

FEAST OF BOOTHS
FOT 2011 – Klamath Falls, Oregon
Thru: Mr. Steve Andrews

All human civilizations have been built with a singular, overarching purpose, which is best summed up by the following quote, from the book of Isaiah. (Isaiah 14:13-14).

I will ascend to heaven; above the stars of God (g) I will set my throne on high; I will sit on the mount of assembly in the far reaches of the north; 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.'

Hayle's words, the great cherub that covered the pinnacle of God's angelic creation, recorded in Isaiah chapter 14 verses 13 & 14; but they represent more than just his thoughts. Self-deification was that angles' sole ambition. Though thwarted in his initial assault, he was not deposed. He still sits as god of this world (II Corinthians 4:4 says that, Ephesians 2:2-3), and this adversary - powerful angelic being - used deceit to enlist the Sons of God, heirs to the family of Elohim, to vindicate his defeat, and live his obsession.

So in Genesis chapter 3 and verses 1-6 we read this:

Now (u)the serpent was more crafty (and the Hebrew word there is "arum", as it's transliterated from Hebrew to English – and that can be - that word "crafty" - can carry a positive or negative connotation. When it's used in a positive context the word means "prudent". And when it's used in a negative context it means "shrewd" It can also mean “ill-natured and ready to do anything by cunning, by stealth by trickery or by deceit”, to achieve a purpose. I'll leave it up to you to decide what God had in mind when He inspired this word to be used, in this context.

The serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, “Did God actually say, did Elohim actually say, ‘You (1)shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’” Now there's a reason he asked the question that way, and there's a reason he asked it of her, and not of Adam.² And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³ but God (Yahweh-Elohim – Jesus - and the Hebrew uses Yahweh-Elohim because it's wants to make clear that the one who was giving the instruction is the one we know of as Jesus. Yahweh being YHVH, I AM the Eternal, I AM that I AM - the I AM statements that we read in John chapter 6 and elsewhere in the New Testament. The one that we know of as Jesus, was the one giving the instruction, in the garden) and God said, or so Eve says God said, Yahweh-Elohim said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’ ” (this is not, in fact, what was said). What Eve repeated to the serpent, is not what God said. That is not the instruction Yahweh-Elohim gave. And there's no evidence from scripture that Eve ever actually heard the instruction directly from Yahweh-Elohim.

The instruction was given, and you can read it in Genesis chapter 2:16-17, The instruction was given to Adam, prior to the time Eve was created, or at least that's the way the story seems to read. So if she faithfully transmitted to the serpent the instruction she was given - she received it from her husband, and he altered it. He added the words, “neither shall you touch it, lest you die.” So already we have a problem, if mankind is adding to or taking away from clear instructions from his Creator. If Eve heard God say this, then she added to the instruction that was given. Because God doesn't change. If He gave the instruction on one occasion, it was the same on the other occasion. This act of adding to or taking away from what God says and gives, by way of clear instruction in His Word, I would suggest to you, is a act of self-deification.

I understand Adam's desire, perhaps, to make sure that he doesn't even get close to violating that instruction. Therefore, if I don't touch it I can't taste it, I can't take it. The problem is that once we decide for ourselves what it means to follow God's instructions, we have in that sense put ourselves above that instruction, which means we have put ourselves above our Creator. Adam was in a bit of a pickle.

But the serpent said to the woman, continuing on, "You will not surely die. (Now this was a lie, but it isn't the biggest lie he tells in this context.) For God knows that when you eat of it (that is when you eat of this fruit of the knowledge of good and evil) your eyes will be opened, and you will be like (or in the Hebrew, "practically equivalent". Practically equivalent? What did she hear, what, what do we hear? Practically equivalent, wow..., that's like almost being there. You'll be practically equivalent) to Elohim, knowing (and this word "knowing" in the Hebrew would probably be better translated in this particular context, to mean, to be given the ability to distinguish between good and evil. Not so much "knowing" good and evil. And, this word in the Hebrew refers to knowledge primarily acquired through the five senses. So let's think about what the serpent is telling Eve.

First of all, you won't really be Elohim, but you'll be practically Elohim, almost equal. And the reason you'll be almost equal is because you will be able to, through the knowledge acquired by your 5 senses, physical knowledge, you will be able to discern, the way Elohim discerns, between what is good and what is evil. Now that's a HUGE lie. That's bigger than, "you shall not surely die". And she bit. We know what the rest of the story says. And she bit.

The ability to discern good from evil, if such a thing were even possible for human beings, is not, and let us not be deceived, that is not what makes us like our Father in heaven and our elder Brother. It is the ability to discern between good and evil and the power to only do the good, that makes us equivalent to our Father and our Elder Brother. Without the ability to do good, the ability to know good is useless. We see it all the time, everyday, all around us, all over the world. But Eve wasn't thinking. She trusted her eyes. That fruit was look-in pretty good. The wisdom was enticing. All the other things designed to make her powerful were before her, and all she had to do "was take it". Our inability to discern good and evil is one of the most profound truths that we have learned and need to hold on too, and one that we should rehearse every year, at least, at the Day of Atonement, the day of Atonements. Pardon me.

Eve was tricked. She bought the lie. Paul said she did. (I Timothy 2:14). But Adam was not deceived - Paul tells us, which leads me to believe that Adam was the one that transmitted the instruction to Eve. He knew the truth, and he transmitted an instruction to Eve that was not completely the truth. And even though he knew the lie and he knew the truth, what Paul is telling us, in saying that Adam was not deceived, is that when, as it says in Genesis "Adam ate of that tree", he did it with the full knowledge of what he was doing. Now that word ate, in the Hebrew, is food. In other words, he consumed as a life sustaining food, the right, the self appointed right, to determine, through the use of his five senses and with all the physical knowledge he could possibly acquire, what was good and what was evil. And if you have the right to discern it, you have the right to define it. So he didn't just take to himself the prerogative of learning, through his own five senses what was good and what was evil, he took to himself the prerogative of being the judge of what was good and what was evil. Now we have an outrageous act of self-deification.

He literally said, with full knowledge I will ascend to the throne of Elohim. I will take the Father off His throne, and put myself in His place. He committed a Satanic act of self-deification, not unlike the one we read about in Isaiah 14. He submitted his will, and that of his progeny to a new lord, not Yahweh-Elohim, not His Creator, but to a new lord. And he set the course that we are now on. So when you look at the chaos, that is in this world, you would be correct to conclude that it exists because of what Adam did nearly 6,000 years ago. We witness the culmination of it, after many interruptions by God, to arrest man's multiple acts of self-deification. Mankind was from that point forward, an instrument in Satan's war and a

willing participant in his obsession, his obsession to depose the Creator and Author of life, the only true Sovereign. It was an act that demanded God's judgment and man was expelled from the garden and cutoff from the family of God.

Sometime thereafter Cain murdered his brother Abel, it was a foreseeable act perhaps, especially for one such as Cain who was undoubtedly raised on the notion that he was a Messiah of sorts. When you read Genesis 4, verse 1, the Hebrew is capable of being translated this way, Eve's statement might be translated this way: "I have gotten a man, the lord." Commentators don't like that so they, and translators don't like that, it's a little too blatant, so they say that, they translate it, "I have gotten a man with the help of the lord". But the Hebrew is very clear, the man is not just a man he's a strong man, he's a hero, he's a champion. He was the one that was supposed to restore what was lost in the garden. But, as we know he didn't, and maybe that's why when Adam and Eve had Able they named him vanity, Able.

One thing is certain. No matter how Cain got an opinion of himself, it was his opinion of himself that convinced him that he could worship His Creator as he chose, and not as he had been taught. And the sacrifices, whether instituted in Genesis or Leviticus, teach God's people how to worship Him. In Leviticus, as I suspect in Genesis, those sacrifices tell the story of the Messiah. We know that because we have Hebrews, chapter 10 primarily. In those sacrifices God literally takes His own Son to pieces, and demonstrates and illustrates for us how it is He works with mankind, to restore what HE lost in the Garden as a result of man's act of self-deification. Cain had no regard for any of that; and it isn't that Adam and Eve weren't aware of their purpose, when we understand (and we don't have time to deal with it this morning but when we understand) the Hebrew that's actually used in the instruction that's given to Adam and Eve in Genesis 1 and verse 28, it's very clear that what God wanted from them was for them to be a part of His family, to advance His purpose on the earth. And He warned them about the god of this world, in the instruction that He gave.

In any event, Cain committed an act of self-deification. He decided that he could worship God his way, and it would be ok. God would have to accept him, after all, he was God's child. That didn't work out to well for him, God wasn't pleased. And when he saw that his brother Able had managed to do things the right way. Wanted to get it right, got it right, got praised for getting it right, and Cain was left out; envy welled up inside of him. And it was Cain's envy that led to the murder of his brother Able. Another act of self-deification, taking the prerogative of human life out of the hands of God, and deciding that he had the power and the right to decide who would live and who would die. And he killed his brother.

The mercy and the love of God expressed to Cain is nothing short of phenomenal when we read the story. God doesn't immediately obliterate the man, as one might suspect He would, given God's sense of justice. Instead, He warns Cain. He sequesters him from society, prevents others from taking his life the way he took Ables', and then He warns him, and He says, He tells him (in Genesis chapter 4) to be careful, because the way of evil, that is, his way, Cain's way of doing things - the way of evil, lays crouching at Cain's door. In the Hebrew, crouching, waiting, it's lying there. Evil is always available.

The Apostle Paul, in Romans 7 and verse 21, makes a similar statement, about himself and his own nature. And the point is that sin isn't just and evil - forget the word sin, forget I used that word. Evil is sin but let's stick with evil. The Apostle Paul makes it clear that evil isn't just crouching, it's part of our nature. It's already a force, a life force. Something that has to be dwelt with, subdued, over-come, actively. We have to work to subdue it. Which is what God instructed Adam and Eve to do in Genesis 1:28. That's the world He wanted them to subdue. The world ruled by the god of this world.

Evil is always just one choice away. And thanks to Adam, it's part of our nature. There isn't a person sitting in this room, or standing, for whom that is not true. There isn't a person on this earth, for whom that is not true. When Paul describes the evil that's part of our nature, as a living force, he describes it in

the Greek as a force that leads us into captivity, and holds us in its power. Dealing with this is not easy, and without the ability to discern, when that is what's driving us, it can become an almost impossible task to overcome it. And that's why Cain was told he'd have to work to subdue it, but he didn't heed the warning, nor did man in general in that pre-flood civilization. And the unwillingness of man to work to subdue the evil that is a part of his nature, is itself, an act of self-deification. What makes you and I different, and it's huge, it's a huge difference, is the Spirit of God that motivates us to want to subdue and destroy the evil that is within us. The willingness, that the Spirit of God gives us to get it right, to do it right, to want it to be right, to submit our will to God, that's what makes us different. That what makes this (the bible) different.

The unwillingness of man - and when we get into a mode where we lack the courage to change, lack the courage to deal with that nature that's in us, we have yielded to the force of self-deification. We have decided, whether by laziness or by overt act, that what we think, what we want, what we need, is more important than what God wants for us, and needs us to do. And that's how the pre-flood civilization got to the point that it did.

I'd like you to turn to Genesis six and verse five. This describes a period of time in human civilization when efforts at self-deification had become universal, and had once again attracted God's judgment. Genesis six and verse 5 – The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great (the Hebrew is a very intense, connotes a very intense statement) in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart (now, this almost seems redundant to say it this way. Every intention of the thoughts of his heart. But in the Hebrew it's a very comprehensive statement, used to convey the fact that at the very core of where thought originates, there is only, poison and evil. So there isn't a thought that could ever come out of that source that would ever be anything but evil. That's the level to which humankind had deteriorated in that pre-flood civilization. That is the degree to which mankind refused, to deal with his own nature). Every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil. Completely devoid of good. It all sounds pretty redundant, but it paints an ugly, ugly picture of what human beings are capable of, when they cast off self-restraint. When they no longer care about getting it right. When they think they had it right. When they think their god. And then as if to put icing on the cake that's been iced a thousand times, every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil - Continually - it never quit. Makes you wonder if these people ever slept. Every thought, every device, every act, uninterrupted evil from start to finish. Completely uninterrupted path of thought and action). c ch. 8:21; Job 14:4; 15:14; Ps. 51:5; Jer. 17:9; Matt. 15:19; Rom. 3:23

And of course we know the result. One man and his family were spared destruction. Undaunted, humanity barely spared from extinction, set out to build, civilization anew. It's own civilization of course. And it was Noah's great grandson Nimrod, who, in the second generation after the flood, succeeded in creating a kingdom centered at Babel (You can read the story in Genesis 10:8-12). And of course the well-known symbol of Nimrod's rule was the famed tower of Babel, a monument to human self-deification. The tower is, even today, an iconic representation of man's desire for one world rule. Sovereignty over his own affairs, dominion over the earth, and his own self-made gateway to the throne of God (Genesis 11:1-4). Re-read the story in Genesis, understand what they were trying to build...

Nimrod's, and man's, ambition for empire came to an abrupt end (Genesis 11:5-8), because this act of self-deification, again, attracted judgment. God's judgment. God's judgment for mankind failing to follow one simple command - scatter over and populate the earth. Don't clump together. Don't re-create the cities that Cain began, as a means of protecting himself. Populate the earth, go back and fulfill the commands I gave your parents in Genesis 1:28. Do the things that you were created to do. But they didn't. They grouped together, they banded together, because they didn't want to lose what they feared most - the loss of their unity. They believed that their unity was their power. Why they thought they needed it with their Creator is something worth thinking about, but they did.

Still, despite their judgment, despite this judgment at the Tower of Babel, the unrelenting spirit of the Prince of the Power of the air, the one that animated Adam and Cain and Nimrod, persisted. Other kingdoms, and empires and civilizations followed, each, if we study their history - and we don't have to be careful about it, it's pretty obvious in most cases, if there is a written history of those civilizations, what they were attempting to do. Every one of them intended to prove that mankind could rule himself, control his domain and secure his supremacy on this earth, and do it without any orders from the top down. No God needed. Got that one covered.

Among those empires were four whose influence reached far beyond their territory of origin and well beyond their age of dominance. The once fledgling nations or city-states that morphed into world ruling empires still influence our world today. Every single one of them, in some way. They include the Neo-Babylonian Empire (625 to 539 B.C.), the Persian Empire (558-330 B.C.), the Macedonian Empire (333-330 B.C.) and the Roman Empire (241 B.C.- 476 A.D.). Their stories were anticipated in a dream that Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, had in the second year of his reign. In that dream he saw a great image with a head of gold, chest and arms of silver, belly and thighs of bronze, legs of iron and feet and toes of iron mixed with clay. You can read the story in Daniel 2, primarily verses 31-43).

Nebuchadnezzar was troubled by this dream because he couldn't remember it. He knew he had it, couldn't remember it. So he searched for someone who could both tell him the dream and its meaning. That led him to the young Jewish wise man, Daniel. Who, on God's behalf, revealed the matter to Nebuchadnezzar. Again Daniel 2, you can read the story. (Daniel 2:1-30). The head of gold, Daniel told Nebuchadnezzar, represented Babylon the finest of the kingdoms, finest of those empires. And he, Nebuchadnezzar, was a "king of kings". Someone truly special, someone to be exalted. A god really, among men. And Nebuchadnezzar believed it, of himself. You can read that in (Daniel 2:37-38). The chest and arms of silver symbolized the Medo-Persian Empire and the belly and thighs of bronze the Greco-Macedonian (Daniel 2:39). The fourth kingdom, the Roman Empire (Daniel 2:33 and verses 40-43), was symbolized by the legs and feet of the great image. The legs of iron signified the strength of this regime. The feet and toes, a combination of iron and clay, revealed another aspect of its character – its strength would be compromised by its pluralistic nature causing endless internal divisions.

The image that Nebuchadnezzar saw, although four distinct empires, was a single statue, with one head. Which doesn't altar the fact that each of those empires had their own head. That's another part of the story we won't go into. What is clear is that what God showed Nebuchadnezzar in his dream was a vision of how Nebuchadnezzar, imagined himself – this special god, king of kings, capable of constructing what no man had ever built – a splendid and serene world empire capable of articulating a law for all men, everywhere. And, at least with respect to the integration of mind and continuity of purpose, a king that would create an empire of human civilization that would endure through time. Something that had never been done before. Nebuchadnezzar believed it, he imagined it. And as Daniel related the dream to him he must have been salivating.

For Daniel, and later the Apostle John however (Daniel chapter 7 and Revelation chapter 13), there was nothing civil in any of man's civilizations – each with its own head, had a heart and a mind of a beast. The future of man's continuing quest for self-deification and dominion over the earth apart from his Creators would be similar to the kind of carnage inflicted by these kinds of carnivorous predators. Bears, leopards. Human suffering, not peace and prosperity, would be the result of these attempts to create a serene, world-ruling empire. And they would be the enduring legacy of all of man's efforts, at civilization, at government.

Daniel 7 speaks of the progression of these world ruling empires. Among them, Rome was distinct from the others in very important ways. It is described as the one that would crush and break the others and

then subsume them. To some degree they would lose their identity. But they never really died. So when we come back to the book of Revelation we see, a revival if you will, or the presence of them existing, folded into the Roman empire. Attributes that survive. According to Daniel's prophecy, and the Revelation, Rome would continue to exert its influence widely until such time as the Kingdom of God would fall on that empire and crush it, and then rule the world, forever. For all eternity. (Daniel 2:41-44 and 7:9-14) tells that story, in ways we might not appreciate; while all those empires went, Rome stayed.

It is a fact of history that after the death of Marcus Aurelius there was a fracturing from which the Roman Empire never recovered. Two legs, east and west. A division that never recovered. The western Empire was centered at Rome where the Senate resided. The eastern Empire was established at Byzantium (Constantinople now) and was formally recognized by the emperor Diocletian in about 286 of the C.E. By 293 of the C.E. each capital had its own "Augustus" (that is its own ruler) who was supported by his own Caesar - his own god, man god. And that Caesar ruled, allowed the Augustus to rule, by the grace of god. That Caesar was god, was viewed as god, was worshipped as god. He was a sort of king of kings, a man god messiah.- deified as god and emperor (JPVD Balsdon Rome the Story of an Empire pp.217-229 this is the precursor to the religious and political doctrine known as the "Divine Right of Kings"). You can read, in most good history's of the Roman Empire, about that particular event, those particular events. As Diocletian envisioned it, the division was permanent. And in time, the Empire that once seemed unassailable appeared to have collapsed. Mortally wounded. Appeared to have died, nascent, sleeping, slain. So again, I ask, in what manner can it be said that Rome stayed? Daniel said that all the others went, but Rome didn't. It endured until the end.

In the 1921 edition of his compendious and magisterial history of human civilization , H.G. Wells wrote this "...while the smashing of the Roman social and political structure was thus complete, while in the east it was thrown off by the older and stronger Hellenic tradition, (that is it reverted to Greek traditions) and while in the west (and later by the way Ottoman, Islamic, what we now see as Islamic, Persian traditions) as it was broken up into fragments that began to take on a new and separate life of their own, there was one thing that did not perish, but grew, and that was the tradition of the world empire of Rome and of the supremacy of the Caesars,"(1) (the man gods, the kings of kings). Wells goes on, The motivation to preserve that tradition was because "...leaders and kings of the barbarians...were capable of conceiving of some mighty king of kings greater than themselves and giving a real law for all men, and they were ready to believe that elsewhere in space and time, and capable of returning presently to resume his supremacy, (gone but not forgotten, coming back, revived) Caesar had been just such a king of kings. Far above their own titles, they esteemed and envied the title of Caesar." Mankind, coveting, what only our God rightfully possesses...

Wells continues, "The international history of Europe from this time henceforth is largely the story of kings setting up to be Caesar and Imperator (Emperor)."²

1 H.G. Wells, The Outline of History, Being a Plain History of Life and Mankind, 3d Edition, 1921, p.492.

2 Id.

Wells then goes on to note that when the reality of the Roman Empire was destroyed in the fifth century A.D., (having been overrun, finally) the legend of what it was had freedom to expand. (Not the truth about what it was - the "Legend" of what it was) "Removed from the possibility of verification, Wells says, the idea of serene and splendid Roman world supremacy grew up in the imagination of mankind..." (Man's desire to create one world government - In the image of Rome. Of the Roman empire. To rule earth, to govern, apart from God - grew up in the imagination of mankind. You might say, worshipped by mankind.

The “Caesaring” of Europe, as Wells refers to it, began almost immediately. Initiated in the “Eastern” or Byzantine Empire, it expanded to the west with Justinian the 1st, and continued until after The Great War of 1914-1918. That conflict brought to an end the reign of at least four Caesars (as recently as 100 years ago, the imaginations of Caesar's was still alive in Europe) – the German Kaiser (a word for Caesar), the Austrian Kaiser, the Russian Czar (another word for Caesar) and the Czar of Bulgaria. With the defeat of Hitler and the axis powers in World War II the Roman tradition of a serene and splendid world-empire and the supremacy of a Caesar – a king of kings – a man deified as god – to rule that empire appeared to have been destroyed, put to death, mortally wounded I believe is the phrase used in Revelation. Not just in Europe, but in the rest of the world as well) – at least that was the case until the rise of the European Union. And that analysis and recounting of history, biblical history, seasoned with some secular facts; that recounting of history fails to account for three world ruling empires – the Ottoman Empire, the British Commonwealth and the current, but crumbling, American Empire.

The Ottomans, with no intent to do so and with no claim of a connection to Rome necessarily - their connection was to Persia, and still is - reconstructed much of the Roman Empire geographically throughout the Middle East, Northern Africa, Asia Minor and southwestern Europe. The descendants of those people are a force today, and I think we know that. What role they play, will continue to play is unknown. But they will play a role. And what they share with Rome is the creation of a world dominating empire, and they're not secretive about that, ruled by a man, who they will deify as god. Just another attempt of human beings at human self-deification, to usurp the authority of the sovereign of all creation. That empire, they believe, will bring peace and prosperity to mankind - because it's done so well so far...

Neither the Anglo empire nor the American empire was an effort, in any sense, to reconstruct the Roman Empire. But one does not have to scrutinize our history, as the Anglo-American peoples, or look to deeply into our national institutions, today, to see the ongoing and profound effect the Greek and Roman influence have had in the development of those institutions, and the ideals that are at work in our nations. For example, the relief that is sculpted into the pedestal of U.S. Supreme Court building in Washington, D.C. is widely believed, by many Americans, to be a re-enactment of the last supper. In fact, the icons sculpted into that pedestal are of Greek and Roman philosophers. So, before we decide that the Judo-Christian ethic is the only ethic at work, in this great country that God built, we need to re-examine our roots, and tone down the National Pride just a touch... The Presidential monuments (if you've ever traversed Washington, D.C.,) literally call themselves “temples”, that's right, I'm not making this stuff up; and they are temples where those who believe in government “of the people, by the people, and for the people” can worship - not government of God, by God, and for the people God created, can worship. Temples to human government. Temples to a human assault on God's sovereign prerogatives. It's bold. It's just that blatant.

The sovereignty of the British Commonwealth was, and the sovereignty of the American empire is, for as long as it is, the fulfillment of the Almighty's promise to Abraham (in the book of Genesis, beginning in chapter 17, and repeated throughout, right up to the end of the book of Genesis). It is in that sense only, that the United States and Britain is or ever was, “God's” nation. Neither used their power or greatness to do God's will. And nonetheless, God used them to do His, and continues too, and will. And although the U.S. and Britain, those two empires are nationally and politically, the Israel of which the Bible speaks, they never did fulfill God's purpose, as He intended, for Israel. We never became His special treasure, as a nation, and neither did the Brit's. That, my brethren, is up to us. That is our task. That is our mission.

“Israel's” – that is, Britain and America's role in Satan's and man's last and greatest effort to create a one world human government ruled by its own king of kings – a man to be deified as god, has been monumental. Due to ancestral influences in law and economy, that literally trace their roots to ancient Israel and the law given to those people by God, we have economic and administrative institutions that

continue to enliven man's hope and faith, that he can, somehow, create the world that He has been trying to create from the beginning of time.

The rule of law, self-government and market based economics are biblically sound foundational principles for organizing human life. Those who engineered the British civil war thought to employ modified versions of those principles, but could not complete the task - there was this pesky thing call the Monarchy, which just refused to go quietly into the night – but maybe that's because God promised king David that he would always have someone in his line, family line, to sit on the throne. So that revolution had to be completed in the American colonies, and indeed it was. And our founding fathers supposed they were employing, along with philosophies from Greek and Rome, certain Judeo-Christian principles in the establishment of this nation. But they substituted man's law for God's, human, democratic, self-rule for responsible self-government and free market economics for the responsibility that each of us has to use natural God made resources to create material wealth, and responsibly use that wealth to eliminate poverty and to create and stabilize community.

Historically, monarchies dissolved because senseless wars were fought to preserve royal privilege, wealth, and because people starved. And they don't do that very long. In our lifetime we have been witness to the complete collapse of political structures in the name of man's pursuit of prosperity, in the name of man's pursuit of liberty. We continue to witness a global revolution that began in 1989 when the Berlin wall came down and the Soviet Union imploded, both politically and economically.

For more than three hundred years now, economics has led politics. We need to pay attention to that fact. Because it's becoming an ever increasing element in what's happening in the world around us, in the development of this great world empire, that will rise to rule. Prosperity in our world has come to mean infinite growth – how grossly delusional, how perverted can a concept like infinite growth be in a world of finite resources. Can you think of anything dumber. I can't. But we believe it, in general. We believe we're entitled to it. We believe we have a right to it. It's our prerogative.

As if to prophecy of this time that we are now in, The Economist newspaper wrote this in 1991, (20 yrs ago):

There is now no alternative to the free market as the way to organize economic life. The spread of the free-market economics should gradually lead to a spread of multi-party democracy, because people who have got free economic choice tend to insist on having free political choice too. In short, the organization of human life can now be based on many individual decisions, not orders from the top issued in the name of scientific certainty. (and certainly not issued in the name of God Almighty). The Economist, The hole he left behind, December 21, 1991, p.9.

Individual choices - you have just become your own god. And the free market insures that no one will ever interfere with your acts of self-deification. How's that work'in out for us, twenty years down the line? For more than two decades the “free market” has driven and dominated - world politics, world economies, and it has produced tremendous wealth and prosperity - and it's all been financed with debt. “Leveraged” is the future of every human being from this day forward. Leveraged to destruction, beyond repair. Humanly speaking, there is no "fix" for this mess we're in. No man, no woman, no group of men or women, no matter what they tell you on CNN or Fox, depending on which political persuasion you adhere to, hopefully neither, has a solution for this.

It is over... Europe will fail..., and what will emerge from what “Israel” created, and has been emerging for sometime, is Satan's, and man's, last great hope – an unprecedented geo-political force whose global economic influence will eclipse all previous empires and civilizations including this American empire.

Revelation tells you what will happen. It is the Word of Jesus Christ, it is not my word, it is not my promise. It is the Word of Jesus Christ. It will happen. It doesn't matter how dead this civilization looks, it will happen. I don't know how, and I don't know when? No one does. And if anyone tells you they do their lying. There making it up, and they themselves are grossly deluded in acts of self-deification. This is in God's control, but it is happening and you're not dreaming. And what you have believed, from the time you began to believe, you can continue to believe. God is working on this earth, and what He said will happen, WILL HAPPEN, and you needn't doubt it.!

It will become a world empire like no other before it. It will arise as (Revelation 13:1-8 says) “out of the sea,” that is, out of the swelling angst of the people from nations all over the world. This is something the PEOPLE will create! But they can't give it life, they can't quite make it - work. Because they don't have the power to do it. So there's another Beast that Revelation talks about. We call him the false prophet. This great world power that will rise, according to Revelation 13, will possess attributes reminiscent, not just of Rome, but of all of the powerful empires that preceded Rome. It's got to include everybody... it's a composite of the animals of Daniel 7, it will be like the leopard, with the feet of the bear and the mouth of the lion – Greco-Macedonia, Medo-Persia and Babylon combined. It is, if I may say it this way, comprehensively, in one figure, the “World Power” of all times, and all places, for all people.

It is the vicarious instrument of the god of this world, and his ambushing from the beginning, from before the time that mankind was created, from the time that he enlisted mankind in his war, and tricked him into believing in his own obsession. Satan is literally “all in” on this one, to use the poker term. All the chips are in, he's got nothing left. He is like Ben Bernanke - out of tools in his toolbox. There's nothing left in the kit. He's done it all. Every form of governments been tried. Every economic system applied. Every effort of man, every effort of Satan, failed, thwarted, disrupted, interrupted, stopped. And every assault meets with the judgment of the Eternal.

Described as a dragon, Satan gives this world empire (in Revelation 13:2) his power, his throne his authority, that hasn't happened just yet, but it's coming. Revelation 18 provides a description of that wealth, power and attraction that the Beast enjoys, because of spreading the wealth. And Revelation 18 is a snapshot of the way the world is before Jesus Christ returns. So we can expect, given the fact that trade is abundant, and everything is being traded, that we're not in the midst of some over-arching World War, because if we were, those things couldn't be done. You can see, we can see the affect of war now on this society, on this civilization. Somehow man thinks he's got it solved, somehow man thinks he's resolved the issue.

The head of this beast receives what appears to be his “mortal wound” (Revelation 13:3), he did many moons ago. But it, unlike Nebuchadnezzar, who was humbled from his self-deifying pride, and had his beast-like nature changed to that of a human; THIS BEAST undergoes no such metamorphosis. Slain, sleeping, appearing to be dead for a period of time, this beast remains a beast, and it will enjoy a revival to life (Revelation 13:11). Now today, its revival seems perhaps even less likely, as Europe stands on the verge of total economic and political collapse. Governments are failing everywhere, including America. Economy's are bankrupt, everywhere, including America. Human civilization, as you and I know it, appears to be all but dead, everywhere. But we can rest assured, because the bible says it, that this world will not collapse, at this time, as a result of this. How that mortal wound gets healed, I don't know. How human civilization rises out of the flames, I don't know, except to say, what the scripture says.

Because Revelation describes in chapter 11:7 and 17:8 – a world power that arises, not out of the earth but out of the bottomless pit. It arises with the power of Satan. A world whose culture and wisdom is really nothing more than a pretense to superior knowledge and philosophy but, in fact, is Satan's last and final gasp at veiling the self-deifying nature and the cultive image that has been human civilization from the

beginning. No truth in it whatsoever. A complete fraud. So when God calls us to worship Him in Spirit and in Truth - that's what He means. That we tell ourselves the truth, that we live the truth, that we become the truth.

Revelation 13 lays bare the heart of this world, and this world's power. It shows us what it is, an unrelentingly cruel and murderous government that sports an image of religious charity. Notice the images of lambs, that are sprinkled throughout Revelation 13 and elsewhere. Governed by a “dragon” made to look like a “lamb,” this beast grants or withholds the necessities of life, we call them euphemistically – economic sanctions – in order to subdue its subjects and impose its will. It's all there in Revelation 13, that's the nature of this beast. Human civilization, serene and splendid, really? I don't think so. I think Daniel had it right. I think the Apostle John got it right.

According to Daniel and Revelation this beast's life continues for about 42 months. And during that time the whole earth, including you and me and all of God's people, were it not for His mercy in calling us and giving us His vision by His Spirit, would be deceived. The whole world is deceived, will be deceived. An amazing supernatural phenomenon will bolster the credibility of that beast. But as with every other effort at self-deification, the Lord and the Messiah will execute judgment to vindicate the one true God and Father of all.

This is the appointed time for the nations (tone ethnon) in Revelation 18, your bible probably says "the dead". That's not what the oldest Greek manuscripts say. The oldest Greek manuscripts say (tone ethnon) - the time of the nations, to be judged (Revelation 11:18). Those nations, as it says in Psalm 2, imagine a vain thing. What is that vain thing? - "That they can be god!" That they can rule as God rules. Create what only God can create. What only His “Spirit”, is capable of. This is the appointed time for the nations to be judged, and IN THAT DAY (Isaiah says – chapter 2 and verse 12) the LORD of hosts will have a day of reckoning against everyone who is proud and lofty, and against everyone who is lifted up, that he may be abased. And IN THAT DAY, we're told: Seven Trumpets will sound an alarm and a warning and a call to war. A war spoken of by the prophet Joel.

Revelation 8 tells the story of those seven trumpets:

The First Trumpet – sounds and a third of the earth is burned up, a third of the trees and a third of all the green grass.

The Second Trumpet – “Something that looked like an enormous blazing mountain” was thrown into the sea, turning a third of the sea to blood and killing a third of the creatures in the sea and destroying one third of the ships. Lot of death here. Lot of destruction.

The Third Trumpet – A great “star” fell from heaven. It was burning and it fell like a torch on a third of the rivers and springs of water. (Nothing grows without fresh water, I don't know if you noticed that. I think you have. Lot of death here.) The star had a name – bitterness. It made the waters bitter killing many people.

The Fourth Trumpet – A third of the sun, moon, and stars will go dark. - Things don't grow without light. - Life is under attack, by God. People are being punished. Judgment is being executed, for man's many acts of self-deification, and for (read it in Revelation) worshipping the Beast!

The Fifth Trumpet (the first woe) - The destroying angel, the beast that comes out of the abyss for five months – has no permission to kill or hurt you or me, thank God. But Satan gets to torture his own, for five months. The god of this world torturing anyone who doesn't have the Seal of God.

The Sixth Trumpet (the second woe) – A third of mankind (more than 2 billion people in today's terms) killed by "fire, smoke and brimstone" at the hands of an army of 200,000,000.

The remaining, approximately 2/3 of mankind still refuses to change. They want what they want. And they want to be "God" their way. That's what they want.

Revelation 9:20: (tells you that) And the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, so as not to worship demons, and the idols of gold and of silver and of brass and of stone and of wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk; verse 21, and they did not repent of their murders nor of their sorceries nor of their immorality nor of their thefts.⁴ (4) The New American Standard Bible, (La Habra, California: The Lockman Foundation) 1977.

These events are described in climactic terms but, they occur over a period of time. We don't have a specific point of reference for when that all begins, so we don't get to compute the day or the hour of the return of Christ. But we do know that 42 months and 3 and ½ days after the two witnesses conclude their testimony the second woe is past and the return of Jesus Christ is imminent. We still don't know when, but it is imminent. You can read it in Revelation 11:7-14.

Then, at the right time, a strong angel declares (recorded in Revelation 10:5-7) THERE SHALL BE DELAY NO LONGER. - God is just DONE..., and He's sending His Son back..., and now the carnage really begins... All of that stuff, was just to see if mankind, or who among men and women, wanted to change? Had the courage to abandon their own will and yield to God...

THERE SHALL BE DELAY NO LONGER - Revelation 10 verses 5 thru 7:

The Seventh Trumpet (the third woe) – Revelation 11:15-16

15 And the seventh angel sounded; and there arose loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord, and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever." And in Revelation 14, you can read what Jesus and His reapers have to do in order to establish His sovereignty over this earth, and to make the kingdom His... and it's a blood bath...

In fact, when those reapers begin their work, seven final plagues are poured out upon an unrepentant humanity. And as a result, people are stricken with sores in their flesh. All life in the sea dies and all fresh water on earth is rendered unfit to consume. The sun scorches those who do not die. All of this results in the death of an untold number of human beings until finally, the enraged family of man (deprived of their opportunity to sit on the throne of God) comes together in Jerusalem in an effort to destroy Jesus Christ and his army of saints. The scripture does not say how many millions or billions of people are killed through this process, of reaping and bringing the world and mankind into submission, to our great God and Sovereign.

But the prophet Isaiah describes it this way: Isaiah 13:2-12: This is the beginning of the Millennial Feast of Tabernacles, the time that we are now here to look forward to and celebrate.

Lift up a standard on the bare hill, on the "bare" hill..., ok. Raise your voice to them, Wave the hand that they may enter the doors of the nobles. Verse 3, I have commanded My consecrated ones, I have even called My mighty warriors, My proudly exulting ones, To execute My anger. 4 a sound of tumult on the mountains, like that of many people! A sound of the uproar of kingdoms, of nations gathered together! The LORD of hosts is mustering the army for battle. Verse 5, They are coming from a far country from the farthest horizons, the LORD and His instruments of indignation, to destroy the whole land. 6 Wail, for the day of the LORD is near! It will come as destruction from the Almighty. And verse 7, Therefore all hands will fall limp, and every man's heart will melt. Verse 8, And they will be terrified, Pains and

anguish will take hold of them; they will writhe like a woman in labor, they will look at one another in astonishment, their faces aflame. Verse 9, Behold, the day of the LORD is coming, cruel, with fury and burning anger, to make the land a desolation; and He will exterminate its sinners from it. 10 for the stars of heaven and their constellations will not flash forth their light; the sun will be dark when it rises, and the moon will not shed its light. Verse 11, Thus I will punish, *the world*, for its evil, (for its acts and practices of self-deification) and the wicked for their iniquity; I will also put an end to the arrogance of the proud, and abase the haughtiness of the ruthless. I will make mortal man scarcer than pure gold. (How much carnage? How many people will actually enter the Millennial rest, when the Kingdom of God comes, to rule this earth? Not many...) I will make mortal man scarcer than pure gold 12 and mankind than the gold of Ophir. Not many.

At the beginning of the millennium, the Feast of Tabernacles, the earth will have been seriously depopulated. Cities with their dwellings will have been destroyed. Humanity will, of necessity, have to dwell in temporary dwellings – just as we do today... but not this nice. We are reminded that although in this world we are not of it. That's what this time reminds us of. There is a difference between us. God has made a difference, placed a difference between us. We are, hopefully, humbly, those people who a shoo any thought of self-deification. Any thought of opposing our Maker, and His Kingdom and His World.

We are not among, nor do we wish to be, among those who oppose God, and live to deify themselves. We remind ourselves that in this world, we are sheltered, (that's what this should teach us). That even when we leave our homes, all that we know, all that we love, all we've worked for, all that God has given us, even when we leave that, we're sheltered, covered, tabernacled, that what it means, by God. As we make our way through, not over, around or above, through this life. And it isn't easy, and it's getting tougher, and you know that.

We live in temporary dwellings during the Feast of Tabernacles to teach us that *when* the Kingdom of God reigns on this earth we will need to be, for those who survive His judgment, a covering. They will need a place to dwell because their dwelling places will no longer exist. More than that, they will need a spiritual covert... They will need us to tabernacle them. (see, 1 Peter 2:1-5).

It's interesting, the word for tabernacle in Hebrew is *Suka*, SUKA is the English transliteration, and it means dwelling, home, tent or shelter. It was created, derived from a root word Sakak, a word that means to block or stop something. It means to cover something with the connotation of protection – and more specifically, protection from birth. A new world will be born. And from the beginning of that new world, our job, spiritually speaking and physically, will be to protect and to cover those of the Nations who enter the Millennial rest. Who survive God's judgment. Those that God has determined will be work with at that time. And it won't be many, to start, apparently. The devastation will be extensive. The destruction..., unthinkable. Impossible for us to grasp..

The Suka, the booth, was created by knitting leaves together to prevent rain from getting in and to guard against elements of wind. God is knitting us together, as His people. You can read it in 1Peter 2, verses one through five.

That's what God is doing with us. Knitting us into a tabernacle, a covert, a place for the nations to dwell, (on the other side of His judgment), a place where they can be nurtured and healed. More important than the rebuilding of homes and dwelling units and farms, and whatever else is going to be done, and it's all going to have to be done. What we provide as a spiritual covering is the restoration of justice, peace, mercy, faith and love, to a world devoid of those things. There is work to do at that time, much work, and as I used to tell my boys when they were playing water polo, you can only play as well as you practice. If we're going to do it right, then, we better do it right now. And since we're here to rejoice, lets rejoice in this:

Isaiah 14:3

When the LORD has given you rest from your pain (and make no mistake, this is about you and me, this is not about physical Israel), when the LORD has given you rest, from the hard service with which you were made to serve, 4 you will take up this taunt against the king of Babylon: (against Satan) “How the oppressor has ceased, the insolent fury (1) ceased! The LORD has broken the staff of the wicked, and the scepter of rulers, 6 that struck the peoples in wrath with unceasing blows, that ruled the nations in anger with unrelenting persecution. 7 The whole earth is at rest and quiet; they break forth into singing. 8 The oppressors rejoice at you, the cedars of Lebanon, saying, ‘Since you were laid low, no woodcutter comes up against us.’ (since Satan has been destroyed the earth is left at peace). 9 Sheol beneath is stirred up to meet you (there’s a pit waiting to greet you); it rouses the shades to greet you, all who were leaders of the earth; it raises from their thrones all who were kings of the nations. 10 All of them will answer and say to you: ‘You too have become as weak as we! (In reality, in the face of the Almighty and the Eternal, Satan has no power whatsoever. And the day comes when that’s made abundantly clear. For us, we need to believe it now. Because things can get tough..(ER). And we need to know where our power lies. Because we, as human beings, are powerless). All of them, verse 10, that is the kings of the nations, will answer and say, you too have become like us!’ 11 Your pomp is brought down to Sheol, the sound of your harps; maggots are laid as a bed beneath you, and worms are your covers. (Speed that day...) u Mic. 2:4; Hab. 2:6 v [Jer. 51:13; Rev. 18:16] 1 Dead Sea Scroll (compare Septuagint, Syriac, Vulgate); the meaning of the word in the Masoretic Text is uncertain w [ch. 9:4] x [Jer. 50:23] y ch. 44:23; 49:13; 54:1; 55:12

What remains then is the family Elohim – Gods, that is you, and me, and the Saints, become God’s, by the Father’s design – by His gift and according to His purpose - a purpose, a purpose which He established from the very beginning.

Man never did need to steal, or take by force, what God was willing, from the beginning, to give him... (Selah).

So what has it been all about...? – The unrestrained envy of a rogue angel named Haylel – because He couldn’t be what YOU can become. What you are becoming. What you will be.

Our Father, will give to us, and always has been willing to, glory, honor and immortality. We only have to do it His way. The Feast of Tabernacles teaches us to become what He is.

Love...

End.

Given thru: Mr. Steven Andrews
2011 - Feast of Tabernacles - Klamath Falls, Oregon.

Footnotes:

PAGE 1

g Dan. 5:22, 23; [2 Thess. 2:4]
u Matt. 10:16; 2 Cor. 11:3; Rev. 12:9; 20:2
1 In Hebrew you is plural in verses 1–5

PAGE 3

c ch. 8:21; Job 14:4; 15:14; Ps. 51:5; Jer. 17:9; Matt. 15:19; Rom. 3:23

PAGE 6

1 H.G. Wells, The Outline of History, Being a Plain History of Life and Mankind, 3d Edition, 1921, p.492.

2 Id.

PAGE 11

3The New American Standard Bible, (La Habra, California: The Lockman Foundation) 1977.

PAGE 12

4The New American Standard Bible, (La Habra, California: The Lockman Foundation) 1977

PAGE 15

u Mic. 2:4; Hab. 2:6

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