UPLOOK!





Let us be ready...

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.

Hebrews 12:28

ust one day past New Years celebrations, the "city that never sleeps" awoke—to strange rumblings in her foundations. Emergency services units were dispatched, fire stations notified, and multiple reports of strange noises were reported by residents. What happened?

Seismologists and scientists monitoring the condition of our planet have reported that a minor 1.5 magnitude quake, centered in Astoria Queens, at a depth of 5 kilometers (approximately 3 miles) occurred beneath the surface. Of course, such a tremor (not serious enough to be labeled an earthquake) caused relatively little damage (at all)—unlike the 7.5 killer that struck Japan, the day before, on New Years day.

What a way to greet the New Year!

And . . . how appropriate within a time when many simply sleep through significant events; physical or otherwise. Scripture readers recognize such events as "birth pangs" that signal the coming of serious change within our world:

For nation will rise against nation, . . . And there will be . . . earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows.

Matthew 24:7-8

Jesus prefaced the above statement with an gracious remark for those who are awake to current events, saying, "... See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet." (vs. 6). — And, in concluding remarks Jesus highlights a present hope, by saying:

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

> > Matthew 24:43

So, while some may care less for the trashing sleeping neighbors others might graciously consider—what on earth do these things really mean, for us TODAY? These

are really birth pangs; that is what Jesus was referring to: When He said that these are the beginning of "sorrows"—the Greek word for sorrows is pronounced *oden*—most often referring to the pains that women experience in child birth. "Climate change"? No, *all of creation* is now in childbirth(!) awaiting the returning of the King, with His angels and saints (true believers in Jesus).

For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.

Romans 8:22-23

The reason? It is to "sift out" (or shake down & out) all that is "unstable" so that what the Bible puts it: Now this, [shaking] indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain.

Therefore:

²⁸ Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. ²⁹ For our God is a consuming fire.

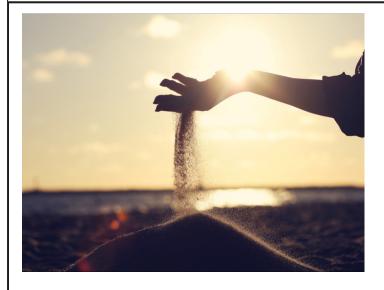
Hebrews 12:27, 28-29

We absolutely, must *not* minimize the pains of this birthing of Christ's returning. Further, we can refuse to be "shaken" ourselves, a we look forwards, and *towards* that new world that only Jesus Christ, Himself, will bring to our world,

when stepping from the skies . . . But first: the shaking upon Earth, and blasphemies

Bro Frank

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THEY HAD IT ALL?

(Socialism, In the Desert)

The days of our lives are seventy years; And if by reason of strength they are eighty years, Yet their boast is only labor and sorrow; For it is soon cut off, and we fly away.

Psalm 90:10 -A prayer of Moses

At first glance, the above quotation from Moses' prayer, might move us to decide that this was is a day of reckoning, just before being called to deliver the children of Israel out of slavery. For the text does state that the experience of Moses praying was that of "boasting" of "labor and sorrow"—does it not? Further, the Bible's own commentary on the life of Moses states that it was only after a full 80 years, that God called Moses while he was in exile, tending another person's sheep (of his father-in-law).

He'd spent forty years in Egypt, as a prince—

and then another forty, as a sheep herder. So now, it would appear, he was ready to go back to Egypt, as God called him into service as a Deliverer.

But wait! Wait, just one moment! For, upon closer examination of the context of our opening text, we find that the one (or One) bringing personal distress into Moses' experience is not that of slave masters—but God, Himself. The previous verses read:

⁸ You have set our iniquities before You, Our secret sins in the light of Your countenance. ⁹ For all

our days have passed away in Your wrath; We finish our years like a sigh. Psalm 90:8-9

What does this mean? Theologians believe that Moses prayer was actually the result of a judgment executed by God, upon Israel, *after they had already left Egypt*... and had received the Ten Commandments, at Mt. Sinai!

In fact, they were actually on the verge of entering the Promises Land!

They had it all! They had all that they needed to be a fully structured as an "exceptional" society, among the nations of the world, having been fully constituted and organized by the Law given to them through Moses at Mt. Sinai! (Fully "constituted" to be exceptional, like a nation that many of us are familiar with, that has a Constitution . . .). But—

But they had turned back, from the challenge of the Promised Land, having forgotten their Chief Benefactor when facing the giants in the land. They had decided to set up a commission to study the situation, so that they my intelligently appraise their strengths and weaknesses (humanly speaking) and walk into the land (on their own power). They sent twelve spies, into the land, who came back with a report of the condition of the land.

³² And they gave the children of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying, "The land through which we have gone as spies is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people whom we saw in it are men of great stature.

³³ There we saw the giants (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight."

Numbers 13:32-33

The result? A failure (collapse) of human strength—without faith in God. They turned back, refusing to be "exceptional" by the power of God . . . and considered slavery . . . superior to living a life dependent upon (and trusting in) God.

¹ So all the congregation lifted up their voices and cried, and the people wept that night. . . ., and the whole congregation said to them, "If only we had died in the land of Egypt! Or if only we had died in this wilderness! ³ Why has the LORD brought us to this land to fall by the sword . . .?"
⁴ So they said to one another,

"Let us select a leader and return to Egypt."

Numbers 14:1-4

hey had it all: The legal and structural tools ("checks and balances") of a duly constituted society—but forgot who their Chief Benefactor was. As the book of Hebrews (in the New Testament) con-

cludes: When we obey God, by faith: this is to enter into His rest (see Matt. 11:28)—Thus relying upon God, we may then cast anxiety behind us (Matt. 6:33). The letter to the Hebrews concludes:

¹⁹ So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.

Hebrews 3:19

They had taken forty days to spy out the land, and rejected the way of faith in God. The Lord's response? They would go around in circles, for forty years, until the adults who had rejected God's promises (by failing to act on them)—died in the wilderness.

Oh yes, the LORD would continue to "support" the children of Israel while they walked in circles: there was still manna falling from the sky, for daily food, and water being given from the Rock that followed them (1 Cor. 10:4). But, they were still in the wilderness. Thus exposing the irony of the closing line of the prayer of Moses, for his people, in Psalm 90.

¹⁷ And let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us, And establish the work of our hands for us; Yes, establish the work of our hands.

Psalm 90:17

his is why I call Israel's experience in the wilderness, "Socialism in the Desert"—because all they had to show for their daily toil (and the work of their hands) . . . was sand.

Yes, yes, they still had their daily needs supplied (like getting supplements from the government)—but they believed the lie that being a slave to government handouts (playing "Robin Hood:" stealing from the rich, to give to the poor—via government fiat) was better than having to get up in the morning and work for a living: Rejecting the challenge of personal excellence, and the embrace of having an overcoming nature that loves one's neighbor, even in adversity—which does sometimes take us through peaks and valleys, and must rely upon God to send the rain and fruitful seasons upon our labors: enabling our crops (and endeavors) to prosper—and if not fully realized in this world, then in the next:

¹² "And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. ¹³ I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last."

²⁰ He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming quickly." Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

Revelation 22:12-13, 20

Amen.



But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you,

with meekness and fear;

1 Peter 3:15

even within the western world, as lines of conflict that may be defined as "blasphemous" come into increasingly open display.

Blasphemy may be simply defined as:

- 1 a: the act of insulting or showing contempt or lack of reverence for God
 - **b**: the act of claiming the attributes of deity
- 2: irreverence toward something considered sacred or inviolable[∞]

"Blasphemy" is a powerful term, generally reserved for those launching Jihad in foreign lands. "Slander," might seem a appropriate term, encountered within the more secular settings, that we are accustomed to, in the West. Therefore, before moving on, it is the appropriate to note that this "weapon" (and that is what it is, as we shall see) has been attributed to both Christ and Antichrist (or *the* Antichrist) within the Bible. In fact, it is a term defining the most explosive charges that were leveled against Christ Himself, as well as the agent defining the overall personhood and agenda of the Antichrist, as we shall see.

This is hot stuff, to say the least!

Almost too hot to handle!

Why is this such a hot topic? Because, within any cultural context it is important to realize that blasphemy is a double-edged sword and should never be utilized without the awareness that when pulling it out of the "holster" I must realize that the words I speak may very well be used against myself, as well! It is for this reason that I am thankful for the advice given by our opening text, regarding the use of apologetics (our moral "defense")—by noting that when answering an opposing opinion, it

The purpose of

the blasphemy

effect is to knock

people "sitting on

the fence" off ...

should be administered "with meekness and fear"—instead of mere "gentleness and respect," as modern translations usually render the matter; For although the term "gentleness" is quite accurate, the use of the words *meekness and fear* bring to mind the fact that when confronting blasphemy, my first concern must not be "how I will impress" the one attacking me . . . but how my response will be viewed in the annals of Heaven & before God on His throne.

In an illustration of how Jesus heeded the above advice, on earth, within what we might consider a human debate, we may observe how he parries the charge of blasphemy, in one instance, after making a statement affirming His special relationship with the Father ("I and My Father

are one" Jn. 10:30). This statement had brought a crowd to an absolute boiling point—and they wanted to stone Him to death. Jesus an-

swers:

them, "Many good works I have shown you from My Father. For which of those works do you stone Me?"

The Jews answered Him, saying, "For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself God."

Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your law, 'I said, "You are gods" '? ³⁵ If He called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken), ³⁶ do you say of Him whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, 'You are blaspheming,' because I said, 'I am the Son of God'?

John 10:32-36 (Ps. 82:6)

It is at this point that I feel compelled to point out something seldom recognized in the exchanges between Jesus and the crowds of the day. This point may be addressed by asking the very same question that some asked Jesus just a few verses before. The crowd asked Jesus, "How long do You keep us in doubt? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly" (John 10:24). Indeed, Jesus repeatedly enjoined both people, and even demons, not to openly declare that He was the Christ (Matt. 16:20, Mark 1:24,34, 8:29,30, Luke 4:34 et al). Why did

He do this? In a similar manner, *after His resurrection* Peter notes, concerning the appearances of Jesus:

⁴⁰ Him God raised up on the third day, and showed Him openly, ⁴¹ not to all the people, but to witnesses chosen before by God, even to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead.

Acts 10:40-41

Why did Jesus do this? Why did Jesus hide His identity from Jewish leaders, before His death—and afterwards, as well? For two reasons:

Jesus' mission *to earth* was to be the Lamb of God, who would shed His blood as a sacrifice for the sins of the world (Jn. 1:29, 1 Cor. 15:3)

After His resurrection, disrespect from nonbelievers would have necessitated a demonstration of divine power & judgment (indeed, He gave a "minidemonstration" of this power, just before going to the Cross –John 18:4-6!) In other words, there was a need for Jesus to remain "incognito" to non-believers on earth before and after going to the Crosswhile also revealing the secrets of the Kingdom of God, to His disciples—so that we (today) may chew upon the mysteries revealed, in our world today (Matthew 13:10-13). But we digress: our main emphasis in this UPLOOK is the blasphemy effect. What is its purpose *today*?

The purpose of what we are labeling "the blasphemy effect" is to force those believ-

ing the Truth—to rethink their views about moral issues. Or, from another perspective: It is to knock people "sitting on the fence" of life, off of that fence, and bring them to a definite point of decision. Within our present world, this would be called "proselytizing" — which, even within the West may be considered both "impolite" and inappropriate. Yet, if a person is in mortal danger of making a fatal mistake—forcing them to "awaken" to that danger, is the most loving and appropriate action to take. (Consider a person sleeping, peacefully, within a burning building. They are having a wonderful dream of being in a hot sauna, on a very sunny day—and you awaken them to their danger in a raging inferno! How dare you!??)

Of course, Satan's purpose in the blasphemy effect is to get us to depart from the faith, abandon the Truth, and allow society at large to think they can get away with "making a deal with the devil." It has been a weapon unleashed with increasing frequency within this

(Continued on page 6)

country's history. For example: When first confronted with the concept of evolution (within a generally Christian nation)—the hope of persons teaching the concept was, that by directly confronting the children's (or college students') home bred beliefs via an authority figure the student would simply abandon their faith, without contest! This is why Scripture states that we should prepare ourselves with a defense (or apologia in the Greek, from which we get the term "apologetics"). When we suspect the "blasphemy effect" is about to be unleashed upon our horizon, we encouraged to go into intense study; Equipping ourselves with the knowledge and fortitude necessary to counter lies with facts; Disarming the flaming darts being launched against us (Eph. 6:16).

However, the above "blasphemy effect"-is now also being extended by those seeking to have precious souls "shoveled wholesale into hell" by openly blaspheming godliness—as they seek to completely pull the rug out from under our faith in God (while denying it, of course). Such was executed by a famous US personage who openly advocated for LGBT acceptance during a presidential election cycle, for example. In that case, the calculated move within an environment largely unprepared to resist such a presentation, simply "knocked over" moral barriers—even within the church, among many within our country, as persons were blinded by their determination to accept "the Man" for President!

Again: the key defense against such blatant attacks, is a sacred commitment to God, coupled with exercising due diligence in personal prayer & study: While studying both the Scriptures and the environment in which we live. Within the physical realm, this would be like designing an anti-missile defense system, against nuclear attack.

Waiting until the enemy launches a ballistic missile is no time to start "developing" a defense system!! It takes years of research to develop such defenses!

In another sense, the blasphemy effect may be unleashed in a manner similar to guerilla warfare: by launching Hit-and-Run –attacks on the public; by presenting insane proposals within the media, before backing off a bit. -As was demonstrated in the opening of 2023, for example, with the singing of "UNHOLY" at the Grammys -in a music video fully equipped with actors & dancers DANCING AS DE-MONS IN FLAMES on Sunday night, prime time programming. Imagine, celebrating Hell itself!*

And near the end of the year, another (less well known) "hit-andrun" incident was executed by Cosmopolitan magazine via an article celebrating abortion as a Satanic ritual. Of particular interest to us, within this latest attack on virtue, is the stated response of the woman who decided to accept the invitation of this openly satanic group:

> Why not?" she thought. The overall messaging just clicked with her. Read more about it at the link in bio. . . .

Obviously, this dear woman was anything but "prepared" for this satanic suggestion! She simply tripped over the wire into the fires (so to speak): Identifying her abortion as a religious ritual, in which she celebrated her own self-image.**

Again, it may be noted that one of the ways our Defense Department prepares for future wars is by intense intelligence gathering: fueling expensive research and development, while anticipating future conflicts. This "intelligence gathering" is what the Bible invites us to do in relation to our own future, while studying Bible prophecy. We are to watch for signs of deception:

²² For false christs and

false prophets will rise and show signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. 23 But take heed; see, I have told you all things beforehand.

Mark 13:22-23

35 Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming--in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning-- ³⁶ lest, coming suddenly, he find you sleeping. ³⁷ And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!"

Mark 13:35-37

These are warnings given within Mark's gospel (the second, of the New Testament "bio's" of Christ's life). Matthew's gospel gives an entire parable concerning the dangers of sleeping at midnight, in which the church-at-large is pictured as dozing off just before a "midnight cry." At this point the virgins (which Scripture denotes as true believers (2 Cor. 11:2)) —go running around in a panic, mustering up all they can to resist a terminal crisis that has arisen: a crisis so critical, that those who fail the test later find themselves knocking at Heaven's door: "Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!' 12 But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.' 13 Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming. (Matthew 25:11-13).

We have illustrated and illuminated the parable of the ten virgins many times within the UPLOOK. Our purpose today is to more fully examine the Antichrist's MO (motivation) at the end of the age. This examination will not be pretty, but remember that these events will take place after *many* "hit-and-run" incidents by the forces of Darkness. In light of this reality, it is advisable to keep ourselves aware of what to prepare for, in our "defense" of our eternal souls.

To accomplish this defense, we now turn to the "highly classified" pages of the Apocalypse (in John's Revelation): chapter thirteen. Within this next quotation, the Antichrist is called a "beast"—a personage gravitating to guttural and animalistic immorality (since animals are amoral). We pick up the narration after being informed that a key personage within "the beast" (the Antichrist global system) has just survived a mortal wound, in what some might call a "near death experience". Within this narration, please keep in mind that the "dragon" is a reserved symbol, referring to the devil, himself (Rev. 12:9)

> ³ And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast. ⁴ So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?" 5 And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months. 6 Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven.

Revelation 13:3-6 [emphasis added]

This is not merely a man "shaking his fist" against the sky, or using God's name in vain. This person will actively rant and rave against God, Himself including God's angels and all things Heavenly. He will "cast truth down to the ground, and prosper" (Daniel 8:9-12). I know, I know; this sounds a lot like what is going on already, but we must hurry on, for there are differing interpretations on what this event will involve. Many propose that this beast will actually stand in a physical temple. and declare himself to be God. However, it is important to note that the above text mentions God's tabernacle, in Heaven itself (also referenced in the fifteenth chapter, vss 5 & 6). Further, please note that the very next verse states, "It was granted to him to make

war with the saints and to overcome them. . ." (vs. 7).

In this context, we do well to note that the apostle Paul informs us:

are the temple of God and that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? ¹⁷ If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.

1 Corinthians 3:16-17

No, I am not blaspheming, although some of the above concepts may seem audacious to many. Therefore, we must hasten now to the final contest, and to the more obvious events, which our society and world have been preparing us for: Having conditioned us for a final test that will ultimately manipulate the monetary systems of the world. Yes, yes, you may have been doing your own homework and wondering about why the last pandemic insisted on vaccinating everyone (even those who have demonstrated natural immunity . . .). Or, possibly, wondered about our society going digital, and following a certain Sino-industrial complex's social credit scoring, of its own population.

Congratulations, if you have discovered that this is what "midnight cry" is all about (Matt. 25:6)! For it describes a day when theocrats, religionists, and sleeping virgins will no longer be able to deny that we are indeed at the end of the age. So, how close are we to this defining event? I believe it largely depends upon how many within the church-at-large are already asleep (1 Thes. 2:1-3). For certainly, Scripture clearly implies that "sleeping" regarding these matters will become almost universal. And then, the final test:

and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666.

Revelation 13:16-18

Scripture also states that an *angel* is dispatched with the assignment of declaring the core values that are necessary to resist this unleashing of the blasphemy effect, on that day:

⁶ Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth--to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people-- ⁷ saying with a loud voice, "Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water."

Revelation 14:6-7 [emphasis added]

And a another angel's warning:

⁹ Then a third angel followed them, saving with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, 10 he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. 11 And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name." 12 Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Je-SUS

Revelation 14:9-12

Why does the angel say "Here is the patience of the saints..."? It is because these are the ones who have patiently prepared themselves to successfully confront the blasphemy effect, and will prevail.

¹¹ And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.

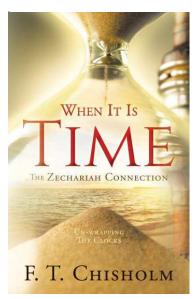
Revelation 12:11 (Dan. 11:32)

Amen

Maranatha Ministries

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A Comprehensive Approach

—to end time events

Acts 16:31

"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved."

What Must I Do?



mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in your heart that God has

raised Him from the dead, you will be saved

For with the heart man believes unto righteousness; and

with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

... If you will confess with your

Romans 10:9,10

In Other Words

Romans 10:11

For the scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be

ashamed.

Confess: your acceptance of His lordship over you. Accept: His work on the Cross —to be your Savior

Live for Him: with your new life.

-as a sinner (Romans 3:23, II Cor. 5:14-15)

Acknowledge: your need

ENDNOTES;

All Bible quotes are referenced to the NKJV © 1984 Thomas Nelson, Inc. - except where otherwise noted.

*https://stream.org/the-brew-satanism-takes-center-stage/

** https://www.instagram.com/p/CztaP-uOQUe/?img_index=1

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