

Fall of Man

(Sermon Notes)

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When the World Trade Towers fell on 9/11, all day long they kept showing on TV the two towers collapsing upon themselves - snuffing out all lives within them. It was a terrible spectacle to behold. On that day, a little child, too young to understand that he was seeing replay after replay (as the news does) of the morning event, thought that he was witnessing many, many towers falling and collapsing on more and more innocent victims. In desperation, the little guy finally shouted out,

“Make them stop! Make them stop!”

Civilization is a lot like that throughout history – it just keeps collapsing and falling in on itself. Adam and Eve were convinced that they could **not fall**, and yet they did. The billions of people on earth at the time of the flood did not believe for a second that they had need of Noah’s ark to carry them over flood waters.

Nineveh did not think that anyone could penetrate their defensive walls and cause them to fall. Babylon, Israel, Persia, Judah, Greece and Rome all thought they could not fall.

The very Temple of God that Solomon built, fell, and the subsequent Temple of Herod also fell. Judah and Israel went into captivity. They said, “The temple, the temple, we have the temple to look to,” God would never take that away. (Jeremiah 7:4)

Recently, Japan and Germany both fell – they were wrong in their estimation that they would rule the world. End-time Babylon will fall completely.

Revelation 14:8 ... Babylon **is fallen**, is **fallen**, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.

Late last century, many in the Church of God believed that we were impervious to failing. And yet, the Worldwide Church of God fell – and great was the fall thereof. Today, in the Church of God, many also believe that we are impervious to failing.

All of the competing Churches of God of today will soon cease to be – just as so many who have gone before them came to an end, because their focus was not on Christianity and Godliness. Too many Churches of God are teaching “authority’ like it exists in the military and Papacy...

Matthew 20:25 But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them.

Their faith is not about Christianity or Godliness – but about ‘Authority.’ Jesus said:

Matthew 20:26 But **it shall not be so among you**: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your servant.

God tells us to, “Come out from among them and their ways.” Why? Because they wish to draw away a following after themselves.

Acts 20:29-30 For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.

Peter quotes Isaiah saying that even **this earth** and the heavens will roll up as a scroll and cease to exist:

Isaiah 34:4 And all the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll:

2Peter 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

Brethren, these things are not meant to terrify us. Sometimes I find our brethren living in abject fear – thinking these things will befall us. The Father will not let any of these things touch His precious children.

Psalms 91:10 There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.

We have an impermeable wall of protection around us – provided by God.

Luke 21:17-18 You shall be hated of all men for my name's sake. But there shall not an hair of your head perish.

Solomon rationalized that, “All is vanity,” emptiness and transitory like the wind (Ecclesiastes 2:11).

Solomon could not see the spiritual part of God’s Plan that will endure forever more. Because of his sinful endeavors and lifestyle, Solomon became a nihilist – rejecting all religious and moral principles in the belief that life is meaningless. Brethren, it is just the opposite of what Solomon concluded there!!! God’s Plan is sure and positive.

When all is said and done, there will be nothing that has not fallen – that part of what Solomon concluded is true – nothing remains except **the Holy Spirit of God**, and what God has accomplished in us – His Children.

God in His wisdom knows that man must endure trials and tests in order to be able to attain to righteous Godly character. God is reproducing His goodness and character in us – and that **will remain forever!** If God’s goodness and character is not in us – we too shall perish – but we must never fear, because God will not leave us or forsake us!

In the Book of Genesis, we see that God had everything set up so well for mankind.

Genesis 1:31 And God saw everything that He had made, and, behold, it was **very good**.

Adam and Eve’s sin was a big turning point in the Plan of God, but before launching into their Plan, God the Father and Jesus had made absolutely certain that their Plan was perfect and fail-safe. They had contingencies for every eventuality. The Father and Jesus had an alternative course of action in place to allow for interruptions, such as the sin of Adam and Eve.

We know what we mean when we speak of the **Fall of Man**, although it is not specifically named in the Bible. The “Fall of Man” refers to the **sin** of Adam and Eve (Genesis chapter 3).

That doctrine **implies** that man had **attained** to his incredible potential – from which he fell – which is not the case at all. Actually the **fall of man** is somewhat of a **misnomer** in that man had not actually reached the apex or highest pinnacle of his calling – which would have been the receiving of God’s Holy Spirit and the promise of eternal life.

Had Adam and Eve taken of the Tree of Life – and then sinned – that indeed would have been the **Fall of Man**. God did not let that happen:

Genesis 3:22 And the Lord God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, **and live forever**:

Genesis 3:24 So He drove out the man.

The Garden of Eden ceased to exist on the earth for man. The beautiful Garden of Eden was physically fashioned to be an exact replica of the spiritual Garden of Eden in heaven. God told Lucifer:

Ezekiel 28:13-16 Thou hast been in **Eden the Garden of God**; ... Thou art the anointed cherub that covered [the very throne of God]; and I have set thee so: thou were upon the **holy mountain of God**; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire... and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane **out of the mountain of God**.

Satan's fall from heaven is everlasting – there is no Savior to restore him to the heights or pinnacle from which **he fell**.

Luke 10:18 Jesus said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning **fall** from **heaven**.

In their innocence, Adam and Eve were given a choice to make. Had they chosen the **Tree of Life**, they would have received God's Holy Spirit which leads to eternal life. They did not fall from that position – because **they never attained to it** in the first place. They took of the Tree of the knowledge of good **and evil** – which leads to death. In that sense they **fell**. Adam and Eve never received God's Spirit. In that sense they are like the people in the world who have never been called.

Man became needful of a Savior because sin had brought the death penalty. God knew from the foundation of the world that mankind would need a Savior.

1Peter 1:19-20 [We are redeemed] with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained before the **foundation of the world**, but was manifest in these last times for you.

Revelation 13:8 ... the Lamb [Jesus Christ] slain from the **foundation of the world**.

Jesus says that the time is coming, "I will pour out my spirit upon **all** flesh" All mankind will have the opportunity for eternal salvation (Joel 2:28).

God has given mankind six thousand years to learn that man is unable to run things properly on this earth. After that, Jesus Christ will return and establish His Father's Kingdom over all the earth for a thousand years.

We should not take some man's word for this, nor should we take it for granted, but we should prove these things for ourselves. We find the prophetic prototype of God's little understood time schedule for His Plan for man in the beginning of Genesis. God's Plan for man is pictured by the creation of the **seven-day week**.

We see that six-day creation very clearly in Genesis 1.

Genesis 1:5-31 God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. And the evening and the morning were the **first day**... [all six days of the physical creation are listed here] And God saw everything that He had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the **sixth day**.

The work of God on that sixth day constituted the end of His **physical** restoration. When the physical re-creation was complete, God established the seventh-day Sabbath as the beginning of the **spiritual** creation for man.

God did so by **resting** on the Sabbath Day.

Genesis 2:2-3 On the **seventh day** God ended His work which He had made; and He **rested** on the seventh day from all His work which He had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and **sanctified** it [made it holy]: because that in it He had rested from all **His work** which God created and made.

The vast majority of the people in the world today have never heard about the Plan of God. God has put into place a 7,000-year Master Plan, which began at the re-creation of the earth, almost 6,000 years ago. In fact, the seven-day week was assigned to man at the very foundation of the earth.

Herbert W. Armstrong wrote about the first 6,000 years:

“Man built his world on self-sufficiency without God. God set in motion a Master Plan for accomplishment of His purpose, consisting of a duration of seven thousand years. Satan was allowed to remain on earth's throne for [only] the first six thousand years. God purposed that man must learn his lesson, and come voluntarily to accept God's way and character. For nearly six thousand years mankind has been writing that lesson. But even at this late hour he has not yet learned it. He has not yet given up on his own self-centered way and come to accept God's way to his ultimate happiness.”

(Herbert W. Armstrong “Mystery of the Ages” 1985)

There is no 7-day week to be found in Nature. Our week of seven days has no astronomical basis in the physical universe. It does not divide exactly into a month or a year or any other time measurement.

In nature's heavenly bodies, we find the length of **one day** defined by the Sun, 24 hours for the earth to turn on its axis. We find the length of the **month** defined by the moon; how long it takes the moon to revolve around the earth one time is equal to a lunar month. And, we find the length of the **year** by the stars – it takes 365 $\frac{1}{4}$ days for the earth to orbit the sun and come back into the same sidereal constellation. But **nowhere** do we find the length of the **week!** Where did all of mankind come by it? That is a telling question.

Men have searched the circuits of heaven, but nowhere could the week be found. God had to give us the 7-day week, or we would not have it. And He had to have given it to mankind back at creation – otherwise the week would not be found in every nation and culture around the earth. The world hates to admit where the week came from. The week is obviously pre-Noachian flood because the descendents of Shem, Ham, and Japheth carried the concept of the 7 day week with them in the migrations of the nations to the four corners of the earth. Every race of man on earth recognizes the week because it was given before the great flood of Noah's day.

Why did God give us the week? The answer is because it so clearly defines His Plan for us. It comes only from God – we do not find it in nature. Everyone observes the week - without giving God the credit for its design and origin. But, there is no other source for the week – except God Himself! It is true, God had to give us the seven-day week or it would not exist!

Reluctantly, secular history attributes the earliest known civilization to use the **seven day week** to the ancient people of Israel – actually the **Jews** who were carried captive into Babylon.

The apostle Peter understood that the seven-day week pictured the seven thousand year plan of God.

2Peter 3:3 Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,

2Peter 3:4 And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.

2Peter 3:5 For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:

2Peter 3:6 Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:

2Peter 3:7 But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

2Peter 3:8 But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that **one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.**

2Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

God has allowed the first 6,000 years, since creation, for mankind to go his own way – the way mankind chose by taking of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Incredibly, we are very near the end of the fulfillment of this period of time.

Paul knew as well, when he wrote that the seventh day of the week pictured the millennial rule of Christ that follows this present evil age of human anarchy.

Hebrews 4:9 There remains therefore a rest [Sabbatismos] for the people of God.

God determined that man would work for six days – representing six thousand years, and that man would rest on the seventh day Sabbath – picturing the following thousand years. God's plan for man encompasses seven thousand years. This was the first prophetic sign of His Plan. God has allotted six thousand years for man's self-rule so that man might learn that he is unable to rule himself without God.

God has given us this 6000 year period for humanity to go its own way in order for man to learn the futility of its own way compared to the value of God's guidance in the issues affecting mankind.

Man falls on his face over and over again. Of course the world does not understand what is taking place because it does not know about the seven thousand year Plan of God.

God provides a brief synopsis of His Plan in the Book of Exodus. It is an astute picture of six thousand years of labored hardship followed by a glorious 1000 years of peaceful rest. That is when Jesus will rule over all the earth.

Exodus 20:11 In **six days** the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the **seventh** day: wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day, making it holy.

Secularists look at the fossil record of millions of years and disavow the Genesis record showing a seven thousand year Plan of God. But, the Bible does not say the earth is 6,000 years old. We are looking for the allotted time for mankind to learn his lesson – followed by the 1000 year millennial rest when Jesus will rule from Jerusalem, making a total of 7000 years.

Psalms 90:4 For **a thousand years** in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night.

We are near the 6000 year mark at this time. Peter has clarified it, and, as we shall see, the apostle John also hides this wonderful truth within his works – for those who have the eyes to see and ears to hear. In the Book of Hebrews, it is Paul who is comparing the promised “rest” of the Promised Land to the yet future “rest” that Jesus will bring with Him. Just before Israel arrives at the Promised Land, we read of that **first rest** in:

Deuteronomy 12:9 For ye are not as yet come to the rest and to the inheritance, which the Lord your God gives you.

The key point that Paul is making is that so much of Israel did not make it into the Promised Land, and he warns the Church of God, just as David did, not to make the same mistake of **not believing**—and thereby missing out altogether on the promised millennial **rest**. Notice God's warning through His Holy Spirit of prophecy, where Paul is quoting King David's Sabbath sermon (see inscription over Psalm 92) in Psalm 95:11:

Hebrews 3:7 Wherefore as the Holy Spirit said, “**Today** if ye will hear his voice.

Hebrews 3:11 “So I swore in my wrath, They shall not enter into my **rest**.”

Then, Paul explains that there are non-believers in the Church of God today.

Hebrews 3:15 While it is said, **Today** if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.

Hebrews 3:18 And to whom swore He that they should not enter into **His rest**, but to them that **believed not**?

If the people of the Church of God make the same mistake of **not believing** and not imitating the life of His Son, Jesus Christ in everything He taught and lived, they too will not inherit the promised **rest** of the Kingdom of God (Matthew 25:34). It is not enough to be in a friendly congregation – there are many of those. It is not enough to be in a congregation that keeps the Sabbath – the Jews do that. It is not enough to be in a tithe paying congregation – there are Protestants who do that. It is not enough to be in a congregation that keeps the Holy Days – we do not have a corner on those either. Where are the compassion, mercy, reconciliation, and forgiveness that define Jesus?

What is it that makes one a Christian living according to Godliness? How many attend Sabbath services for the purpose of provoking all the others to love and good works (Hebrews 10:24)? How many could define Godly love – or good works for that matter. How many are actually laying their lives down daily as Jesus Christ gave us example? How many even know what that means to lay down their lives (Matthew 16:24-25)? How many know how to overcome Satan (Revelation 12:11), and then set out to prevail over him?

That is what “**believing in Jesus**” means. Paul says we must be anxiously on guard:

Hebrews 4:1 Let us therefore **fear** [be on dire alert, on our guard], lest, a promise being left us of entering into His **rest**, any of you should seem to come short of it.

The “rest” of which Paul is writing here is not a reference to the Promised Land of former times, but to the millennial rule of Jesus Christ when the entire earth will enjoy the peace and rest of the Kingdom of God.

Hebrews 4:3 For we which have believed do enter into **rest** [speaking specifically of the 1000-year millennial rest], as He said, As I have sworn in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest: [looking back at how God rested on the 7th day] although the works [six days of creation] were finished from the foundation of the world.

Hebrews 4:4 For He spoke in a certain place [specifically in Genesis 2:2 it says that God **rested**] of the seventh day on this wise, And God did **rest** the seventh **day** from all His [six days of] works.

This “**day**” will be fulfilled at Christ’s intervention and it will last a thousand years (Revelation 20:4). The millennial “rest” was designated at the foundation of world. It has always been a part of God’s 7000 year plan. The Sabbath Day is the weekly reminder of God’s millennial rest.

Hebrews 4:6 Seeing therefore it remains that **some** must enter into the rest, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of **unbelief**:

Hebrews 4:7 Again, He pointed out a certain day, saying in David, **Today**, after so long a time; as it is said, **Today** if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Let’s go back to that Sabbath service where King David was preaching on this exact same subject.

Psalms 95:7 For he is our God; and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. **Today** if ye will hear His voice.

David is intimating that the millennial Sabbath rest was not fulfilled when the Children of Israel entered the Promised Land.

Psalms 95:8 Harden not your heart, as in the provocation, and as in the day of temptation in the wilderness:

As we continue in Hebrews 4, we find where the King James Translators, because of their lack of understanding the point Paul was making, failed to translate *Jehoshua* correctly.

Hebrews 4:8 For if **Jesus [Joshua]** is correct in this instance] had given them rest, then would he [David] not afterward have spoken of another day.

Joshua's rest in the Promised Land had not fulfill the prophesied rest – because David (who came later) spoke of the rest still being yet future. Paul is saying that if Joshua had given them “the prophesied rest” in the Promised Land, then David would not afterward have spoken of another day's fulfillment of that 1000 year millennial rest yet to come. Paul reiterates that same point:

Hebrews 4:9 There remains [yet to be fulfilled] therefore a **rest** [the Greek had no word for the seventh-day rest, so Paul coined a new word – ‘*Sabbatismos*’ – a keeping of the Sabbath] to the people of God. [Paul is speaking specifically of the weekly Sabbath that points to the 1000 year millennial rest.]

In the book of Hebrews, the "millennial rest" of 1,000 years is termed a "Sabbath rest," [*Sabbatismos*] by Paul.

The Moffatt translation of the Bible is even clearer for Hebrews 4:9. It says: "There is a Sabbath-Rest, then, reserved for the people of God."

Moffat goes on in verse 10, For once a man enters His rest, he rests from work just as God did.

The picture that God has given us is of six days of labor - followed by one day of rest. God established the seven day week as a picture for us of His entire Plan for mankind becoming children of God.

Hebrews 4:10 For he that is entered into His rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his.

Those who are privileged to enter into the millennium will have ceased from their own works—which were 6000 of mankind's disobedience to God.

Hebrews 4:11 Let us be eager therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.

The Israelites **fell** in the wilderness of Sinai. We see that example here:

Numbers 26:64-65 Among these there was not a man of them whom Moses and Aaron the priest numbered, when they numbered the children of Israel in the **wilderness of Sinai**. For the Lord had said of them, They shall surely die in the wilderness.

The seventh **day** is mentioned as a type of the peaceful **rest** – a 1000-year rest – that will follow this present age of human labor and futile struggle to have his own way, apart from God. The Millennium, then, is compared with a “day” of the week.

The world is oblivious to how near the beginning of the millennium is. They do not believe every word of God – so they end up reading over so many important markers.

John the beloved apostle is **meticulous** in the way he presents the timing of events in his Gospel - which differs from Matthew, Mark and Luke's synoptic Gospel accounts. In fact, John writing so late – nearly 100 AD – had time to really put events in order. Keep in mind that we are talking about how the millennium corresponds to the 7th day.

As the millennium begins, Revelation 19 shows us that Christ will take His Bride, the Church. Jesus will wed His bride at the beginning of that 7th day so that she will ever be with the Lord (1Thessalonians 4:17).

John's Gospel account utilizes the Holy Days during Christ's public ministry as his basic outline. Here is another little jewel – and I want to ask you, “Just why is John numbering these days in this manner?” The answer is that John surreptitiously inserts this same picture of seven prophetic days that David and Paul made mention of. Count the days as we go through this section of the Book of John:

John 1:1 In the beginning ...

John 1:7 John the Baptist came as a witness, to bear witness of the Light [Jesus Christ.]

John 1:14 The Word [Jesus Christ] was made flesh...

John 1:15 John the Baptist bare witness of him...

John 1:19 This is the record of John the Baptist...

That completes the first day – day #1.

John 1:29 The **next** day [That would be day #2.] John sees Jesus coming unto him, and says, Behold the Lamb of God...

John 1:34 And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God.

John 1:35 Again the **next** day [That would be day #3] after John stood, and two of his disciples;

John 1:36 And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he said, Behold the Lamb of God!

John is keeping **meticulous** track of the time...

John 1:43 The **day following** [That would be day #4] Jesus would go forth into Galilee...

Just for a reference point, Jesus' public ministry was approximately 2000 years ago and approximately 4000 years after creation – or day #4.

Going into Chapter 2 in John's account we now add another **three** days - coming to day #7.

John 2:1 And the **third** day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there:

John 2:2 And both **Jesus** was **called**, and **his disciples, to the marriage**.

Please note John's similar wording here to his wording in the Book of Revelation.

Revelation 19:9 He said unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are **called** unto the **marriage** supper of the Lamb.

This is by no means a coincidence, but the wonderful truth for those who have the eyes to see and ears to hear. John is writing in this furtive manner for the same reason that Jesus taught this way when He said, “It is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given (Matthew 13:11-15). Jesus marries His wife at the beginning of the Millennium.

This is a picture that after 6,000 years, on the start of the 7th day, the true believers will be caught up to the Father's throne to take part in the wedding of Jesus Christ and the resurrected saints.

I think that John learned that little didactic and informative method from Hosea the Prophet. Again, Jesus' public ministry was approximately 2000 years ago. We are very near to the day of the better resurrection (Hebrews 11:35).

In other words, from the time of Jesus' public ministry to His **return** is approximately 2000 years, or two prophetic days.

Hosea 6:1 Come, and let us return unto the Lord: for He has torn, and He will heal us; He has smitten, and He will bind us up.

From the time of the Lord's public ministry to our day is approximately two-thousand years.

Hosea 6:2 After **two days** will He revive us: in the **third day** He will **raise us up**, and we shall live in his sight.

Yes, as we begin to enter the **third day** – the third one-thousand period after the Lord's public ministry "He will raise us up" in the better resurrection.

It is interesting that when archeologists try to push the dates on man back into antiquity - they have a very difficult time in pushing the written word back to 6000 years ago.

Some dates to use when studying:

Creation: 4000 BC

The **flood:** approximately 1650 years after creation of man, or 2350 BC

The date of the **Exodus:** 1446 BC

Christ's **birth:** 5 BC

Crucifixion and Christ's last Passover: 30 AD

Mankind's "week of 6000 years" is nearly over, and God's "Sabbath" rest of 1000 years will soon be here.

Caution: We do not depend on dates; We do not prepare according to dates; but, we stay close to God always.

Dr. Hoeh felt that the 6000 years may not be up until 2028. Whether sooner or later we must always be ready.

God chose Israel as His special people:

Deuteronomy 7:6 For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth.

Deuteronomy 7:7 The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people:

Deuteronomy 7:8 But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

Deuteronomy 7:9 Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keeps covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations;

Deuteronomy 7:10 And repays them that hate him to their face, **to destroy them**: he will not be slack to him that hate him, he will repay him to his face.

Deuteronomy 7:11 Thou shalt therefore keep the commandments, and the statutes, and the judgments, which I command thee this day, to do them.

God is holy, the people He chooses for Himself must also be holy, a principle that continues under the New Covenant.

As God lives by high standards, so must His people keep those same high standards as an example to the rest of the world.

God knew from the very beginning that Israel would in due course **fall**.

Deuteronomy 4:5 Behold, I have taught you statutes and judgments, even as the LORD my God commanded me, that ye should do so in the land whither ye go to possess it.

Deuteronomy 4:6 Keep therefore and do them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the nations, which shall hear all these statutes, and say, Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.

Deuteronomy 4:7 For what nation is there so great, who hath God so nigh unto them, as the LORD our God is in all things that we call upon him for?

Deuteronomy 4:8 And what nation is there so great, that hath statutes and judgments so righteous as all this law, which I set before you this day?

Deuteronomy 4:9 Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons;

When I worked in the Letter Answering Dept of the Worldwide Church of God – at PCD – Personal Correspondence Department, we sent this letter out – even from the days of the Radio Church of God.

“Now notice your Bible. Many Bibles are complete enough to contain chronological charts showing that human life was created slightly more than 4000 years before Christ. And almost another 2000 years have elapsed since – making nearly 6000 years of human civilization to date. In other words, the trend of world events is now proving we are very near the time the Scriptures have always said Christ will return – when the probability of world destruction would become a reality (Matthew 24:22). Six thousand years of human history have almost been completed. Here, then, is proof – double proof – that Christ is coming in our generation!

“The common assumption that man has lived on earth countless tens of thousands of years is an idle dream. Reason disproves it. Each new archaeological discovery aids in disproving it. True SCIENCE disproves it! Strange as it may seem, the theory of man’s evolution is not only unproved, but irrefutably disproved when we understand the facts.

“The apostles did not fully understand this PLAN OF GOD when Christ was yet on earth. They thought the kingdom would be established in their day – after only about 4000 years of God’s plan had been completed. But before they died, the apostles knew God’s plan. Peter said: “The Lord is not slack concerning His promise [of Christ’s coming] . . . but is longsuffering...” (2Peter 3:9). God is patient. He has refrained from intervening in world affairs for nearly 6000 years. Why?

“Because He will not intervene until humanity is forced to cry out to Him for fear of self-extermination. Recall that the day of Christ’s intervention and rule is compared to “a thousand years” (Revelation 20:4). Peter also says the same thing – that a day in God’s plan is as “a thousand years,” and “a thousand years” of human civilization is as ONE day in His planned week of SEVEN 1000-year days (2Peter 3:8).

“Peter knew that Christ would intervene shortly before the close of 6000 years of human struggle and slavery – that God would send Jesus Christ to set up His government to rule during the seven-thousand-year period – a millennium of peace, a sabbatical rest!

“How marvelous that in our day, at the very time that 6000 years have almost elapsed, the world is threatened with extinction of life. And Jesus Himself said that when we see this taking place HE WOULD COME AGAIN!”

LETTER ANSWERING DEPARTMENT

Isaiah 46:9-11 “I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like Me, **DECLARING THE END FROM THE BEGINNING**, [When did God declare the “rest”?] and from ancient times the **THINGS THAT ARE NOT YET DONE**, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I **WILL DO ALL MY PLEASURE**: ..., I **HAVE SPOKEN IT**, I **WILL ALSO BRING IT TO PASS**; I **HAVE PURPOSED IT**, I **WILL ALSO DO IT**.

During Christ’s ministry – the apostles did not understand the 7000 year plan of God.

Luke 19:11 And as [the disciples] heard these things, He [Jesus] added and spoke a parable, because He was nigh to Jerusalem, and because [the disciples] thought that the kingdom of God **should immediately appear**.

The disciples were wrong returning immediately. Even after Christ’s death and resurrection – the apostles did not understand...

Acts 1:6 When they [Christ and the apostles] therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou **at this time** restore again the kingdom to Israel?

Peter and John’s writings show that later they understood about the thousand year millennium to come. Then, the New Testament Church was able to understand the 7,000-year Plan of God and the symbolism of the creation week and the seventh day Sabbath.

The New Testament Church of God and the apostles kept the Holy Days and knew of their prophetic significance. Paul brought that knowledge to the Greek speaking world, and the other apostles carried it to the diaspora – the scattered Israelites throughout the civilized world. God intends that we understand this revelation as well.

It is not God’s Plan that **man fall** – but that man be **lifted up**. God intends that we understand that!

Ephesians 2:5-7 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath **raised us up** together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: [pointing to the immediate future]: That in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

It is God’s intent that we be unable to determine the exact day of the return of Christ or the establishment of the Kingdom of God.

Luke 21:31 So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand.

Luke 21:32 Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass away, till all be fulfilled.

Luke 21:33 Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.

Luke 21:34 And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.

The world is so deceived!!!

Luke 21:35 For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth.

Luke 21:36 Watch ye therefore, and pray always, [be close to God] that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

Jesus told us, Mat 24:36 But of that day and hour knows no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.

The angels know about the 7000 year Plan – they just do not know exactly the ending date – but **they do know** approximately!

Matthew 8:28 And when he was come to the other side into the country of the Gergesenes, there met him two possessed with devils, coming out of the tombs, exceeding fierce, so that no man might pass by that way.

Matthew 8:29 And, behold, they cried out, saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? art thou come hither to torment us **before the time**?

On the Feast of Atonement after Jesus returns – the devils, demons and Satan will be bound.

Revelation 12:12 Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! For the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knows that he hath but a **short time**.

Satan knows very well about the 6000 years and the millennium following!!! We are so close to 6000 years – right now. Just look at all the earthquakes, tsunamis, storms and natural disasters, wars, and national turmoil. What kind of people ought we to be?

2Peter 3:11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conduct and godliness?

End: Fall of Man