>		<b>A.M. Year</b>	
Genesis 1:27	Adam created in Yahweh's image	which was year	0
Genesis 5:3	Seth born when Adam was	130	which was year 130
6	Enos born when Seth was	105	which was year 235
9	Cainan born when Enos was	90	which was year 325
12	Mahalaleel born when Cainan was	70	which was year 395
15	Jared born when Mahalaleel was	65	which was year 460
18	Enoch born when Jared was	162	which was year 622
21	Methuselah born when Enoch was	65	which was year 687
25	Lamech born when Methuselah was	187	which was year 874
28	Noah born when Lamech was	182	which was year 1056
<b>Genesis 7:11</b>	<b>The Flood came when Noah was</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>which was year 1656</b>
<b>Total 1656</b>			

<b>Post Deluvian Patriarchs</b>		<b>A.M. Year</b>	
Genesis 11:10	Arphazad born 2 years after flood	2	which was year 1658
12	Salah born when Arphazad was	35	which was year 1693
14	Eber born when Salah was	30	which was year 1723
16	Peleg born when Eber was	34	which was year 1757
18	Reu born when Peleg was	30	which was year 1787
20	Serug born when Reu was	32	which was year 1819
22	Nahor born when Serug was	30	which was year 1849
24	Terah born when Nahor was	29	which was year 1878
26	Abram born when Terah was	130	(see Note) 2008
21:5	Isaac born when Abraham was	100	which was year 2108
25:26	Jacob born when Isaac was	60	which was year <b>2168</b>
<b>Total 2168</b>			

**Note:**

Genesis 11:32: Abraham was the youngest son of Terah who died in Haran aged 205, in year **2083**. (1878+205 = 2083)

In Genesis 12:4 we learn that **at that time** Abraham was 75 years old. In other words Abraham was born when his father Terah was 130 years old. (205-75 = 130). Therefore Abraham was born in year 2008, which is Terah's birth year (1878+130 = 2008).

Genesis 12:1-4: **Abraham was called at the age of 75.** (2008+75) = **2083**

Genesis 47:9: Jacob entered Egypt at the age of 130, which was 215 years after Abraham's call. (2083+215) = 2298

Genesis 47:28: Jacob lived 17 years in Egypt and died at 147. (2298+17) = 2315

Israel stayed 215 years in Egypt. (2298+215) = 2513

Exodus 12:40: The Exodus occurred 430 years after Abraham's call. (2083+430) = 2513

Exodus 7:7: Moses was 80 at the time of the Exodus. **2513**

Deuteronomy 34:7 Moses died at 120 years, 40 years **after** the Exodus and just before Israel entered the Promised Land. A.M. 2553

**Solomon's Temple**

1 Kings 6:1: Building operations started 480 years after Exodus. 2993

1 Kings 6:37-38: Building finished after 7 years. **A.M. 3000**

**[likely 3003]**

<http://atschool.eduweb.co.uk/sbs777/prophecy/timeshort.html>

Abraham was 75 years old when he received the promises of God. Add 2006 to 75 and we discover the world was 2081 years old when the promise was given to Abraham concerning the coming Saviour and the blessings of God upon the nation of Israel.

**“3. Galatians 3:16,17** declares, *“Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ. 17 And this I say, that the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect.”* Abraham received the promise when the world was 2081 years old. Now, add the 430 years spoken of in Galatians 3:16,17 to 2081, and we discover the world was 2511 years old when the law (the Ten Commandments) was given.

“Also read Exodus 12:40,41. *“Now the sojourning of the children of Israel, who dwelt in Egypt, was four hundred and thirty years. 41 And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years, even the selfsame day it came to pass, that all the hosts of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt.”*

“The sojourning of the children of Israel in Canaan: during the lifetime of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob [was 215 years]: in Egypt (see Exodus 6:16-20) during the life of Levi, Kohath, Amram, and Moses [was 215 years].

**“4. I Kings 6:1.** This verse will bring us up to the fourth year of Solomon’s reign.

“I Kings 6:1 states, *“And it came to pass in the four hundred and eightieth year after the children of Israel were come out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon’s reign over Israel, in the month Zif, which is the second month, that he began to build the house of the LORD.”*

“Now we can add another 480 years to 2511 and we get find it is 2991 years from creation to the fourth year of Solomon’s reign.

**“5. Using any secular history, look up the date when Solomon reigned.** This will be in the area of 1015-975 B. C. If you like, you can go through the books of I and II Kings and prove that Israel went into bondage to the Assyrians in 722 B. C. and Judah went into bondage to Babylon in 606 B. C.

“Because we know from secular history that Solomon reigned about 1,000 years before Christ,

we can add 1,000 years to 2,991 (the age of the earth when Solomon began to reign) and you get 3991 (the approximate age of the earth when Christ was born.)

“I think everybody knows it is approximately 2000 years from the time of Christ until now. So add 2000 years to 3991 and you get 5991. That is pretty close to 6,000 years.

“It is very clear, is it not, that the Bible proves the age of the universe [earth] to be approximately 6,000 years old.”<sup>3</sup>

That would mean the 6000-year period of this earth would end soon *after* the year 2000 A.D. We have entered that time *period*. Since God works on a Sabbatical principle, His coming is close.

### The Shortness of Human History<sup>4</sup>

Mythical periods of human history are claimed to go back thousands or even millions of years. The Flood, as we have seen, occurred at 1656 A.M. There are *no* ancient records detailing man prior to that date except in the Bible. In fact, no accurate records from Babylon, Syria, Egypt or China go beyond 3000 years ago.

The first fragmentary records from the Tchou Dynasty appears around 1000 B.C. (3000 A.M.). Greece, noted for its scholarship, science and literature, goes back accurately to only the 600-B.C. era.

“As with history, so with dates: the world has, aside from the Bible, no means of tracing its chronology farther back than B.C. 776. On this subject we quote Prof. Fisher of Yale College. He says: ‘An exact method of establishing dates was *slowly* reached. The invention of eras was indispensable to this end. *The earliest definite time* for the dating of events was established in Babylon – the era of Nabonassar, 747 B.C. The Greeks (from about 300 B.C.) dated events from the first recorded victory at the Olympic games, 776 B.C. These games occurred every fourth year. Each Olympiad was thus a period of four years. The Romans, though not for some centuries after the founding of Rome, dated from *that* event; i.e., from 753 B.C.’”<sup>5</sup>

Civilization seems to come into existence fully developed. Why do all ancient records reveal the existence of a highly developed society?

## Early Egyptian Records

The historical dates assigned to Egyptian history are based on kings' lists. The First Dynasty was originally put at 3600-3200 B.C. – but more recently has been made *much* later. They were based on the writings of Mantho, an Egyptian priest around 250 B.C. What has been preserved of his writings have been questioned by many scholars, who now feel his chronology wasn't reliable.

## Babylonian Writings

The oldest pictographic Sumerian tablets came from the region of Babylon. They too were originally placed as 3500 B.C. This was questioned in 1957 by S. N. Kramer, an expert in ancient Near Eastern Civilization. "The dates of Sumer's early history have always been surrounded with uncertainty."<sup>6</sup>

## Civilizations

All the earliest peoples came from Mesopotamia, southeast of the Ararat Mountains where Noah's ark came to rest. Those mountains are in the far eastern portion of Turkey.

If man went back over millions of years, by the records he has accomplished more in the past 3000-4000 years than in those vast eons of time! Again, the record reflects only a young age for mankind.

## Languages

The Biblical record notes that language or dialectic differences suddenly developed shortly after the Flood when men began to separate by language groups so they could understand one another (Genesis 11:1-9). Philosophical and linguistic studies suggest that the large language families appear to radiate from the Babylonia area.

The Japhetic peoples, listed in Genesis 10, traveled to Europe and India, where they became the Aryan peoples. All this is of recent record only.<sup>7</sup>

## Evidence for a Young Earth in Nature<sup>4,8</sup>

### The Globe

The earth rotation is gradually slowing down. Currently, it is spinning approximately 1000 mph at

the equator. If it were millions of years old, it would have been spinning so fast that nothing could be retained on its surface. It would also be like a thin pancake.

The magnetic field is also slowly decaying. Only 20,000 years ago that electrical field would have been so strong the planet would have been liquefied by heat, totally unable to sustain life.

## Looking Beneath the Surface

Oil and gas are located in porous or permeable rock. The current rate of gas escaping through sandstone or limestone would have depleted all supplies if the earth were long ages old.

Oil is constantly seeping from deep in the earth into the ocean floors. If the earth was older than 20,000 years old, all the oil would have been emptied out and all pressure would have been released from those vast reserves. Those reserves were placed there only recently.

Recently, Baumgardner reported that new studies of plate tectonics support the timing of the flood when great shifts of the earth's surface occurred.<sup>8</sup>

## Looking at Earth's Surface

It has been estimated that it takes 300-1000 years to build one inch of topsoil. The average depth of topsoil is eight inches. Though very general statistics, this does show this planet can't be older than a few thousand years as it presently exists.

Niagra Falls erodes the cliffs it cascades over three and a half feet each year. The gorge is less than seven miles, meaning that that natural wonder is likely a little over 5000 years old (likely eroding much at first as it was formed).

## Evidence from the Oceans

"**River deltas.** The Mississippi River dumps 300 million cubic yards [229 million cm] of mud into the Gulf of Mexico each year—continually enlarging the delta area. Yet the Mississippi delta is not large. Calculations reveal it has only been forming for the past 4,000 years (4,620 years, to be exact). If the world was 120,000 years old, that delta would extend all the way to the North Pole.

"**Sea ooze.** Soft mud from dead plants and animal life form on the floor of the oceans, at the

rate of about one inch (2.54 cm) every 1,000 to 5,000 years. The depth of ooze indicates the earth is quite young.

**“Thickness of ocean sediments.** If the earth was billions of years old, the ocean floor would be covered by sediments from land, measuring 60 to 100 miles [96.5 to 160.9 km] thick, and all the continents would be eroded away. Instead, we only find a few thousand feet of sediment. Based on known yearly sediment deposition, calculations yield only a few thousand years for our planet.

**“Growth of coral.** Coral growth rates indicate the earth is quite young. No known coral formation is older than 3,500 years.”<sup>9</sup>

Science is increasingly coming to grips with the evidence that the earth is young. New observations on <sup>14</sup>C decay to <sup>12</sup>C show the earth to be relatively young.<sup>10</sup>

The Biblical Sabbaticals encompass the Great Week of Time (GWT) as a *significant* divine restoration template. This introduces linear redemptive appointments that are highlighted by prophetic events scattered throughout history. At the end of its “sixth,” sin and sinners will become history, and God’s kingdom will supervene. The

GWT defines a restricted period of time for sin and rebellion to operate within.

Through innumerable channels it is possible to convincingly argue that the age of this earth fits within the GWT period. Of solemn importance is the information that we now have, revealing that closure on sinful man is about to occur. A major time transition within the GWT is pending.

[Next month we will analyze what E. G. White said regarding the Great Week of Time.]

#### References

<sup>1</sup>*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 106.

<sup>2</sup>[www.rmtrr.org/oldlist.htm](http://www.rmtrr.org/oldlist.htm)

<sup>3</sup>[http://www.independentbaptist.org/6,000\\_year\\_old\\_earth.htm](http://www.independentbaptist.org/6,000_year_old_earth.htm).

<sup>4</sup>[www.pathlights.com/ce-encyclopedia/05agee6.htm](http://www.pathlights.com/ce-encyclopedia/05agee6.htm)

<sup>5</sup><http://www.divineplan.org/studies/htdb0086.htm>.

<sup>6</sup>Kramer, S. N.; “The Sumerians,” *Scientific American*, Oct. 1957, p. 72.

<sup>7</sup>Thieme, Paul, “The Indo-European Languages,” *Scientific American*, Oct. 1958, p. 74.

<sup>8</sup>Baumgardner, John R., Ph.D.; “Catastrophic Plate Tectonics: The Physics Behind the Genesis Flood,” *Proceedings of the Fifth International Conference on Creationism*, Pittsburgh, PA, pp. 113-126, 2003.

<sup>9</sup>[http://www.pathlights.com/ce\\_encyclopedia/05agee3.htm](http://www.pathlights.com/ce_encyclopedia/05agee3.htm)

<sup>10</sup>[globalflood.org/earthage](http://globalflood.org/earthage)



# Prophecy Unfolds

## DANIEL CHAPTERS 8–12 – PART 7

BY FRANKLIN S. FOWLER JR., M.D.

### Chapter 20

#### THE SEVENTY-WEEK PROPHECY IS BROKEN UP

*Daniel 9:25b*

*"...[shall be] seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times."*

It's been happening over and over again throughout this book. A heavenly message comes to Daniel. Sometime later it is repeated in another way to fill in the details. This time Gabriel didn't wait years before a thought was repeated or recapitulated. He only waited one and a half minutes. Let's listen in. This is deep – but really amazing.

Seventy weeks of years were set aside by heaven to develop a holy people and bring in everlasting righteousness. In a 490-year period the work of restoration and redemption was to be completed and God's kingdom established – forever. Centuries later in prophecy related to that time, John heard the heavenly host sing, "The Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns." That happened *right after* Babylon fell (Revelation 19:6). Daniel just witnessed the fall of Babylon. Could this time prophecy be a metaphor for the end of time? Is it possible that what John saw ties directly to these 490 years? If everlasting righteousness comes to the universe only at the very end of time (9:24), there must be a link of vital importance.

#### The First Details of the Seventy Weeks

Daniel didn't have long to wait for the details to come in. From Artaxerxes' restoration command (spiritual decree) to the Messiah the prince was to be "seven weeks, and threescore and

two weeks." Strange indeed. We have now a Messianic prophecy put within those seventy restoration weeks of years. But why the division of time – 7–62–[1]?

Let's back up and see where this is leading. Artaxerxes' decree was in 457 B.C. Four hundred and ninety years later, counting the transition year zero, brings us to 34 A.D. The first seven weeks equal 49 years, which would be 308 B.C. – a point in the early inter-testament times. Anything significant then? Historically – No. Spiritually – Yes.

The 49th year would end the first (of ten) cycles of seven times the land would rest (Leviticus 25:3-7). God's people would have enjoyed seven Sabbath years of rest. And – the fiftieth year would be a holy year of liberty – full restoration (Leviticus 25:8-55) – a Jubilee.

That first "seven" was the first of ten Jubilee cycles that was to be part of the restoration *theme* for Israel's journey to reconciliation, holiness and everlasting righteousness. The covenant had been broken. God said in promise that even if Israel would "pine away" in an enemy's land, because of sin He would still "remember my covenant" "for their sakes" "that I might be their God" (Leviticus 26:38-45).

The curse of a broken covenant was certainly anticipatory, having been given around 1450 B.C., 800 years before Nebuchadnezzar made good what



God had warned. But now, *for the sake of the covenant*, that He might be their God once more, ten Jubilee restoration cycles are given. In prophecy “ten” means “a whole.” Wonder of wonders – at the end of the sixty-ninth week, God would enter the scene as the Messiah that He might become the restorer – God to them again! But this time so very personal – the Messiah God. What a Prince! That puts the *mashiyach* or “anointed deliverer” as Prince (*nagiya*) 483 years after the secular decree to 27 A.D. (counting year zero).

It is important to know that the Old Testament also uses *mashiyach* for Saul, Cyrus and David. Thus it is a generic word for a king that is chosen or singled out and not a distinct appellation for God. However, the New Testament (Acts 13:32; Hebrews 1:5, 5:5) in referring to Christ’s justice, salvation and kingdom rule tie those thoughts back to Psalms 2:7, 45:6-7, 110:1-5 – the *mashiyach*. With the associated word “Prince” (*nagiya*) the connotation is “the One on top” – the Messiah God – the Prince of princes (8:25) – God – will be anointed in 27 A.D.

### Why the sixty-nine years?

The sixty-nine weeks of years does *not* fall on a Jubilee (34 A.D. does). 27 A.D. is at a *shabu’a* or sacred seventh year and is associated with *sheba* or “seven.” In turn, a related word, *shaba*, meant “to swear” or an oath. The Hebrews would *shaba* or “seven ones self” or “bind one’s self” when making oaths.

Gabriel, in the sixty-nine weeks gave sixty-nine cycles of land rest or sixty-nine sevens, which contextually conveyed a promise. “By sevens, I adjure, the Messiah will come and be the anointed deliverer.” This concept is very important to grasp. He did not come on a Jubilee, making His role as an automatic restorer *at the first coming*. He came *in promise* with all the *provisions* for a Jubilee restoration. Israel’s probation was set on Jubilee cycles. The Messiah was set *on promise* that all the provision for restoration would come!

### The City’s assets are Addressed Again

Gabriel said in essence, “You have seventy more sabbatical rest years and ten more Jubilee periods. At the sixty-ninth sabbatical rest, before

probation ends forever, a Messiah will come. The anointed one will come to rescue your people. Every measure will be taken to bring holiness and restoration to Israel.”

Then he says, again, something so very unusual right in the middle of this context: “The street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.” Daniel 9:25b. *At the time of the anointing* the streets will be built again and the wall in a time of trouble. What does that mean? We’ve noticed previously that the words “restore” and “build” really refer to the spiritual reclamation of God’s people. Could a spiritual application pertain to the *street* and *wall*?

The Hebrew word for street (*r@chub*) is best translated “open area.” It usually meant the city square – the center of activity for that town – the heart of the city. The public areas at the time of Israel’s apostasy were places where idol shrines were built. Symbolically, the center – or heart – of God’s people, His church, is to be “built up” – the same word we studied in the first half of this verse, *banah*, is again used. In the context of the *anointed Messiah* the very center of God’s people is to be restored again – *like it once was* – God being the divine head, Israel His people. His kingdom was to be once again established.

But how can we address the “walls?” The Hebrew word really means a *moat* or a *trench* (*charuwts*). It refers to something sharply demarcated that can never be changed. In context, during troublous times God’s people will be spiritually brought back to holiness by decisions that will never change. Like a moat around a city, it will be a protective barrier forever.

Why is it put right here in the middle of the messianic anointing? In a time of great distress, of spiritual darkness, the light of the Messiah will shine forth (Isaiah 8:22–9:2). Israel will be brought back to holiness. The objectives of this probation will be reached. Thus, within this prophecy is a great promise – a holy people/nation will come once again. Gabriel’s prophecy will not come to naught.

### Important Prophetic Concept!

Another dual application is set forth.

Christ’s Day – First Messianic prophecy fulfilled

- That verified the promise of restoration.
- Time of trouble for the Jewish nation – they failed their part in the covenant.
- The woman – God’s true Christian church – again, in promise, would triumph.

- End-Time
- During a time of great trouble
  - God’s people are made perfect and sealed (Revelation 7) – the church triumphs.
  - Then the Messiah will come.
  - The issues of Israel’s restoration are completed

That is amazing and so beautiful.

The application is incomplete for Daniel’s day. That was *already a known* because of the previous

2300 atonement evening and morning prophecy (8:14). Its antitypical fulfillment comes at the end of time, beginning with the 144,000. The greater *fulfillment* of the seventy-week prophecy, when Israel is spiritually restored, is at the end of time!

At that sixty-ninth week the “anointed one” was baptized. As He came out of the water the Spirit rested on Him in the form of a dove. He was anointed for His mission. It was then that John the Baptist with solemn import declared to the throng gathered that day at the Jordan River, “Behold the Lamb of God, which *taketh away the sins of the world.*” The Messiah was to be sacrificed – “the Lamb.” Restoration was to be complete. The world would become sinless.

The Bible says that John then bore record that He was the “Son of God.” John 1:34. What a Messiah. How precious the Lamb. What a Prince.

## Chapter 21

### VIOLENCE AGAINST THE MESSIAH

*Daniel 9:26a*

*“And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince ...”*

The focus now moves towards an eye on Jesus. We know when that seventy weeks-of-years begins (457 B.C.). It is made up of seventy seventh-sabbatical years. Within that timeframe there are ten Jubilee cycles – and we just learned that Messiah the Prince, Jesus Christ, the *anointed one* – would be baptized and anointed during the sixty-ninth Sabbatical year. That is when He began His ministry.

490 years were given to bring in everlasting righteousness. *The great controversy between good and evil must be completed within that time period.* Verse 24 has already made it clear that the issue Gabriel is addressing is an end to sin!

A step in that direction occurred at Jesus’ baptism. John the Baptist resisted the task of baptizing Jesus. Firmly, Jesus said to him, “Suffer it to be so now: For thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness.” Matthew 3:15. “Permit me to be baptized of you, John, for it is necessary to demonstrate every aspect of righteousness.”

In the requirements laid out by Gabriel to establish a holy people, three belonged to man and three were judicial acts of God. The first legal measure that God would exercise was to bring in everlasting righteousness. Thus this seventy-week prophecy demanded Messianic issues be addressed. At the Messiah’s anointing He began the public demonstration, which would last three and a half years, of what righteousness was like – a characteristic His church was to possess.

The record says, “after threescore and two weeks” the Messiah would be cut off. Most scholars see this to mean that sometime after the sixty-two weeks noted in the previous verse. That would include the seven weeks also. Thus, in general terms, at some point after the sixty-nine weeks are completed, after 27 A.D. at Jesus’ anointing, He will be cut off. We will be told quite precisely that that would occur in the middle of the next week.

“Justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne: mercy and truth shall go before thy face”  
“In thy name shall they rejoice all the day: and thy righteousness shall they be exalted.” “For the Lord is our defense; and the Holy One of Israel is our King.” Psalms 89:14, 16, 18.

Within this astounding prophecy Jesus is beginning to work out the divine plan to bring in everlasting righteousness. Do you grasp what this means? The everlasting covenant is about to get heaven’s signature. Christ’s death would seal God’s part of that phenomenal plan. His signature of blood would identify Him as a blood brother to mankind, legally permitting Him to purchase back His kindred *even before the next Jubilee!*

“If thy brother be waxen poor, and hath sold away *some* of his possession, and if any of his kin come to redeem it, then shall he redeem that which his brother sold.... After that he is sold he may be redeemed again; one of his brethren may redeem him: Either his uncle, or his uncle’s son, may redeem him, or *any* that is nigh of kin unto him of his family may redeem him; or if he be able, he may redeem himself.” Leviticus 25:25, 48-49.

The great theme of redemption, eradicating sin and fully restoring God’s people is in Daniel 8–12 and put distinctly within the seventy-weeks-of-years timeframe!

Its prophecy is for all time. It is not limited to a Jewish probation. Those 490 years encircle everyone everywhere who claim the name of Jesus. Relegating it to the past robs mankind of what will be finished in the whole book of Revelation as part of that timeframe. Putting the last week into a future dispensation mocks the very covenant of grace being worked out in this Messianic prophecy! Hermeneutic prejudice and linguistic minutia must be set aside. Contextual exposition is critical to grasp these celestial truths.

After the sixty-nine weeks the Messiah is “cut off” (*karath* or *karat*). This word has deep theological meaning. In a literal sense it is to cut something off or down, such as a tree, part of body or even an idol. However, it is a metaphor in two important areas: (1) To eliminate or destroy by a violent act (Genesis 9:11, 41:36, etc.), (2) to “cut” or make a covenant (Deuteronomy 29:1, 12, 14, 25; 31:16, etc.).

The contextual implications encompass *both* figurative meanings. Jesus – Messiah the Prince – the “one on top” – is *violently eliminated* to complete His part in the covenant! That promise needed blood. And our brother gave it. From the anointing all the way to the cross, legal and salvic issues are being worked out so righteousness would supervene. God’s covenant provisions will show that mercy and justice will meet when the Messiah is *karath*. That violent death in mercy will make legally possible man’s part of 9:24! That death will satisfy the divine judgment of Genesis 2:17.

### Who Jesus Dies For

The Hebrew simply says that the Messiah will be violently killed after the sixty-nine weeks “for the people of the prince.” Translations are *interpretive* in many areas of Daniel 8–12. This is one of those times. Jesus doesn’t come to sacrifice for Himself. He does it for people who belong to the prince. And – that needs to be understood to grasp what comes next.

The word for people is *`am* in Hebrew. It refers to a group of individuals, even a nation. It emphasizes the unity of the group – people that are bonded together by a common characteristic. What could that bonding issue be? We must first discover who the prince is.

Jesus is called the Prince of princes (Daniel 8:25), the chief prince (10:13) and Michael – the great prince (12:1), and we already saw that the Messiah is the prince (9:25). Who is the prince (*nagiya*) that the people belong to? Jesus alluded to Satan being the prince of this world (John 12:31). The prince of Persia was Satan trying to thwart the fulfillment of prophecy (Daniel 11:13).

The people belong to Satan. The common bond between them was sin and rebellion. That is why those are the first two things man must address to break that bond. The Messiah’s death was to make that possible. Thus, Daniel is dealing with two princes: One, the Prince of princes; the other, Satan, the prince who is clearly going to fight God every inch of the way. Daniel 8–12 is a summary of that warfare between the two princes in a timed setting! Revelation fills in the details.



# LIBERTY

IN THE

# BALANCE

[Religion Today  
January 2004]

**The student body president at one West Virginia university campus says** despite complaints from Protestant groups on campus, prayers before Student Senate meetings will continue. Three months ago, Seth Murphy sent a letter to religious student groups on the Marshall University campus, inviting them to open Student Senate meetings with prayers that are heartfelt and directed to God. "I don't want to tell people that because of the idea of political correctness that they cannot pray in public exactly as they would in private," he says. But United Methodist and Presbyterian student groups are demanding that the prayers be stopped. The opposition from other professing Christians is not something Murphy expected. The U.S. Senate also starts its meetings with prayer. He says the very idea that prayer in public is somehow unconstitutional is the result of an epidemic of political correctness in America that is "just going against not only our constitution but the very foundations that our country was built upon." But despite the demands from the Christian groups, as well as those from the Marshall University Civil Liberties Union, that the prayers be banned, Murphy says he will not cave in to those who would put political correctness above religious freedom.

#### **Eritrean Government Spying on Evangelicals.**

Eritrea's outlawed Protestants confirmed this week that their neighbors are being hired to report to security agents any gatherings of evangelical believers in their communities. Police "spies" are rewarded with special

benefits, including exemption from military service and allotments of sugar and flour. Since May 2002, when the government ordered Eritrea's 12 independent Pentecostal and charismatic churches closed, their 20,000 members have gathered secretly in small groups in private homes. Hundreds have been arrested for holding worship services, possessing Bibles or witnessing about their faith. Currently at least 286 Eritrean evangelicals are known to be imprisoned in nine different locations in the country. Protestant pastors say the Department of Religious Affairs has made no progress toward the official registration of their churches. (Voice of the Martyrs)

**Religious Freedom Advocates Wary of New Afghan Constitution.** A ministry dedicated to the persecuted Christian Church says the recently unveiled Afghan constitution raises serious questions about the future of religious freedom in that country.

The new Afghan constitution begins by declaring that "Afghanistan is an Islamic Republic." It goes on to say that followers of other religions are free to practice their religious rites, provided that practice is within the limits of the provisions of the law, and that no law can be contrary to the "sacred religion of Islam."

Todd Nettleton is with Voice of the Martyrs, an Oklahoma-based ministry aiding Christians worldwide who are being persecuted for their faith in Christ. He believes the Afghan

constitution raises some obvious issues about religious freedom.

“What is the role of Afghan Christians?” he asks. “Does the government even recognize the possibility that an Afghan can be a Christian?”

In addition, Nettleton says he is concerned about Afghanistan welcoming back terrorists. “If a radical Islamic government comes back into power there and does put out the welcome mat for terrorists, I’m sure they would be happy to come back,” he says.

Echoing Nettleton’s concerns is a group of individuals appointed to an independent federal panel by the president and congressional leaders. The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom fears that the constitution, along with Afghanistan’s reconstructed legal system, might be used by “extremists” to deny universal human rights — including freedom of religion and belief — to all Afghans.

“There is a danger that Afghanistan could return to Taliban-like religious coercion of the behavior of individual Muslims,” the USCIRF says in a recent report. “The U.S. government should insist that individual rights to freedom of thought, conscience, religion, and belief be explicitly set forth in the Afghan constitution.”

In a specific recommendation to the president, the secretary of state, and Congress, the Commission says the Afghan constitution should also exclude the use of blasphemy, “offending Islam,” apostasy, or similar offenses to stifle debate or restrict religious freedom.

Nettleton adds that the new constitution calls into question the idea that democracy can co-exist with Islam. He challenges anyone to point to an Islamic country where democracy is functioning and people have freedom of faith.

“Can a Muslim in an Islamic country decide to be a Buddhist or decide to be a Christian? What happens to them then?” the VOM spokesman asks. “If they have that freedom, that would truly be religious freedom — and I don’t think you can point to a country where that exists.” (Agape Press)

**Attack on Church by 20 Men in Sri Lanka.** In the latest of a series of a string of attacks (30-60 churches have been attacked since November)

in Sri Lanka, there was an attack on a Catholic church in Mattegoda Tuesday. The church was not occupied. A mob of about 20 men smashed statues and firebombed the church. Such attacks are usually justified by charges of “unethical conversions” (false accusations of offering people cash to become Christians). This is a charge that is baseless and is thought to be a justification for attacks based on hatred and fear. Usually these attacks come when Christianity is growing at a fast rate and traditional religious leaders fear loss of culture and identity. The attackers have stoned pastors’ houses at night, assaulted church workers, issued death threats and pressured several churches to close down. Voice of the Martyrs.

**Illinois Senior Defending Right to Say ‘God Bless’ in School.** A pro-family law firm is defending a Christian student who was kicked off his public school’s daily TV broadcast program for uttering two words while on the air: “God bless.” Dupu High School in Dupu, Illinois, has suspended senior James Lord for at least a month for telling people before the Christmas vacation: “Have a safe and happy holiday, and God bless.” The school claims Lord’s comment was inappropriate for public school and violated the so-called “separation of Church and State.” But his attorney, Frank Manion with the American Center for Law and Justice, says the school acted unconstitutionally. “This is, at best, a sham, an over-reaction, [and] a misinterpretation of what the law requires with regard to religion in schools,” Manion says. “We are prepared to vindicate James’ First Amendment free-speech rights in court.” A member of the Dupu School Board is quoted as saying the Superintendent Michael Koebel “knows the rules and knows what people can say and can’t say.” Lord will attempt to address his local school board by asking members to revoke his suspension and acknowledge the right of a student to use the expression “God bless.” The senior distributed more than 400 flyers to encourage local citizens to attend the meeting. He told a local newspaper he cannot guarantee he will not repeat the phrase. (Agape Press)

**Gospel Workers Beaten in India.** Six GFA missionaries were warned by anti-Christian Indian fundamentalists to stop preaching about Jesus, but the men continued to preach the word to the needy people. As punishment, the fundamentalists beat the six missionaries and tried to kill them. They were prevented from doing so by onlookers, but the men had to go to the hospital because of the severe beatings they endured. In the Hospital, they all testified of their joy in being counted worthy to suffer for Christ. (Voice of the Martyrs)

**Sharia Continues in Nigeria.** Christian leaders in northern Nigeria report that enforcement of the Islamic legal code known as sharia is continuing despite protests and drastically impinges on the religious liberty of Christians. According to reports, 23 Christian women have been arraigned in Islamic courts over charges ranging from non-compliance with the Muslim dress code to prostitution. The Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) said that the accusations of prostitution are false. "A woman not married, irrespective of her religious background, is seen by Muslim enforcers of the sharia as a prostitute," said Rev. Linus Awuhe, CAN chairman in Zamfara state. Eight women in Bauchi state were arraigned in an Islamic court for being unmarried; they were reportedly required to pay a \$300 fine and given ten lashes. Dr. Peter Jatau, archbishop of Nigeria's Roman Catholic Church, said that strict enforcement of sharia law could lead to "the incarceration of innocent Christian victims whose sin is that they are Christians." If that happens, Jatau warned, "There would be increased tension, which would no doubt result in the occurrence of more religious conflicts." (Voice of the Martyrs)

**Lao Officials Threaten Death by Farm Tools.**

Believers in villages of Laos's Attapue province are being told they must renounce their faith in Christ, leave their villages, or face being beaten to death with farm hand tools. A contact in the region said yesterday that the 11 believers who were released from prison January 9 are facing renewed pressure by authorities in Attapue

province to renounce their faith. Along with them, 34 other believers who had fled but returned to their villages were facing similar pressure. The key men perpetrating the persecution are Mr. Bounlarb (deputy district head of Sanamsai district) and Mr. Sitad (head of religious affairs for Attapue province). On January 18 they started digging pits, saying if believers did not deny Christ, they would be buried. Believers in Dongsung village also were told they could deny Christ, leave the village, or face death. The next day these same two officials led non-Christian villagers to two other villages and threatened believers there the same way. The spokesperson thought Kang, Donthapad and Donphai villages would be next. (Christian Aid Report)

**Iraqi Christians Have Pessimistic Future Outlook.**

An international Christian organization believes that Iraqi Christians will have at most a two-year window to operate in the open before an Islamic government assumes power and forces those believers underground.

Voice of the Martyrs, a Christian ministry dedicated to the persecuted Church, has had several teams visit Iraq, including one that just recently returned. Todd Nettleton of VOM says Iraqi Christians have expressed gladness over the fact that Saddam Hussein has been removed from power. The dictator's removal has resulted in believers in Iraq being able, for the time being, to operate out in the open.

However, Nettleton says Iraqi Christians are not confident about their long-term prospects. "They talk about a two-year window of relative freedom while U.S. troops are there, during the transition to a new government," he says.

But according to the VOM spokesman, Iraq's Christians believe that once the U.S. forces are gone, the situation for believers in that country will probably change. "They recognize that at some point there is going to be a government; it will likely be an Islamic government, and their freedoms will likely be curtailed."

So the Iraqi Church members' outlook, Nettleton says, is a practical one. "Their attitude is, 'Hey, we've got a two-year window.

Let's do as much as we can while we can be out in the open, and let's prepare for the days when we have to go back underground."

Nettleton notes that Iraqi Christians comprise less than 3% of the country's population, and the small community has been devastated by war and more than two decades of Saddam's tyrannical rule. (Agape Press)

**Pastor at Prayer Shot Dead in Tajikistan.** A pastor who was also an active missionary has been shot dead while he was praying in a chapel. At 9.00pm on Monday 12 January gunmen burst into a churchyard in Isfara in the north of Tajikistan and fired several rounds through a window at Sergei Bessarab as he was kneeling in prayer. On hearing the gunfire, his wife, Tamara, rushed to her husband's side but he was already dead. He was shot 13 times with a Kalashnikov assault rifle. A local newspaper had only a week before attacked Bessarab for his missionary work in this staunchly Muslim region. Women are often seen wearing the veil in villages and alcohol is taboo, indeed shops stocking it have sometimes been burnt down. The hard-line Islamic Revival Party garnered a large majority of the local vote in recent elections, despite central government attempts to curb the growth of Islamic extremism. Bessarab's handing out of Christian literature aroused considerable local anger. Nevertheless police have not yet confirmed that the suspected motive for the murder was his missionary activity. (Barnabas News Fund)

**Activist Wants Justice for Harassed Campus Conservative.** A California public high school is being accused of violating the civil rights of a conservative Christian student. Upset with what he viewed as an extreme liberal bias at Rancho Cotate High School, Tim Bueler decided to level the playing field by starting a conservative club on campus. Since the club was formed, the student has encountered some resistance. Chris Carmouche is executive director of a grassroots public policy organization that wages web warfare against the liberal establishment. Carmouche says Bueler has been subjected to harassment by faculty members and threats of violence by

students because of his conservative beliefs. "Students — in one case a gang of about seven students, and in another case a gang of about 12 other students — approached [Bueler and] took umbrage to some of the comments that he had published under the purview of the club," Carmouche says. The internet activist says teachers were present at both incidents, and in both cases, Bueler asked the teachers for assistance. But rather receiving any help, Carmouche says, the conservative student was rebuked by the teachers. Bueler has leveled charges of civil rights violations against the administration of Rancho Cotate High School. Carmouche says school officials have a vendetta against Bueler because he is an outspoken Christian. He also questions whether those officials are doing all they can to see that Bueler's attackers are punished. (Agape Press)

**Authorities Trying To Close Baptist Church in Uzbekistan.** An Uzbek official, who fined Baptist pastor Oleg Bader for running children's camps and a children's club attached to his church, has described the fine as "completely within the law." The church is being forced to change and re-register its statute by 27 January, even though children's work was included in the original statute. The pastor's lawyer has been denied access to the cases documents, and the justice department has refused to explain why this is so. It is feared that, like another church further north, re-registration may be denied and the church declared illegal. Sources have said that the authorities want to close the church because they do not want Christianity to spread in Khorezm region. (Voice of the Martyrs)

**Attorney Claims Homosexual Students Often Incite Reactions on Campus.** A Christian attorney says homosexual groups are teaching student activists in public schools to use provocative behavior to goad other students into acting hostilely toward them. Five years of litigation recently came to a close when six homosexual students represented by the American Civil Liberties Union won a \$1.1 million settlement against the Morgan Hill

Unified School District in California. The students claim they were bullied and harassed because of their sexual orientation. As a result of the settlement, the entire school district is now required to implement a "sensitivity training" program designed to shield homosexuals from bullying. Scott Lively, president of the California-based Pro-Family Law Center, believes this is the latest in a series of settlements resulting from a deliberate strategy by the homosexual political movement. "Their goal is to transform American public schools into centers of pro-gay activity and training," he says. Lively says student activists who flaunt their homosexual behavior in front of students often succeed in forcing their school to adopt an anti-bullying policy that embraces a pro-homosexual perspective, because if the school does not take action they are likely to be sued. Lively advises parents who do not want their children to be indoctrinated with a pro-homosexual point of view to put their children in a Christian school or home school them. (Agape Press)

**Islamic Militants Suspects for Bomb, Indonesian Christian Persecution.** A bomb went off in cafe in the town of Palopo on the island of Sulawesi in Indonesia, on January 10, 2004 (10:15 pm local time) killing 4 people. No one has claimed responsibility but Sulawesi is home to one of the largest concentrations of Christians in Indonesia and its Christians have been attacked repeatedly in the last couple of months (especially in the Poso area) by Islamic militants. Thirty-five Christians have been murdered in the last few months. (Voice of the Martyrs)

**Turkish Christian Makes Slow Improvement Following Brutal Beating.** After being beaten into a coma three months ago for alleged "missionary propaganda," Turkish Christian Yakup Cindilli has been slowly improving from a nearly helpless state. Cindilli, 32, was hospitalized the third week of October after four men linked with the right-wing Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) beat him severely on his head and face for distributing New Testaments

and "doing missionary work." At a court hearing on December 17, about 60 MHP sympathizers gathered outside the courthouse in a show of support for two of Cindilli's assailants who remain in jail. Metin Yildiran, president of the local MHP chapter, was released at an earlier court hearing. The crowd of sympathizers began shouting angrily when they learned that the defendants had been remanded back to jail custody following the hearing because, a defense lawyer stated, there was "hard evidence" against them. Cindilli, discharged on December 2 from the intensive care unit of Bursa State Hospital shortly after he began to emerge from total unconsciousness, is now at his family's home and starting to speak, although he is still unable to care for himself, his attending doctor confirmed. (Compass Direct)

**Turkmenistan Authorities Pass Law Targeting Christians.** In Turkmenistan, authorities recently passed a new religion law that makes unregistered Christian activities illegal. Breaking the law — which targets Baptists and Pentecostals, among other groups — would be considered criminal, not administrative. The statute also reportedly requires religious groups to "coordinate" contacts with foreigners with the government. Additionally, the groups must gain permission before receiving foreign support such as funding and religious literature. The law went into effect in November. According to Open Doors, an international ministry that supports the persecuted believers, Turkmenistan is among the world's harshest countries for Christians. "The government has incorporated some aspects of the majority religion, the Islamic tradition, into its effort to redefine a national identity," Open Doors said. "... [President Saparmurat Niyazov] does not accept the fact that Christians give higher authority to God than to him. Ethnic Turkmen who have converted to Christianity are considered to be a threat to the national identity, and have been subjected to official harassment and mistreatment." Human-rights groups say Turkmenistan has the harshest religious policy of all the former Soviet republics. Churches



have been demolished and police routinely break up religious meetings, often beating, threatening and fining believers. (Charisma News Service)

**Rebels Threaten Archbishop Following Clergy Slaying.** Anti-government rebels in Burundi have ordered Roman Catholic Archbishop Simon Ntamwana to leave the country within 30 days or risk the consequences. The death threat came days after Ntamwana accused the Forces for National Liberation (FNL) of assassinating Vatican ambassador Michael Courtney in a December 29 ambush some 30 miles south of the capital. Courtney was on his way back from a funeral in his clearly marked diplomatic vehicle. The FNL has denied

responsibility in the murder. Spokesman Pasteur Habimana was quoted as saying his movement had nothing against the Catholic Church. "We are only against Ntamwana as an individual, for having accused us without any proof." Gabriel Baregensabe, general secretary of Burundi's Catholic Bishops' Conference, responded by saying, "We think it is a serious threat, but the archbishop cannot leave the country." Ntamwana's predecessor, Archbishop Joachim Ruhuna of Gitega, was killed in 1996 under circumstances similar to the ambush that claimed the life of the 58-year-old Courtney. The papal nuncio, a well-known peacemaker in the civil conflict between ethnic Hutus and Tutsis in Burundi, was buried in his native Ireland on January 3. (Compass Direct)

# The Garden Patch



By David E. Stottlemeyer, M.A.  
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## Soil Fertility

### IMPROVING THE SOIL

“To develop the capacity of the soil requires thought and intelligence. Not only will it develop muscle, but capability for study, because the action of brain and muscle is equalized. We should so train the youth that they will love to work upon the land, and delight in improving it.” *The Advocate*, August 1, 1900.

“The young men should learn to cultivate the soil, and to raise whatever the land will produce. No one can tell what can be done with the soil until he has studied, planned, and experimented.” *Selections from the Testimonies for the Church*, pg. 76

### THE BASICS

Starting with this article we are going to begin dealing with soil fertility. There is a lot that can be said on this topic, and there are many opposing ideas on how to make and maintain a fertile soil. As E. G. White used the words, “studied, planned, and experimented” in the quote above, we get an idea of the process that will help lead to a fertile soil. It may take a bit of work, but in the end the results will be well worth it.

We will begin by covering some of the basics – the nutrients, soil deficiency symptoms, having your soil tested, and how to read a fertilizer label. Then, in the next article, we will look at the differences between using “chemical” and “organic” fertilizers. Then the third article on fertility will complete this series with a discussion on composting.

### WHAT ARE THE PLANT NUTRIENTS?

When speaking of the nutrients used by plants, we are usually referring to the nutrients the plant removes from the soil or water. The bulk of any plant is actually made up of nutrients taken from the air such as carbon from carbon dioxide. Under most conditions, we do not worry too much about these nutrients. The nutrients taken from the soil are usually grouped into two or three categories, depending on what book you consult.

**Macro Nutrients:** These are nutrients used in fairly large quantities by the plant.  
Examples – Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium

**Secondary Nutrients:** Examples – Calcium, Magnesium, Sulfur

**Micronutrients or Trace Elements:** These are used in small amounts by the plant.  
Examples – Iron, Zinc, Copper, Molybdenum, Manganese, Boron, Chlorine.

### NUTRIENT DEFICIENCY SYMPTOMS

When most people think of nutrient problems, they think of deficiency symptoms seen in plants.

With a good fertility program you should not see such symptoms; but in case you do, you should know that these deficiency problems are well documented and fairly easy to find in books and on the internet. I will include a few of the more common deficiency symptoms here.



David Stottlemeyer



**Nitrogen:** Used in the actively growing part of the plant. With this deficiency (the plant on the right) the older leaves turn yellow. The plant is able to move nitrogen out of the older leaves to the more actively growing areas, which is why it shows up in the older leaves first.



**Phosphorus:** Used for flowering and fruiting. Leaves turn dull green, often will show purple as in the tomato leaf above.



**Potassium:** Used in seed and root production. Leaves will turn a mottled green with yellow, and the leaf tips will appear burnt (as seen in the corn leaves above).



**Calcium:** In tomatoes it shows up as blossom-end rot.



**Iron:** Shows up as a yellowing of the new leaves (where nitrogen first shows up in the older leaves)



**Manganese:** mottled yellow leaves. Brown, dry areas may develop and leaves may drop.

## HOW DO I FIND OUT WHAT MY SOIL NEEDS?

It is unusual to find a soil perfectly suited for gardening right from the start. Most soils will require some work and modification before you begin to see the rich and healthy soil that produces a rich and healthy garden. One of the easiest ways to determine if your soil is lacking in any particular nutrient is to have it tested. There are two ways to do this: a self-test kit or a lab analysis.

1. **Self-test kit:** This is where you do the testing yourself. There is a wide variety of self-test kits available, most of which test for the "Macro" nutrients and soil pH. These kits will give you quick results and will indicate how much of a nutrient is needed to improve the soil fertility. Most of these kits will allow you to test several samples so you can track what is happening in your garden and see if your fertility program is doing what you want it to do.

2. **Lab analysis:** The other option is to send your soil sample to a lab and have it analyzed.

Some states have a soil analysis lab that will run samples for free or for a minimal charge. But with state budget cuts, fewer states are offering such services. If you do not live in such a state, a paid analysis from a private lab is your only option. While private analysis tends to be expensive, they also do a much better job of analyzing your soil, often doing all the nutrients, soil pH, texture and so forth. Also, their recommendations are usually very complete and specific. Another advantage is that there are labs that specialize in soil analysis for those wishing to grow "organically" and will give recommendations appropriate for that type of garden. For both kits and labs I have listed a few sources at the end of this article.

## HOW DO I READ A FERTILIZER LABEL?

When you purchase a fertilizer, you will notice that the bag or container will usually have a series of three numbers such as 5-10-10. These numbers indicate the percent of nitrogen, phosphorus (as  $P_2O_5$ ) and potassium (as  $K_2O$ ) in that order. So, if

you have a bag of fertilizer rated 5-10-10, it means you have 5% nitrogen, 10% phosphorus and 10% potassium in that bag of fertilizer. Or, another way of looking at it, if the above bag of fertilizer weighs 10 pounds, that 5% would be 1/2 pound of nitrogen in that bag of fertilizer (this applies to both chemical and organic fertilizers). If you add up the numbers, you'll realize that most of the weight of a bag or box of fertilizer is actually filler. Why do they do this? Partly because these nutrients can cause damage to crops if applied incorrectly, so they are 'diluted' to prevent people from applying too strong a dose.

### **WHAT ABOUT A "COMPLETE FERTILIZER"?**

If you see a fertilizer label with the words "Complete Fertilizer" on it, don't get visions of micronutrients dancing in your head. Read the label. "Complete Fertilizer" only means that it has Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium in it. It may, or may not have additional nutrients, so be sure to read the label.

### **WHAT ABOUT SOIL PH?**

Another concern when considering the soil is its pH. This tells you how alkaline or acid your soil is. Let's look at this a little more closely:

- Alkaline soil: usually found in areas of low rainfall.
  - Soil pH of 8 or more, many nutrients become unavailable
  - To make the soil less alkaline – add soil sulfur, manure, cottonseed meal or compost
- Acid soil: usually found in areas of high rainfall
- Soil pH of 5.5 or less, calcium, magnesium and potassium become less available while some other nutrients become toxic.
  - To make the soil less acidic – add dolomite lime, wood ashes or compost

So, what is the best pH for your garden? That depends on what type of fertility program you are using. If you use chemical fertilizers, a pH of around 6.8 is recommended. However, with organic fertilizers, a pH of 6.5 seems to be better due to the organic material in the soil. I have found that with a good organic fertility program, the pH seems to take care of itself.

One last note, did you notice that compost is listed as helping both alkaline and acid soils? Composted organic matter added to the soil has many benefits, one of which is it brings the pH into the range preferred by the plant. Then, it acts like a buffering agent to keep the pH there. We will talk more about compost in a later article, but I will tell you right now that it is about as close as you can come to a "cure-all" miracle product for the garden.

### **PHOTO SOURCES**

Nitrogen deficiency: <http://www.hydomall.com>

Phosphorus deficiency:  
<http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu>

Potassium deficiency:  
<http://www.extension.umn.edu>

Calcium deficiency:  
<http://www.uga.edu/vegetable/tomato.html>

Iron deficiency: <http://www.hydomall.com>

Manganese deficiency:  
<http://www.hydomall.com>

### **SOIL TESTING**

A.M. Leonard – [www.amleo.com](http://www.amleo.com)  
241 Fox Drive P.O. Box 816  
Piqua, OH. 45356  
Soil test kits

Gardens Alive – [www.GardensAlive.com](http://www.GardensAlive.com)  
5100 Schenley Place  
Lawrenceburg, In. 47025  
"Custom Balance" – For one price they will test your soil and custom mix an organic fertilizer for 500 sq ft of garden.

Peaceful Valley Farm Supply –  
[www.groworganic.com](http://www.groworganic.com)  
P.O. Box 2209  
Grass Valley, Ca. 95945  
Offers several different test kits, meters, and a lab analysis service for organic gardeners

Voice of Nature – [www.voiceofnature.org](http://www.voiceofnature.org)  
P.O. Box 556  
Linden, TN. 37096  
Lab soil test by Kinsey Agricultural Services, Inc. for organic gardeners

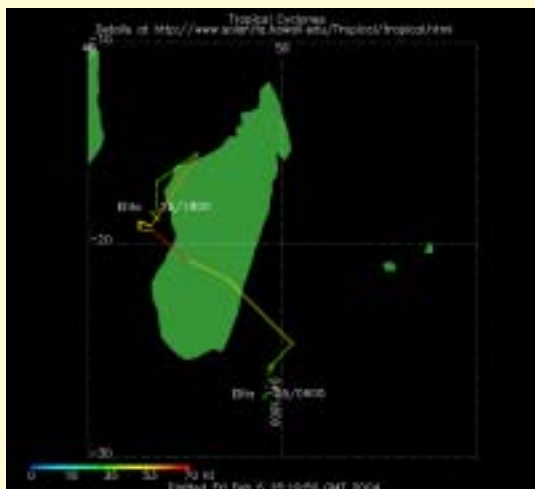
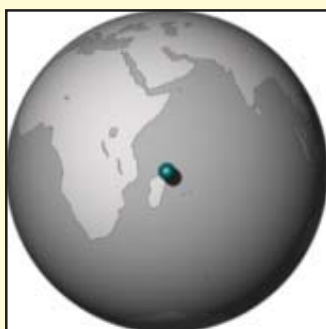
# CALAMITY BULLETIN

(January 2004 Calamities – with damage)

## CALAMITY WATCH TOTALS

	January	Yr to Date	Avg./Mo.
Deaths	1,191	1,191	1,191
Homes destroyed	9,447	9,447	9,447

An inordinate number of people died in January from cold exposure in India and Bangladesh. The largest number of family homes demolished came from the cyclone “Elita” on the island of Madagascar off the east African coast, leaving 44,000 people homeless in late January. Elita had sustained winds of 125 mph.



Trajectory of Elita across Madagascar



Eye of Elita



# Focus on the *Sabbath*

[This section is devoted to news, articles, special messages, laws, sermons and political events that draw attention to the Sabbath. We are especially interested in how the Christian world views a weekly “rest day” – a pivotal prophetic end-time issue.]

## Pope John Paul II Calls for Safeguarding Sunday

“The Symbol Par Excellence of All That Christianity Has Stood for”  
Aug. 3 Address, on the value of Sunday

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy, AUG. 18, 2003 (Zenit.org). – Here is the address John Paul II delivered Aug. 3 when praying the Angelus with pilgrims gathered in the courtyard of the papal summer residence:

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

1. Europe is the continent which, in the past 2,000 years, has been marked by Christianity more than any other. From all its regions — in its abbeys, cathedrals and churches — ceaseless praise has been raised to Christ, Lord of time and of history. Baptism and the other Sacraments have consecrated the seasons of life of countless believers. The Eucharist, especially on the Lord’s Day, has nourished their faith and love; the Liturgy of the Hours and many other popular forms of prayer have marked the rhythm of their daily life.

Even if none of these things has been lacking in our time, a renewed commitment is still indispensable if we are to face the challenges of secularization, so that believers may make their entire life a true spiritual worship that is pleasing to God (cf. apostolic exhortation “Ecclesia in Europa,” No. 69).

2. **Special attention should be paid to safeguarding the value of Sunday, “Dies Domini.” This day is the symbol par excellence of all that Christianity has stood for and still stands for, in Europe and throughout the world: the perennial proclamation of the Good News of the Resurrection of Jesus, the celebration of his victory over sin and death, the commitment to the human being’s full liberation.**

By preserving the Christian meaning of Sunday a notable contribution is made to Europe for the preservation of an essential part of its own particular spiritual and cultural heritage.

May the Blessed Virgin, to whom so many churches and chapels are dedicated in the different regions of Europe, make her protection felt over all the peoples on the Continent.

[Adapted from a translation by L’Osservatore Romano. After praying the Angelus, the Pope said in English:]

I warmly welcome the English-speaking visitors present at this Angelus. May Almighty God bless you and your families with joy and peace.

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