

As We see the Day Approaching

Contents

1. Introduction - 2
2. The Bond of the Covenant - 3
3. The Age of Multinationals - 4
4. America for Sale - 7
5. Israel and the nations - 11
6. God Confusion - 13
7. Caught in the Middle - 15
8. The Bridegroom and the Bride - 16

AS WE SEE THE DAY APPROACHING - Introduction

Heb 10:19-25

19 Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, **20** by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, **21** and since we have a great priest over the house of God, **22** let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. **23** Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. **24** And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. **25** Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another — and all the more as you see the Day approaching. NIV

Lk 21 34-36

³⁴ "But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly.

³⁵ "For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth.

³⁶ "**Watch therefore, and pray** always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."

In any hour of history it is difficult for the people of that generation to grasp what is happening to them. God sends prophets and teachers to open their eyes but scripture teaches us that men prefer darkness to light. In The Book of Daniel King Nebuchadnezzar has a dream. He challenges the wise men of his day to interpret it. If they cannot he will kill them. He is not killing them because he understands the dream. He does not understand it either. Finally a young prophetic man Daniel interprets the dream. Even after the interpretation it is clear that the King does not grasp it. Very soon he is ordering people to bow down to a 90-foot idol of gold resembling him. The knowledge of prophecy does not awaken us. We are awakened within when we humble ourselves and invite the Holy Spirit to teach us. Click the link and read the passage.

Daniel 2 and 3

<http://www.gnpccb.org/esv/search/?q=Daniel+2>

This is an online study designed so that you can cross-reference the source material yourself.

The Bond of the Covenant – Behold the Goodness and the Severity of God
God's reason for bringing a society to accountability. Ezekiel tells the history of
God's love for Israel and how she turned from him. Are there parallels here for and
modern day nations?

Please study Ezekiel 16 carefully and consider these points.

<http://www.gnpccb.org/esv/search/?q=Ezekiel+16>

1. Ez 16 1-14 – Gods love for Israel personified as a baby a girl and finally a women.
 - a. He rescues her
 - b. Cleans her
 - c. Clothes her
 - d. Beautifies her
 - e. Loves her
2. Ez 16.15 - She falls in love with her reflection/ her own beauty
“But you trusted your beauty, and you used your fame to become a prostitute. You had sex with everyone who walked by. GW
 - a. Takes lovers
 - b. Exposes herself
 - c. Pays her lovers
3. Ez 16. 39 – Her lovers destroy her and carry her away
³⁹ I will hand you over to your lovers. They will destroy your platforms and tear down your illegal worship sites. They will tear off your clothes, take away your beautiful jewelry, and leave you naked and bare.
4. Ez 16.42 – Gods wrath subsides
⁴² "So I will lay to rest My fury toward you, and My jealousy shall depart from you. I will be quiet, and be angry no more.
5. Ez 20.33 – He gathers her from the nations and causes her to pass under the rod
³³ "As I live," says the Lord GOD, "surely with a mighty hand, with an outstretched arm, and with fury poured out, I will rule over you.
³⁴ "I will bring you out from the peoples and gather you out of the countries where you are scattered, with a mighty hand, with an outstretched arm, and with fury poured out.
³⁵ "And I will bring you into the wilderness of the peoples, and there I will plead My case with you face to face.
³⁶ "Just as I pleaded My case with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so I will plead My case with you," says the Lord GOD.
6. He brings her into the Bond of the Covenant –
³⁷ "I will make you pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant;
³⁸ "I will purge the rebels from among you, and those who transgress against Me; I will bring them out of the country where they dwell, but they shall not enter the land of Israel. Then you will know that I *am* the LORD
7. Ez 36 – A new heart and spirit by the Holy Spirit.

²⁴ "For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land.

²⁵ "Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols.

²⁶ "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

²⁷ "I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do *them*.

²⁸ "Then you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; you shall be My people, and I will be your God.

A New Covenant – Jeremiah 31.31

³¹ "Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah--

³² "not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day *that* I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD.

³³ "But this *is* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

³⁴ "No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD, for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

8. Ez 37 – A Body arises an exceedingly great army

¹⁰ So I prophesied as He commanded me, and breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great army.

¹¹ Then He said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They indeed say, 'Our bones are dry, our hope is lost, and we ourselves are cut off!'

¹² "Therefore prophesy and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, O My people, I will open your graves and cause you to come up from your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel.

¹³ "Then you shall know that I *am* the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O My people, and brought you up from your graves.

¹⁴ "I will put My Spirit in you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken *it* and performed *it*," says the LORD.

The Age of Multinationals - Multinational Corporations have left behind the old industrial economy based in nation states. Are multinationals forcing us to a world government that can regulate their activity?

1. Beyond the control of national laws
The Fight Between Nation States and Commercialism
<http://www.vexen.co.uk/countries/multinationals.html>
2. Bolivia and Bechtel – water privatization (article)
<http://www.pbs.org/frontlineworld/stories/bolivia/leasing.html>
3. Owning the genes – patenting creation (article)
<http://www.forbes.com/2002/06/26/0626targets.html>
4. Monsanto and BHT- Food experimentation on humans
Genetically Engineered Foods
http://www.innerself.com/Transformations/Genetically_Engineered_Foods.htm
5. Oil and it's derivatives – Global demand for 500 thousand products (article)
The Oil Crash and You
http://www.greatchange.org/ov-thomson_convince_sheet.html
6. CEOs and the average employee – The Rich and the poor 364x (article)
Are Corporate Titans Really worth the Billions the suck in?
<http://www.alternet.org/workplace/62301/>
7. Every system needs a religious base. Even Pharaoh –

²⁰ Then Joseph bought all the land of Egypt for Pharaoh; for every man of the Egyptians sold his field, because the famine was severe upon them. So the land became Pharaoh's.

²¹ And as for the people, he moved them into the cities, from *one* end of the borders of Egypt to the *other* end.

²² Only the land of the priests he did not buy; for the priests had rations *allotted to them* by Pharaoh, and they ate their rations, which Pharaoh gave them; therefore they did not sell their lands.

a. The Levites and the original idea

Levites Dedicated Instead of the Firstborn – Numbers 3:40

⁴⁰ Then the LORD said to Moses: "Number all the firstborn males of the children of Israel from a month old and above, and take the number of their names.

⁴¹ "And you shall take the Levites for Me--I *am* the LORD--INSTEAD of all the firstborn among the children of Israel, and the livestock of the Levites instead of all the firstborn among the livestock of the children of Israel."

⁴² So Moses numbered all the firstborn among the children of Israel, as the LORD commanded him.

⁴³ And all the firstborn males, according to the number of names from a month old and above, of those who were numbered of them, were twenty-two thousand two hundred and seventy-three.

⁴⁴ Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

⁴⁵ "Take the Levites instead of all the firstborn among the children of Israel, and the livestock of the Levites instead of their livestock. The Levites shall be Mine: I *am* the LORD.

b. The NT priesthood and the Clergy laity/Roman Catholic deception –
Constantine



Constantine's Deception

Emperor Constantine of Rome brilliantly executed this deception. Around 312 A.D. he supposedly saw in the afternoon sky a bright cross with the words, "In this sign conquer." That night Constantine dreamed that Christ bade him take the cross for his standard. From then on, his armies conquered under the symbol of the cross. Previously, Christians refused to fight in the Emperor's wars. But now it appeared that Constantine was fighting Christ's battles and many Christians were duped into joining Constantine's army.

Constantine was a sly politician. Despite some Christian sentiments, he ruled the empire as a despot, surrounding himself with oriental pomp. He put to death his oldest son, Crispus, and his second wife, Fausta. Constantine gained renown by passing the *Edict of Milan*, which granted all persons the freedom to follow whatever religion they wished. This ended the persecution of Christians and deceived many.

Even today, most people can't see through Constantine. They don't realize how clever he was at winning over his opponents. Prior to the *Edict*, it was against the law to be a Christian and many Christians were martyred. Constantine, like all shrewd leaders, wanted to appear benevolent. He desired to end the killing of Christians because it made the State look evil. He also wanted the Christians to be under his control.

Constantine realized that if you can't beat them, why not join them? Though he did not convert to Christianity until he was on his deathbed, he

showed sympathy toward the Christians. This caught many Christians off guard. They thought Constantine was their champion. When a controversy threatened to split up the Christians, Constantine came to the rescue. He called together a worldwide council of bishops and presided over the meeting. The Council settled the dispute by drawing up the Nicene Creed.

Constantine was amassing great power. He not only ruled in matters of State, but was also leading the Church. Here was a man directing Church affairs, who was not even a professed Christian. A joining of the church with the State began which continues to this very day.

Excerpt from The Great Deception – Steve Chaplains
<http://www.embassyofheaven.com/>

Just the Book – 2000 years of deception and error – Constantine & Augustine

Constantine

Emperor Constantine made Christianity the official state religion of Rome, uniting church and state, thus making himself the head of the church, giving himself the authority to call church councils, to decide everyone was Christian (or would be outwardly) and kill folk claiming to be Christians because either he thought they were not acting “Christian,” or they would not agree with his “Christian” beliefs and requirements. A church hierarchy resulted, and by 416 AD, infant baptism was required by Roman law

<http://justthebook.wordpress.com/2007/10/03/2000-years-of-deception-and-error-part-2a-constantine-augustine/>

[Ecology as a religious issue – Stewardship of planet earth \(articles\)](#)
[Ecology and Religion – Biocide The Death of Life: A Challenge to Christians](#)

<http://www.columban.com/ecotheoext.htm>
many links
<http://www.columban.com/maecotheo.htm>



1. I saw a sign – Two years ago I, Charles, saw America spread out before me like a large curving map. In the middle of the map was a large FOR SALE sign.
2. When Americans no longer own (article)
<http://www.commondreams.org/viewso6/0227-20.htm>
3. Agreements with lovers – Saudi Arabia, China
<http://www.thetrumpet.com/index.php?page=article&id=2265>
4. Cosmo Joy – I had a dream in 1976

COSMO JOY AND AMERICA 1976

I dreamt that a woman called America was on trial before a panel of five judges sitting on a very high bench. They represented nations or cities and they looked like Gorillas. After some debate over which of the five's jurisdictions America should come under, it was narrowed to two.

"Send her to Moscow" said one.

"No, give her to Cosmo Joy."

Cosmo Joy's face then appeared larger than the others.

In the next scene Ron Rohman was sitting in the back of a theatre. Down on the stage, a play was going on in which the action got increasingly lewd and degenerate.

Ron got up, went down to the stage and sat or stood right in the middle of it.

Through this dream I was given to understand that America would be turned over to the love of worldly pleasure for her judgement and not to the Soviet Union.

The second part of the dream indicated that Ron had and would have an intercessory ministry in the midst of a lost generation.

<http://www.theancientpath.com/DreamsVisionsIndex.htm>

5. The American Church and the Den of Thieves

Jesus Cleanses the Temple – Lk 19:45

⁴⁵ Then He went into the temple and began to drive out those who bought and sold in it,
⁴⁶ saying to them, "It is written, 'My house is a house of prayer,' but you have made it a 'den of thieves.' "

⁴⁷ And He was teaching daily in the temple. But the chief priests, the scribes, and the leaders of the people sought to destroy Him,

⁴⁸ and were unable to do anything; for all the people were very attentive to hear Him.

A House of Merchandise

<http://www.feasite.org/Foundation/fbchousm.htm>

a. Reflection in society

Den of Thieves is a [1991 non-fiction](#) bestselling work by [Pulitzer prize](#)-winning writer [James B. Stewart](#). The book recounts the [insider trading](#) scandals involving [Ivan Boesky](#), [Michael Milken](#) and other [Wall Street](#) financiers in the [United States](#) during the [1980s](#) such as [Martin Siegel](#), [Dennis Levine](#), Robert Freeman, [Richard Wigton](#), [Timothy Tabor](#), [John A. Mulheren](#), [Lowell Milken](#), [Robert Wilkis](#), and more.

Intertwining the stories of financiers, bankers, lawyers and the law enforcement officials who pursued them, *Den of Thieves* tells a tale of arrogance and complacency amongst the [Wall Street](#) elite. As [leveraged buyouts](#) and [takeovers](#) proliferated in the heady 1980s, information on which companies were being targeted became ever more valuable. The stock price of companies could rise enormously on rumors of a potential takeover. Those who were privy to that information before it became public could make huge sums of money. Stewart shows how some of the biggest names in American financial history were involved in one of the greatest insider-trading schemes ever and how their exposure and punishment sent shock waves through corporate America.

6. False Prophets of Greed – 2 Pet 2.1-3

¹ But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves.

² And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned;

³ and in *their* greed they will exploit you with false words; their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.

Mt 7 15 You Will Know Them by Their Fruits

¹⁵ "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.

¹⁶ "You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles?

¹⁷ "Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit.

¹⁸ "A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor *can* a bad tree bear good fruit.

¹⁹ "Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

²⁰ "Therefore by their fruits you will know them.

I Never Knew You

²¹ "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.

²² "Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?'

²³ "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

Robert Tilton is one of many examples of greed in present day ministry

<http://www.trinityfi.org/press/tulsaworld02.html>

7. The fountain and the broken cisterns –

Jer 2 13

¹³ "For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, *And* hewn themselves cisterns--broken cisterns that can hold no water.

Jn 4.13

¹³ Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again,

¹⁴ "but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."

8. Plastic dreams – In one generation. After WWII Plastic appeared – refer back to *Oil and its Derivatives*. Now even bumpers on cars are plastic. And what about credit cards?

Who invented credit cards?

http://inventors.about.com/od/cstartinventions/a/credit_cards.htm

The Secret History of the Credit Card

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/credit/view/>

9. Lost in space. Sorcery and the visual generation

The greek word for sorcery is pharmakia

a. pharmakia (or –eia) (farmaki/a, [NT:5331](#)) (Eng., "pharmacy," etc.) primarily signified "the use of medicine, drugs, spells"; then, "poisoning"; then, "sorcery," [Gal 5:20](#), RV, "sorcery" (KJV, "witchcraft"), mentioned as one of "the works of the flesh." See also [Rev 9:21; 18:23](#). In the Sept., [Ex 7:11,22; 8:7,18; Isa 47:9,12](#). In "sorcery," the use of drugs, whether simple or potent, was generally accompanied by incantations and appeals to occult powers, with the provision of various charms, amulets, etc., professedly designed to keep the applicant or patient from the attention and power of demons, but actually to impress the applicant with the mysterious resources and powers of the sorcerer.

(from Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words, Copyright © 1985, Thomas Nelson Publishers.)

Mediums -

http://www.soundwitness.org/pop_culture/psychic_mediums.html

media (plural of [medium](#))

1. Formats for presenting information.
2. (*with a definite article*) The journalists and other professionals who compose the mass communication industry.

Usage notes

When referring to *the media*, as in *the mass media*, i.e., the mass-communication industry comprising journalism and entertainment, *media* is usually held to be a singular noun (because it is not the plural of *medium*. It is a term derived from the concept of an industry communicating through different media, e.g., newspapers, television, films, magazines). In all other cases, it is the plural of *medium*, whether one is referring to artistic media, storage media (e.g., blank media, such as CDs), media players, etc.

Movies/TV and entertainment – These are referred to as mediums.

Television is a medium that allows millions of people to laugh at the same joke and still be lonely. TS Elliot

<http://www.sasked.gov.sk.ca/docs/ms20/mod2.html>

Things to consider a generation that has only known TV and mass media

- 1) *Agents of Sodom* – The other day I saw a young man walking through a mall wearing a leather jacket that said. CHILDREN OF SODOM. I began thinking of all the input he must have received to wear that. Most of that input is available through mass media.

 - 2) *Rewriting History* – History is made to be revised. Correctly adding to our knowledge of history through diligent research is helpful. It has become fashionable however to distort history for the sake of money. Many young people watching media presentations assume the person being described really did the deeds ascribed to him or her.
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Negationism>
 - 3) *Lying Stars and superstars* – We readily call all manner of people stars and more recently superstars. But this is only a recent aberration. Stars imply people to be looked up to and emulated, such idolatry results
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Superstar>
 - 4) *The Whore of Babylon* – However you see her this entity prostitutes those around her and brings them into corruption.
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Whore_of_Babylon
10. *Israel – America's friend!* What is the cost of friendship? – This relationship is pivotal to all Middle East events and is presently shaping the direction and fate of the United States of America. We sometimes wonder if Israel can survive without America but do we wonder if America can survive without Israel

Israel and the nations

1. Peace peace when there is no peace – Jer 8.10-11

Because from the least even to the greatest Everyone is given to covetousness; From the prophet even to the priest Everyone deals falsely.

¹¹ For they have healed the hurt of the daughter of My people slightly, Saying, 'Peace, peace!' When *there is* no peace.

Rev 6:1-4

I watched as the Lamb opened the first of the seven seals. Then I heard one of the four living creatures say in a voice like thunder, "Come!" ² I looked, and there before me was a white horse! Its rider held a bow, and he was given a crown, and he rode out as a conqueror bent on conquest.

³ When the Lamb opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, "Come!" ⁴ Then another horse came out, a fiery red one. Its rider was given power to take peace from the earth and to make men slay each other. To him was given a large sword. NIV

Have we come into this time when peace is being taken from the earth? It will not be the first time but this is the first time Israel has been amongst the nations when worldwide war looms.

2. The fig tree and the trees

Luke 21:29-33

²⁹ He told them this parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees. ³⁰ When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. ³¹ Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near.

³² "I tell you the truth, this generation ^b will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. NIV

Parable of the Fig Tree – An online teaching

http://www.parentalguide.com/Documents/Bible_Prophecy/Parable_fig_tree.htm

3. The age of the Gentiles –

Lk 21.24

²⁴ "And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

Could it be that the age of the Gentile church is decreasing and the earth is being prepared for Israel's ascendancy and Messiahs arrival?

[This Generation 1967-2007](#)

http://biblefocus.net/consider/v14Generation67/Prediction_of_Jews_regaining_control_of.html

4. 1967 and the 40 year phenomenon - Jerusalem has come into the hands of the Jewish people in 1967
(Section 3 A Biblical Generation
http://www.parentalguide.com/Documents/Bible_Prophecy/Parable_fig_tree.htm

5. Ancient empires and Bible prophecy – Ez 38 and 39 describe earthly powers that will war against Israel before her final Glory. Some present nation states could possibly be a part of that catastrophic event.
 - 1) Iraq - Babylon
 - 2) Iran - Persia
 - 3) Syria
 - 4) Egypt
 - 5) Russia
 - 6) Turkey
 - 7) Ethiopia
 - 8) Others

6. Israel is approximately the size of the state of New Jersey.

God Confusion

1. Monotheism and the false supposition – All roads don't lead to

Mark 12:29

29 "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one.' ^e NIV

a. belief in the existence of one god, or in the oneness of God; as such, it is distinguished from polytheism, the belief in the existence of many gods, and from atheism, the belief that there is no god. Monotheism characterizes the traditions of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, and elements of the belief are discernible in numerous other religions. Encyclopedia Britannica

b. Inclusive monotheism – Inclusive monotheism accepts the existence of a great number of gods but holds that all gods are essentially one and the same, so that it makes little or no difference under which name or according to which rite a god or goddess is invoked. Such conceptions characterized the ancient Hellenistic religions. A well-known example is that of the goddess Isis in the Greco-Roman mystery religion that is called after her. In The Golden Ass of Apuleius, the goddess herself speaks: "My name, my divinity is adored throughout all the world, in divers manners, in variable customs, and by many names." Then there follows a number of divine names, and this enumeration ends: "And the Egyptians, which are excellent in all kind of ancient doctrine, and by their proper ceremonies accustomed to worship me, do call me by my true name, Queen Isis." Encyclopedia Britannica

Monotheism more complete definition

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monotheism>

We see from this that the One God of the Judeo Christian heritage is not the one God of of Islam. They are different.

1) What the President said

http://patriotpost.us/opinion/entry.asp?entry_id=28084

2. The Name of the Lord. Only one name. The name is absolutely important
Acts 4:12 - Jesus

12 Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." NKJV

3. Characteristics of fundamentalism – **The rise of global fundamentalism**

http://ncronline.org/NCR_Online/archives2/2004b/050704/050704a.php

Professor Martin Marty writes

Fundamentalisms, fundamentalist-like movements, or movements with “family resemblances” to fundamentalism tended to include features like these:

1. They rose where a prior conservative, traditional, orthodox religious culture was present;
2. People in such cultures were threatened by the erosion or assault of what they considered to be “modern”;
3. They were patient if wary so long as the assault came from the Other, the outsider; but when members of the culture began to “turn modern” or to adapt and turn moderate, the emerging fundamentalists feared that their own identity and belief system would be jeopardized unless they acted;
4. Therefore, they re-acted; reactivity (more than reaction) came to be a decisive gesture for them and term for us; they argued that all true believers had to transcend apathy and must react, drawing the terms of battle from the corrosion of the moderate modernists and the threats of radical outsiders;
5. Their instruments and weapons for reactivity were “the fundamentals,” the real or presumed foundational elements of belief and practice, story and law (depending on what the various religions in question regarded as fundamental). They engaged in what we called “selective retrieval”: not bringing back and employing the whole past, but only those features that would help them fight back;
6. On the basis of these they developed philosophies of history that had to deal with beginnings and ends (as, in the West, in “creationism” and “apocalypticism”) and the meaning of present-day action;
7. Thus they had to summon an elect people who would work “under God,” toward specified ends, no matter what the day-to-day empirical situation held. They became agents of the divine, their groups are often choosing to be separatist and demarcated within precise boundaries.

4. The Trappist Monastery – In the late 1970s I visited a Trappist monastery. The lead person there told me he would show me something he had never shown anyone else. He took me down in the basement where they prayed. He pulled a blanket aside and said,
“This is where we practice zazen

It’s common that Zen monks chant the following before or after a meeting: “All beings are primarily Buddhas / Like water and ice / There is no ice apart from water / There are no Buddhas apart from beings.”

What is zazen? “Za” refers to sitting, while the original meaning of “Zen” is meditation.

The practice of zazen is simple to learn, yet is probably most difficult for many to sustain. Its primary importance in life cannot be understood without the experience itself and entering beyond it.

“Just let the thoughts pass, like clouds in the sky, neither opposing them nor attaching to them. Shadows pass and vanish. Images arise from the subconscious, then disappear. The brain becomes deeply calm.”

Master Dogen wrote in the Fukanzazengi: “The zazen I speak of is not learning how to meditate. It is nothing other than the way to peace and happiness, the practice-realization of perfect awakening.”

This Trappist monk went on to tell me that they were linking up with all monks everywhere to build a new world religion.

<http://www.43things.com/things/view/118247>

5. Governments new role to protect us from God – Increasingly such groups as the ACLJ are fighting to keep the right to practice religion in the public place while groups such as the ACLU are attempting to redefine public expressions of faith to exclude Christian beliefs.

<http://www.aclj.org/About/>

6. Liberty to do what? – What is our freedom really about? Liberty or license?

<http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/7547/liberty.html>

7. Differing apocalypses.

[Muslim, Jewish, and Christian End-Times Prophecy Comparison](http://contenderministries.org/prophecy/eschatology.php)

<http://contenderministries.org/prophecy/eschatology.php>

Caught in the Middle

1. A disappearing middle class
<http://academic.udayton.edu/race/06hrights/georegions/northamerica/china03.htm>
2. Polarization – What happens when the rich and the poor only meet together in death. Lk 16.19
<http://www.gnpccb.org/esv/search/?q=Lk+16>
3. Ignorance is bliss – entertainment
<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2003/07/03/politics/main561525.shtml>
4. My Childs future – What about the future of our children. We haven't mentioned the abortion industry and it's effect on the future. Have we sacrificed a generation to our pleasure as Israel did in Ezekiel 16?
In America
<http://www.christiannewswire.com/index.php?module=releases&task=view&releaseID=2454>
In Asia
<http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,281722,00.html>

The Bridegroom and the Bride

1. Knowing His Voice – Mt. 7.21

I Never Knew You

²¹ "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.

²² "Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?'

²³ "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

Lk.19 41

⁴¹ Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it,

⁴² saying, "If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things *that make* for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes.

⁴³ "For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side,

⁴⁴ "and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know **the time of your visitation.**"

2. The Blood of the Lamb/Word of our Testimony/Love not our Life to the Death
Covenant Rev 12 11

¹⁰ Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.

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.

¹² "Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time."

3. Trusting the Anointing/ The ministry of the Holy Spirit – 1 Jn 2:24

Let Truth Abide in You

²⁴ Therefore let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father.

²⁵ And this is the promise that He has promised us--eternal life.

²⁶ These things I have written to you concerning those who *try to* deceive you.

²⁷ But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.

4. Discerning antichrist 1 Jn 4:1 – Has come in the flesh

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

² By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God,

³ and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the *spirit* of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.

⁴ You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

⁵ They are of the world. Therefore they speak as of the world, and the world hears them.

⁶ We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit

5. A House of Prayer –REST- Lk 19: 45-46

<http://www.gnpccb.org/esv/search/?q=Lk+19>

The Church is a sanctuary, a place of safety. It is a place of relationship through worship and prayer. It belongs to our Father and it is His House.

a. Jn 4:24 ²³ "But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.

²⁴ "God *is* Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

b. Lk 17:26 – The Days of Noah and the Days of Lot

²⁶ "Just as it was in the days of Noah, so also will it be in the days of the Son of Man. ²⁷ People were eating, drinking, marrying and being given in marriage up to the day Noah entered the ark. Then the flood came and destroyed them all.

28 "It was the same in the days of Lot. People were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building. **29** But the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all. NIV

Noah had something to do. He would build an ark to preserve life. We have a work to do. There is a Church in need. We must join with Christ and build His church and the gates of Hell will not prevail against it. Noah was not in a hurry. He was steady and diligent waiting the hour of the flood. He heard the word of the Lord because He was listening.

Build Your House on the Rock

Mt.7:24 "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. **25** And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. **26** And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. **27** And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it

LK.8:21 But he answered them, "My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it."

Addendum

The views represented in the many reference links in this study are not necessarily my views. This study is intended to encourage you to think through the issues presented. It is my hope to be helpful to you as a fellow traveler.

Charles Ellsworth Smith
October 2007