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"Blessed be the LORD God of *Israel*; For He hath visited and redeemed *His* people, And hath raised up an horn of salvation for *us* in the house of his servant David; as he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began; That *we* should be saved from *our* enemies and from the hand of all that hate *us*; to perform the mercy promised to *our* fathers and to remember his holy covenant; The oath which he swore to *our* father Abraham, That he would grant unto *us*, that *we* being delivered out of the hand of *our* enemies might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of *our* lives." Luke 1:68-75; the Anglo-Saxon-Celtic-Germanic-Scandinavian people are *ISRAEL!*

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The Meaning of "This Generation"

by Pastor Lawrence Blanchard

Author's Note: The following article was written in response to a dear brother's challenge regarding the meaning of an important verse and phrase within the context of Matthew 24 which would have a substantial bearing on the interpretation of Matthew 24, that is, whether this was a prophecy to be fulfilled in the first Century AD or yet in the future. I hesitated to put this article in print, not because I think it is not worthy of consideration, but because any topic addressing the subject of prophecy is, often highly controversial and emotional. As Bible students may realize, there are many different views of prophecy and everyone, it seems, has an opinion. And while we can have friendly discussions about these prophetic views, I think it is important to put the subject of prophecy into its proper perspective. It is important, but there are far more crucial matters that need to be taught and put into practice - especially considering the decadent times in which we live. I do not desire, by putting forth this article to detract from the necessity of growing together in Christian love, or from keeping a central focus on the gospel of the Kingdom, repentance from sin, the local church, and the covenant message to our kindred people. Nor do I desire that this article be a lightning rod for controversy, nasty letters, or a challenge for a public debate. And since I have a full-time job, apart from the work of ministry, I am just plain busy, and must, therefore, concentrate my energies on the pertinent things of life. So, I simply submit this article for your consideration - to agree or to disagree. Either way, I do hope that you will enjoy and benefit by it. (These notes also apply to the article in the earlier newsletter, The Meaning of "Heaven and Earth" in Mat 24.)

This is a biblical analysis of the meaning of the phrase "this generation" as it is used in Matthew 24:34, especially in regard to the issue of whether the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ had already occurred in the first century AD. (the preterist view), or will occur sometime yet in the future (the historical or futurist view).

"Truly I say to you, **this generation** will not pass away until all these things take place."-Matt 24:34.

The latter view contends that the phrase "this generation," as it is used in Matthew 24:34, refers to a race of people who, in the context of the event of the Lord's coming in Matt. 24, will not pass away or physically be removed from this planet before the Lord's return. The evidence in support of this view is determined by the meaning of the Greek word *genea*, translated "generation," which is said to mean a particular race of people in Matthew. Additionally, this particular race is interpreted as that evil race descended from Cain. The passage used to support this interpretation is Matthew 23:33-36, which also contains the phrase "this generation:"

"*You serpents, you brood of vipers, how will you escape the sentence of hell? Therefore, behold, I am sending you prophets and wise men and scribes; some of them you will kill and crucify, and some of them you will scourge in your synagogues, and persecute from city to city, so that upon you may fall the guilt of all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, the son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar. Truly I say to you all these things will come upon this generation.*"- Matt 23

It is maintained that "this generation" here is used to describe the people Jesus was rebuking, calling them "serpents," a "brood of vipers," and those responsible for all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah." It is assumed that logically, "this generation" to which Jesus refers must be

descendants of Cain since it was Cain who killed Abel back in the Garden. And some of the two-seedline persuasion who believe that Cain was the offspring of the serpent, or had offspring through marriage into the serpent's race, believe it was that people Jesus was referring to who were, in fact, a serpent race. In support of this view and evidence it is asked, Why would Jesus even refer to these people as "serpents," or as those being responsible for all the blood shed since Cain murdered Abel unless they were a part of that race? It is a good question that deserves an answer.

The point is that if this view is correct, and this serpent race is still in existence continually wreaking havoc on God's elect, then Jesus could not have possibly come yet. In other words, "This generation" or evil race of people has not passed away from this planet and, therefore, Jesus is still to come in the future.

This analysis will examine this view in respect to a

IN THIS ISSUE:

The Meaning of "This Generation,"	1
Tax Revolt	6
Intolerant Tolerance	6
Legitimizing the Homosexual Life-style	7
The War is Not Over	9
Discrimination & Vilification	9
Media Keep Lid on Worst Holocaust in History	10
Celtic Cross & Golden Thread of Time	12
Religious Freedom Under Attack	14

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word study of the Greek word *genea* (and related words), its usage in the gospels and the rest of the New Testament, and finally, its usage in the context of Matthew 24.

Meaning of *Genea*

In classical Greek, *genea* refers either to “birth ... descent ... descendants, family, race (i.e., those bound together by a common origin)” or it means “those born at the same time [that] constitute a generation (‘three generations of men are a hundred years’ Herodotus 2, 142).”¹

In the Septuagint, *genea* is translated from the Hebrew word *dor* and “means generation, in which case the whole history of Israel is often regarded as a work of God extending through many generations (‘from generation to generation,’ ‘from all generations’).”²

In the New Testament, *genea* has three basic meanings:

1. “Those exhibiting common characteristics or interests,” such as in Luke 16:8;

2. “The sum total of those born at the same time, expanded to include all those living at a given time and frequently defined in terms of specific characteristics, generation, contemporaries,” such as in Luke 11:29; and

3. “The time of a generation, age”³ such as in Matthew 1:17.

From the above word study in classical Greek, and the Old and New Testaments, the meaning of *genea* apparently depends upon the context in which it is used. It certainly does denote descendants of a common ancestor, but also includes common characteristics or a particular time that a race of people exists. As will be shown, the latter sense is the most predominate primary usage of *genea*.

The Greek phrase, such as the one used in Matthew 24:34 (*he genea haute*) translated “this generation,” is a common one particularly demonstrating the idea of “the reference ... to a class of people who in this world stand over against the children of light and are further described as faithless (Mk. 9:19), faithless and perverse (Matt. 17:17), adulterous (Mk. 8:38), evil and adulterous (Matt 12:39), evil (Lk 11:29), crooked (Acts 2:40) ...”⁴ and so forth. Furthermore, in this Greek construction, as it is used throughout the New Testament, “**the temporal, ‘genealogical’ element is completely absent.** The emphasis lies entirely on the sinfulness of this class, this type of people”⁵ (my emphasis, LB). In other words, the phrase “This generation” does not denote the primary meaning of race as in a generational descent from a common ancestor. But rather, it refers, in its usage throughout the New Testament, to a class of people who share certain characteristics who are living at the same time, yet may also share the same ancestry.

Genea in Matthew

Let’s test this meaning of the phrase “this generation” throughout Matthew to see if the above referenced meaning hold true. First let’s look at all the times the word *genea* (generation) is used in Matthew. In Matthew 1:17, *genea* is in the plural form:

So all the **generations** from Abraham to David are fourteen **generations**; from David to the deportation to Babylon, fourteen **generations**; and from the deportation to Babylon to the Messiah, fourteen **generations**.

Here, the word *genea* referred to the stated “generations” of Jesus Christ in the Matthew account. This is a par-

tial record of the genealogy from Abraham and David to Jesus Christ. Obviously, genealogy has to do with ancestral descent. However, that is not the primary meaning of *genea* here. It refers to the **periods of time** (“fourteen generations”) marked by generational descent. If *genea* here meant only “race,” it would read, “So all the races from Abraham to David ... fourteen races.” Jesus was the descendant of 42 races? That does not make sense.

Next, Matthew 11:16, “*But to what shall I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the market places, who call out to the other children...*”

Here is the exact phrase used in Matthew 24:34 (*he genea haute*). Jesus is pointing out that the current generation who heard John the Baptist and Himself did not really accept one, but were instead fickle in their convictions. The phrase “this generation” may have included the racial aspect, but the primary meaning must have the emphasis of a temporal, contemporary generation of particular characteristics, that is, the members of one class of unbelieving people that heard both John and Jesus.

Now, Matthew 12:39, 41-42, 45: *But He answered and said to them, ‘An evil and adulterous generation craves for a sign; and yet no sign will be given to it but the sign of Jonah the prophet (v39);*

The men of Nineveh will stand up with this generation at the judgment, and will condemn it because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and behold, something greater than Jonah is here. (v41) The Queen of the South will rise up with this generation at the judgment and will condemn it, because she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and behold, something greater than Solomon is here. (v42).

Then it goes and takes along with it seven spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there; and the last state of that man becomes worse than the first. That is the way it will also be with this evil generation.” (v45).

Jesus was making a pronouncement against the “scribes and Pharisees” (12:38) who just accused Him of casting out a demon “only by Beelzebul the ruler of the demons” (12:24).

Significantly, Jesus also referred to the scribes and Pharisees as a “brood of vipers” (12:34), the same designation He used against the same people in Matthew 23 (see 23:13 and 33). It was they who were referred to as “an evil and adulterous generation.” The question is, Were the scribes and Pharisees “an evil and adulterous generation” because they were an inherently, genetically evil race as from the seed line of Cain, for example? Or, were they “an evil and adulterous generation” during Jesus’ ministry on earth because they were characteristically evil and adulterous? Let’s save the answer to that question until we get to Matthew 24.

Like Matthew 12:39, Jesus repeats the same indictment in Matthew 16:4 of the Pharisees, and now, also includes the Sadducees:

‘An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign; and a sign will not be given it, except the sign of Jonah,’ and He left them and went away.

Again, Jesus classifies the religious leadership as “evil and adulterous.” Were they evil and adulterous because they were the serpent race, or because they were simply

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evil and adulterous spiritually speaking? The answer will be given shortly.

The next “generation” verse in Matthew is interesting:

And Jesus answered and said, “You unbelieving and perverted generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring him here to Me.”-Matt 17:17.

Here, Jesus was not speaking to the Pharisees, scribes or Sadducees. He was addressing both His disciples (17:16) and the “crowd” (17:14) including the father of the son who the disciples failed to heal (17:15). Jesus called them all a “perverted generation.” Does it make sense that He meant a perverted race because they were of a serpent race? Or does it make better sense to understand that Jesus was rebuking them as a present day generation because they were characteristically “unbelieving and perverted”?

Finally, Matthew 23:36, *Truly I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation ...*

Jesus was prophesying against the “scribes and Pharisees” (23:2, 13ff), calling them “serpents” and “brood of vipers” (23:33), and that all the judgment and guilt of “all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah” would come upon them. He referred to them as “this generation.”

If the Pharisees and scribes here were of a serpent race descended from Cain, and if they were descendants of the one who murdered Abel, then this race would also be the ones responsible for the blood shed of all the prophets of Israel to Zechariah. So, in the first instance, it must be asked, Did the serpent race of Cain murder all the prophets of Israel? In fact, there were many prophets that God sent to Israel that were either murdered or mistreated by fellow Israelites. Does not even Jesus lament this fact when he said of the capitol of Israel and, by implication, the religious rulers of Israel:

Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling. Behold, your house is being left to you desolate!- Matt 23:37-38.

Was it not those in Jerusalem who were Israelites who killed and stoned “the prophets” like those of Jesus’ day that rejected Him as King and eventually murdered Him as well? And would Jesus have said to “Jerusalem” and to those listening to Him there, including the scribes and Pharisees, that He longed to gather them together if He was referring to a cursed serpent race? No.

Furthermore, if it is to be established that the scribes and Pharisees, those of “this generation,” were, in fact, a serpent race from Cain, then it would have to be shown that they were also not Israelites. The scribes and Pharisees cannot be both a mongrelized serpent race and of the Israelites/Adamic race at the same time. However, was not Nicodemus a Pharisee? Jesus called him a “teacher of Israel” (John 3:10). Why would Jesus even discuss with him the truth of being born from above (or ‘from the origin’ see **EXCLUSIVENESS OF ISRAEL**) or the way to eternal life if this man was a cursed race? It does not make sense.

And was not the Apostle Paul once a Pharisee, yet of the tribe of Benjamin (Philippians 3:5)? Certainly he was not of the serpent race.

The Pharisees and the scribes were also the subjects of Jesus’ indictment as He quoted from the prophet Isaiah:

And He said to them, “Rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: ‘THIS PEOPLE HONOURS ME WITH THEIR LIPS, BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR FROM ME.’”-Mark 7:6.

The Pharisees and the scribes were “this people.” According to the context of Isaiah 29 (where this quote above was taken from), “this people” refers to the inhabitants in Jerusalem. How then, could the Pharisees and scribes that Jesus was addressing be anything but Israelites, and not a cursed serpent race?

This is not to say that there were not some Pharisees and scribes who were of Cain and Esau and who knows what else. But in order to sustain the argument that all the scribes and Pharisees were of Cain racially and of a serpent race, one would have to include all the other scribes and Pharisees who were Israelites. This makes it too inconsistent to lump the reference of “this generation” in Matthew 23:36 to a serpent race.

Therefore, Matthew 23:36, and the phrase “this generation,” could not have primarily meant “race” but simply the religious rulers of that generation in which Jesus lived.

Genea in the Gospels

Let’s now look at the instances in the remaining gospel accounts where *genea* is used where it is not duplicated like some of those instances in the Matthew account that have been examined already. In Mark 8:38, Jesus stated this after preaching about exacting discipleship:

*For whoever is ashamed of me and My words in this **adulterous and sinful generation**, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.*

Would it be correct to substitute the word “race” for the word “generation”? Standing alone, it might be

possible. However, a quick look at the immediate context reveals that it is not race Jesus is talking about primarily, but the particular contemporary “generation” living at that time classified as “adulterous and sinful.” For example, notice the next verse that follows Mark 8:38 as Jesus made this prophetic pronouncement addressing the “crowd” and “His disciples”:

And Jesus was saying to them, “Truly I say to you, there are some of those who are standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God after it has come with power.” - Mark 9:1.

In the same breath, Jesus unites His coming “in the glory of His Father with the holy angels” (8:38) and the coming of “the kingdom of God ... with power” (9:1) with “this ... generation” (8:38) and “those who are standing here” (9:1). In other words, the phrase “in this adulterous and sinful generation” of Mark 8:38 refers to those who are standing with Jesus (“those who are standing here” -9:1) who also will either be ashamed or not be ashamed when Jesus comes, as well as some who will not die until the kingdom of God comes with power. The phrase “this ... generation” cannot refer to race but only to those Israelites who were present with Jesus in that generation during the first century.

When and how was the coming of the Lord to take place? According to mark 8:38, this coming would be “with the holy angels” (i.e. separated messengers), and in 9:1, the coming of the kingdom “with power.” These signs would indicate that it be at the same time as His coming in Matthew 24 when Jesus would also come “with power and

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great glory” (24:30) and with His “angels” (24:31). If the Mark and Matthew passages above are discussing the same event, then the Lord’s coming with His angels and with power would take place during the time of “this generation” - or those living at that time as the contemporaries of Jesus.

In the gospel of Luke, there are several verses that contain the word “generation”:

For He has regard for the humble state of His bondslave; for behold, from this time on all generations will count me blessed.-Lk 1:48

AND HIS MERCY IS UPON GENERATION AFTER GENERATION TOWARD THOSE WHO FEAR HIM.-Lk 1:50.

In the context of the above verses, Mary, the future mother of Jesus, is rejoicing because of her blessed state. If we substituted the word “race” in these two verses for “generation(s),” it would read:

For He has had regard for the humble state of His bondslave; for behold, from this time on all races will count me blessed.-Lk 1:48

AND HIS MERCY IS UPON RACE AFTER RACE TOWARD THOSE WHO FEAR HIM.-Lk 1:50

All “races” will count Mary blessed? Or, God’s mercy is “upon race after race?” The context reveals this rendering cannot be true because Mary is not talking about other races but only the race of Israel, the “descendants” of Abraham (Luke 1:54-55) **in their generations**. Thus, the word “generation(s)” here cannot mean race, although genealogical descent is present, but rather successive time periods marked off by the generations of Israel (“generation after generation”).

In the parable of the unrighteous steward, Jesus compared the characteristic of shrewdness of this steward with “the sons of light”:

And his master praised the unrighteous manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the sons of this age are more shrewd in relation to their own kind (genea) than the sons of light.-Lk 16:8

Here, genea is translated “kind.” The translators understood that this word represented a characteristic of cleverness of the “sons of this age.” It had nothing to do with race.

Finally, we look at Luke 17:25:

But first He must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation.

The context here reveals that Jesus was speaking to His disciples (Lk 17:22) on the subject matter of the coming of “the Son of Man.” Like Matthew 24:27, His coming and revelation would be like “lightning” (Luke 17:24). When would that coming take place? After Jesus was “rejected by **this generation**” (Luke 17:25). Does it not make more sense to understand “this generation” as those of Israel living **at that time** who wholesale rejected Jesus, calling for His death? Why would Jesus be explaining all this to His disciples if this rejection and His coming would not take place during that time in that generation? A natural rendering of Jesus’ meaning here demands the most natural sense.

In conclusion, the gospels do not suggest that the primary use of the word genea or the phrase “this generation” means race, but only successive periods of time marked by each generation, or characteristics of a generation usually contemporaneous during Jesus’ time

Genea in the Rest of the New Testament

Now let’s continue to look at the word genea through the rest of the New Testament. However, just a representative sampling of the verses in which genea is used will demonstrate that the idea of race is not the primary meaning. Although race is inclusive in terms of common ancestry, it refers predominately to time or characteristic. Test this by trying to substitute “race” in place of “generation” in the following verses.

And with many other words he [Peter] solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, “Be saved from this perverse generation!”-Acts 2:40

For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep, and was laid among his fathers and underwent decay...-Acts 13:26

In the generations gone by He permitted all the nations to go their own ways...-Acts 14:6

... to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen. -Eph. 3:21

In all the other verses in the New Testament, genea does not primarily mean race. If this is not the predominate means of genea, does it not stand to reason that the meaning in Matthew 23:36 and 24:34 refers only to that specific generation at that time

who displayed certain characteristics?

Although genea has the shade of meaning concerning race, there is another Greek word that more definitely means race. That word is *genos*. The primary meaning of this word is “ancestral stock, descendant ... a relatively small group with common ancestry ... a relatively large people group ... entities united by common traits.”⁶ Some examples of New Testament usage in regard to the meaning of *genos* as race include these verses,

Now the woman was a gentile, of the syrophenician race. And she kept asking Him to cast the demon out of her daughter.-Mark 7:26

...and Annas the high priest was there, and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of high-priestly descent.-Acts 4:6

Brethren, sons of Abraham’s family, and those among you who fear God, to us the message of this salvation has been sent.-Acts 13:26

...circumcised the eighth day, of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; as to the Law, a Pharisee... -Philippians 3:5

But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God’s OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.-1 Pet. 2:9

Genos is the word used for race as in descendants of a common ancestor. Genea refers primarily to a time, periods of time, or characteristics of a particular people. The point



here is that *genea* was used in Matthew 23:36 and 24:34, not *genos*.

“This Generation” of Matthew 23:36

If it can now be concluded that “this generation” of Matthew 23:36 does not refer to a race or a serpent race from Cain, but only the “scribes and Pharisees” of the contemporaneous generation of Jesus in the first century, how is it that they were responsible for all the blood shed on the earth from Abel to Zechariah? Does this fact of their encompassing judgment necessarily mean that their ancestors were actually involved in the murder of Abel, for example?

What did Jesus say was the reason for the judgment of scribes and Pharisees? Jesus said that He would send to them “*prophets and wise men and scribes; some of them you will kill and crucify, and some of them you will scourge in your synagogues, and persecute from city to city*” (Matthew 23:34). Then He adds in the same sentence, “*so that upon you may fall the guilt of all the righteous blood ...*” (23:35). The words “so that” is a Greek conjunction (*hopos*) meaning “in order that,” stating the purpose for an event. Here, the purpose for which the scribes and Pharisees would be judged was because they would mistreat those Jesus would send to them to testify of the truth. Jesus did not say it was because of their race, but because of what notorious things they would do in the future, in their generation.

There is also a clue from the gospel of Luke in chapter 19. But before we go there, let’s also review the context of Matthew 23:33-38. Again, Jesus was speaking to the scribes and Pharisees, calling them “serpents” and “a brood of vipers,” stating that they would incur all the guilt and judgment of all the generations that preceded them who shed righteous blood. Then, Jesus continues, without break in context, to address “Jerusalem” predicting that their house (the scribe and Pharisee rulers of the house of Judah) would become “desolate” (23:37-38).

In the same way, Jesus, as He was approaching Jerusalem before He would be crucified, “wept over” the “city” and said:

If you had known in this day, even you the things which make for peace! But now they have been hidden from your eyes. For the days will come upon you when your enemies will throw up a barricade against you, and surround you and hem you in on every side, and they will level you to the ground and your children within you, and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not recognize the time of your visitation.-Lk 19:42-44

Jesus was saying that because the religious rulers of Jerusalem (that is, the “Pharisees”-v.39) has refused to “recognize the time” of their “visitation” by the Christ, the Son of the living God, that Jerusalem would be sacked by their “enemies.” The scribes and the Pharisees rejected the greatest revelation of God for His people since the beginning of the foundation of the world of Adam. Therefore, the greater the revelation and visitation by God Himself in the flesh, the greater the blessing, but also the greater the judgment. That is why they incurred all the guilt of the previous generations.

Finally, it should be noted in both the Matt. 23 and the Lk 19 accounts that Jesus prophesies that Jerusalem would be made “desolate” (Matt. 23:38), be levelled “to the ground,” and its enemies would “not leave one stone upon another” (Lk 19:44). Is this not what happened to Jerusalem and the temple in AD70, in **that** generation?

Imminent Events of Matthew 24

The predicted demise of Jerusalem in both these accounts above, particularly the phrase that there would not be “one stone upon another,” is an important segue to the context of Matt 24. Here, Jesus, in reply to His disciples admiration of the temple in Jerusalem, said almost exactly the same thing that He also said in Luke 19:44,

Do you not see all these things? Truly I say to you, not one stone here will be left upon another, which will not be torn down.-Matt 24:2

... and they will level you to the ground and your children within you, and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not recognize the time of your visitation.-Lk 19:44

This, of course, was Jesus’ prophecy that the temple in Jerusalem would be destroyed. The question is, When would this take place in history and in relation to the coming of Jesus Christ? First, in relation to the destruction of the temple and Jerusalem, and the judgment upon the scribes and the Pharisees (“this generation”), the occurrence of both must have been within the first century. The events of Matthew 24 would come to pass before “this generation” of the scribes and Pharisees would pass away.

The entire prophetic discourse by Jesus in Matthew 24 strikes a tone of the immediacy of the events of Jerusalem’s destruction and the revelation of His coming. For example, right at the beginning of Matthew 24, Jesus begins to answer the questions of His disciples about the temple’s destruction in relationship to the timing and signs of that event. Jesus replies, “See to it that no one misleads you” (Matthew 24:4).

Why would Jesus tell His disciples to beware that one one misleads them about false Christ’s, rumours of wars (24:5-7), and so forth before the end of the age, if they would not be present to witness these things?

Why would Jesus warn His disciples about being delivered “to tribulation” (24:9) if they would not be there to experience this tribulation? In addition to all the rest of the things Jesus tells His disciples (from 24:10-31), He repeats again to them in v. 33,

... so, you too, when you see all these things, recognize that He is near, right at the door.

When the disciples “see all these things,” the coming of the Lord Jesus is “right at the door.” Plainly, Jesus’ disciples were to witness all the things Jesus told them about. Would it make any sense to believe that the disciples would not expect these things to happen in their lifetime - in the first century?

Does it not then make sense that the verse: “*Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place*” (Matthew 24:34) means simply that the present generation of Jesus’ disciples would not pass away from this earth until all the things Jesus talked about in Matthew 24 came to pass?

And then there is the statement by the Lord that the “gospel” would “*be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end [of the age]*” would come (24:14). Was the gospel preached to all the nations of Israel during the disciples’ lifetime? Did the disciples fulfil the command of the Lord to “go ... and make disciples of all the nations”(Matthew 28:19) in their lifetime? According to the Apostle Paul, the “*gospel ... has been made known to all the nations....*” (Romans 16:25-26).⁷ Even at the time of the Apostle’s writing of the letter to the church in Rome, the gospel had already been manifested to all the nations of Israel wherever they were dis-



persed. The so-called "Great Commission" had already been fulfilled in the first century by the disciples of the Lord. (see also Colossians 1:23)

If that was the case, then the end of the (Old Covenant) age had already come, marked not only by the successful completion of the Lord's mission to His first century disciples, but also by the great tribulation (Matt. 24:15-28) and the coming of Jesus Christ in judgment on Jerusalem.

But there is another piece of important, but often overlooked (or misunderstood), evidence that testifies of the immediacy of the events of Matthew 24 in the first century. This evidence is located in Matt. 24:35. Let's back up to the key verse under question in this article, v.34 and lead into v.35:

*Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. **Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.**-Matt 24:34-35*

If it can be shown from the Scripture that "heaven and earth" has indeed passed away, then it must follow that, that all the events described in Matthew 24 took place before the generation of Jesus' time passed off the scene. This subject matter for exegesis will demand another separate article (see previous newsletter #222).

But from what has already been demonstrated, is there any indication in the description of Jesus' prophetic statements in Matt. 24 that would lead anyone to believe that the described events, including the Lord's coming, would be in the distant future? No. Not only does the internal evidence of Matthew 24 point in the direction of immanence, but also history testifies to those events. The most obvious and major sign that everything described here took place by AD70 was the destruction of the temple. That signalled God's judgment upon the religious rulers of the house of Judah and simultaneously, the coming of Jesus Christ in that judgment.

Conclusion

It has been established from the Greek study of the word *genea*, translated "generation," and from the usage of that word throughout the New Testament as well as in Matt 24:34, that it refers to a temporal time and/or characteristic of a people who are descended from a common ancestor. It cannot simply and solely mean race. The phrase "this generation" of Matthew 24:34 refers to the particular generation of Israelites contemporary with Jesus Christ when He walked the land of old Palestine in the first century. And since that "generation" of Israelites has passed away from the scene of history, all of Matthew 24, therefore has been fulfilled. This includes the false Christs, the wars and rumours of wars, and the great tribulation of that day in the first century. This also includes the Lord's coming in judgment upon Jerusalem and the religious rulers of the house of Judah, consummating with the destruction of the temple which took place in AD70. That was the final prophetic fulfillment that marked "the end" of the Old Covenant age and the establishment of the New Covenant age. *****

Footnotes

1. Dictionary of New Testament Theology, Vol. 2, p.35
2. Ibid., p.35
3. & 6. A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament, pp.191-192
4. Dictionary of New Testament Theology, Vol.2, p.36
5. Ibid., p.36
7. See The Fall and Redemption of Adam's Race by

this author for a Greek grammar explanation of this passage, pp.192-193.

Courtesy New Covenant Messenger, PO Box 321, Union KY 41091

TAX REVOLT

Britain's economy was almost brought to its knees in mid-September [2000] when angry farmers and truckers blockaded oil refineries and depots because of the rising price of oil and gas. Hospitals and ambulances were reduced to dealing only with the gravest emergencies. The National Health Service said it was just one day away from being in serious trouble. Postal deliveries were seriously threatened. The Prime Minister invoked extra police powers. The use of troops was considered if necessary to get supplies moving.

The crisis was precipitated as much by over taxation as by the price of fuel. At the pump, the government's cut accounts for 76 percent of the retail price. The price of fuel in Britain is the highest in Europe. Prime Minister Tony Blair remained unbending to the chorus of cries for lower taxes. One farmer who manned a barricade complained, "Tony Blair is just so smug. He doesn't listen to anyone."

Taxation has been a flash-point throughout Israel's history. Taxation without representation in the British Parliament led to the American colonists revolting and separating themselves permanently from the mother country. In desperation the colonists had met and petitioned the king and parliament, setting out their grievances. Although the contentious Stamp Act was repealed

the damage had been done. Parliament just didn't pay attention to the signs of discontent.

Over taxation and an arrogant stance was the root cause of the separation of the northern tribes of Israel from their brethren in the south and the House of David. When King Solomon died, his son Rehoboam claimed the throne. A delegation from the northern tribes complained that Solomon's taxes had been too heavy and asked that Rehoboam reduce them. Rehoboam ignored the elders, took advice from the young and inexperienced and arrogantly told the northern tribes that it was his intention to increase the taxes, not reduce them. The immediate response was the rebellion of the northern tribes. When Rehoboam sent Adoram, the tax collector, to gather tribute, the Israelites stoned him to death and chose Jereboam to be their king.

A word of warning to politicians and bureaucrats in modern Israel: sheep know the difference between shearing and skinning!!

Courtesy Thy Kingdom Come, PO Box 1478 Ferndale WA 98248 USA

INTOLERANT TOLERANCE

by Warren Kelly

The buzzword we hear popping up in almost any discussion on a moral issue today is "tolerance." "We should be *tolerant* of other people's beliefs." "We shouldn't judge other people's life-styles, we should be more *tolerant*."

The problem with being tolerant of everything is that the only thing left that isn't tolerated is intolerance. In our culture it has become common for someone who believes in moral absolutes immediately to be labelled as intolerant. As Christian people who believe in the moral absolutes of God's truth, that leaves us in an unpopular position in this pluralistic society.

The Birth of Tolerance

The tolerance movement is an outgrowth of pluralism,

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which holds that all beliefs are morally equal and need to be treated with equal respect. It believes that all religions contain truth and no one religion or belief system is superior to another.¹ Cultural pluralism gained respect in this country during the 1960s when musicians and pop culture icons began to explore and promote Eastern religions. This also spurred the growth of the New Age Movement, which is very popular today.

Over the past four decades pluralism has rapidly become the dominant belief system of our media, Hollywood, and many of our political and cultural leaders. During the same time also, pluralism has increasingly become the committed enemy of Christianity.

For those who believe in the god of pluralism, the only true sin is violation of its principle doctrine, tolerance. Christianity is based on God's absolute values and allows for no compromise on His Commandments. This is an abhorrent concept for pluralists.

The definition of tolerance has gradually been adapted by our pluralist society. No longer is it adequate to allow others to hold their own beliefs; tolerance now dictates that we must accept the beliefs and practices of others and respect them as equal to our own, no matter how distasteful they may be.

Confronting Pluralism

Pluralism is difficult to engage, partly because it has become so entrenched in our society but also because no one wants to be considered intolerant. It is also very dangerous, especially to Christianity, because of where it eventually leads.

When Judge Roy Moore placed a monument to the Ten Commandments in the Alabama Judicial Building, there was an outcry. To in any way promote Christianity in a public place might offend people of other religions. Judge Moore's perceived public endorsement of Christianity was a direct affront to pluralism.

Our laws are also gradually becoming hostile to Christianity. Consider the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) that would make it a criminal act for a Christian employer, even a church, to deny employment to someone based on his life-style. If passed, this legislation will be used to force churches and Christian schools to hire homosexuals.

Senator Ted Kennedy's proposed hate crimes legislation will also be used against Christians (see CI-321 HATE LAWS - Making Criminals of Christians by Ted Pike, LOAN ONLY, sug. don. \$6). Again the language has been carefully crafted to make the legislation difficult to oppose. What kind of person would be in favour of hate? The strategy has been effective, as already forty-nine Senators have signed on as cosponsors to the bill.

Our Future, Unless ...

Unless we take action now, it will soon be illegal for a pastor to condemn sinful life-styles from the pulpit. Even the reading of certain Scriptures will soon be illegal.

Many would say that this is alarmist rhetoric and that it could never really happen. Tell that to our Christian brothers in Canada where it already has. Just a few miles to the north, the Canadian Broadcast Standards Council has banned all radio and television stations airing anything negative about homosexuality.

In Ireland, Christians face up to six months in jail for distributing literature that opposes same-sex unions because to do so would violate the 1989 Incitement of

Hatred Act. One such piece of literature produced by the Catholic Church has already been targeted by the Irish Council for Civil Liberties (ICCL). While the literature does oppose homosexual activity it clearly states that homosexuality should be treated with "respect, compassion and sensitivity." [I can't find those words used in connection with homosexuality in the Scriptures, though, can you?! CIM]

In spite of the compassionate treatment of a controversial issue, Ms. Aisling Reidy, director of the ICCL, has stated that even though "the document itself may not violate the Act" it may be used to say "that gays are evil, (which) is likely to give rise to hatred, which is against the Act."

Even in our land of free speech, Rev, Kristopher Okwedy's ministry was attacked by homosexual activists when Keywords Ministries bought space on two billboards in Staten Island, New York to display Leviticus 18:22. The activists claimed that because the verse condemned their life-style in constituted a hate crime. It was simply a verse from the Bible, but the local government ordered that it be removed.

Pluralists even find it offensive when a Christian follows Christ's command and shares his faith. They contend that to attempt to convert a non-Christian to Christianity is to say that Christianity is superior to the belief system of another person [which it obviously is! Ex. 23:33a, 20:3, Deu 5:7, 1 Ki 9:6, CIM]. This is so offensive that there are ongoing attempts to make it illegal to proselytize.

Unfortunately, pluralism is becoming so pervasive in our society that it is even taking hold within the church itself. Just last

year, *U.S. News & World Report* conducted a poll that reported that 71% of Americans, including 70% of Christians, say Christians should be tolerant of people of other faiths and not try to convert them [chapter and verse for that, please? CIM]. Only 24% of Christians think it is a Christian's duty to convert members of other faiths.

If we are to reach our world [i.e. God's people, CIM] with the truth of God's Word, we must quickly get involved in the fight to defend our faith and our rights as Americans. If not, we will soon live in a country that will not allow us to share our faith with others, or allow any public expression of Christianity at all!

Courtesy Chalcedon Report, PO Box 158 Vallecito CA 95251

LEGITIMIZING THE HOMOSEXUAL LIFE-STYLE

by Warren Kelly

Earlier this year, the Supreme Court overturned the Texas state law against homosexual sodomy in the landmark case *Lawrence v. Texas*. In years to come we will look back on this ruling as a major sea change in our culture. This is perhaps the largest single victory ever achieved by the homosexual community.

For many years, homosexual activists have fought to overturn state laws condemning homosexual activity. In 1986, 25 states had laws similar to the one in Texas. When the Supreme Court took up this case earlier this year the number had been cut to 13. The decision by the court effectively swept away those 13.

The Homosexual Agenda

Even more frightening than the victories homosexuals have won is the reason they took up the battle in the first

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place. Was it because they were afraid of being arrested for their activity? The court itself recognized that prosecutions for homosexual activity are extremely rare and when they do happen it is usually because the activity took place in public.

The motivation for overturning the laws against homosexuality is the removal of any public denouncement of the "gay" life-style. Homosexual activists have worked long and hard to achieve moral equality between their life-style and that of heterosexuals.

Having struck down the remaining state laws condemning their behaviour they will now fight even harder to achieve their "holy grail"-full endorsement of their life-style with government-sanctioned homosexual marriage. It is likely that before the end of the year either a Massachusetts or New Jersey court will rule in favor of a same-sex marriage case. When they do, it will open the floodgates, and homosexual couples will rush to those states to have their relationships recognized. Upon their return home they will use the courts to force their home states to recognize their new "marriages." Soon, this issue will be pushed to the Supreme Court as well.

Same Sex Marriage

In writing the majority decision in *Lawrence v. Texas*, Justice Kennedy made a point of stopping short of endorsing same-sex marriage. In response to Kennedy's statement that the ruling "does not involve whether the government must give formal recognition" to homosexual marriage, Justice Scalia wrote, "Do not believe it."

Prior to his attempt to allay fears that the court was creating same-sex marriage, Justice Kennedy referred to constitutional protections afforded to "personal decisions relating to marriage, procreation, contraception, family relationships, child-rearing, and education." He then went on to say that anyone "in a homosexual relationship may seek autonomy for these purposes, just as heterosexual persons do."

All through Justice Kennedy's decision and Justice O'Connor's concurring opinion are repeated admonitions about discriminating against homosexual individuals. Over and over they both make it clear that any right or opportunity permitted to heterosexuals should be given equally to homosexuals and any attempt by the state to do otherwise would be viewed by the court as an unconstitutional act.

The full meaning and impact of this decision has yet to fully register in the minds of most Americans. In fact, even if the court were to force same-sex marriage on the American people today, most would not fully understand the gravity of the situation.

No Moral Basis for Law

So what are the effects of this decision? Space will not allow me to fully explore them. Let's start by introducing the moral implications. The decision, as Justice Scalia stated, "effectively decrees the end of all morals legislation." If the majority of the American people cannot agree to make a law based on a moral belief, then what will be the basis for law?

If we cannot make a law against homosexual sodomy, how can we, as Scalia points out, criminalize "fornication, bigamy, adultery, adult incest, bestiality, and obscenity"?

Many in the homosexual community believe that any sexual relationship or sexual act should be permitted, with any one ... and at any age.

If, as the court has decided, a majority belief is not a legitimate basis for a law, how can we say it is improper for a young boy's scoutmaster to introduce him to sexual activity? How can we limit marriage to one man and one woman? Why not two women, or two men, or two men, or two men and one woman?

If the moral implications were not enough, what about the health and financial consequences of legitimizing this life-style? Most Americans don't understand all that is involved in the homosexual life-style and therefore are woefully ignorant of its inherent dangers.

Monogamy in Same Sex Marriages

A study published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* found that the average non-infected male homosexual has 106 sexual partners *per year*. Another study released in July of this year found that the average homosexual relationship lasted only 1½ years. The study also found that men in homosexual relationships had an average of eight partners per year outside of those relationships.

A study conducted by two University of Vermont psychology professors contrasted couples living in the newly formed "civil unions" with homosexuals not in unions, and with married heterosexual couples. They found that 21 percent of married men felt that sex outside of marriage was OK. Among homosexuals, 66 percent of homosexual men in committed relationships and 50 percent of homosexual men in civil unions felt the same way.

The fact that promiscuity is rampant among homosexuals is dramatically demonstrated in the landmark study conducted by researchers Bell and Weinberg in the mid-1970s. The shocking results of their study found that:

43 percent of gay men estimated having sex with 500 or more different partners. 75 percent estimated 100 or more partners. 28 percent estimated more than 1,000 partners.

79 percent said that more than half of their partners were an anonymous. 70 percent said that more than half of their partners were men with whom they had sex only once.

This type of activity has consequences. Due to their promiscuous life-style, homosexual males are 14 times more likely to contract syphilis than male heterosexuals and are thousands of times more likely to contract AIDS. Added to the dangers of this extreme promiscuity are the dangers of the actual sex practices of homosexuals. These two factors combined are why studies show that homosexuals account for 80 percent of America's serious sexually transmitted diseases. This is in spite of the fact that they represent only a tiny fraction of the overall population. A study done in the 1990s by the Family Research Institute found that the median age of death for a homosexual male not having AIDS was only 42. According to the same study only 9 percent lived to old age.

In light of these facts we need to ask ourselves if this is a life-style that we, as a nation, should endorse as being on par with normal heterosexual relationships. If we chose to do so, we can only expect that the numbers of people involved in this life-style will increase. And when those

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numbers increase, we cannot even begin to estimate the strain it will put on our healthcare system.

The Supreme Court has made it clear how it will rule when the issue of same-sex marriage comes before it. The only way to overrule a court that is out of touch with the wishes of the American people and the reality of the consequences of such a decision is to amend the Constitution. The recent ruling has given renewed support to a measure before Congress called the Federal Marriage Amendment.

The amendment simply states that marriage is a union between one man and one woman and prohibits passing any law to the contrary. While the process of amending the Constitution is intentionally difficult, this amendment has a real chance of succeeding and needs our full support.***

Courtesy Chalcedon Report, Box 158 Vallecito CA 95251

THE WAR IS NOT OVER - MARRIAGE BY STEALTH?

by Sarah Chapness

A battle has been won but the war's not over! While August 4 will go down in history as a milestone for the church and a day where the tear on the fabric of civilisation was sewn up, marriage defined as a life-long union between an adult man and adult woman is still under threat.

On Wednesday August 4, I flew up with a contingent of Christians from Melbourne to Canberra to join thousands of others who converged on the Great Hall at Parliament House to send a clear message to the federal government at the National Marriage Forum. The Marriage Legislation Amendment Bill defining marriage as between a man and a woman had been languishing with a committee after the Senate sent it there for review on June 23.

the moral majority were here to support this definition of marriage between an adult man and an adult woman.

Organised by the National Marriage Coalition, one of the guest speakers, Prime Minister John Howard was astounded at the strong show of support. He was believed to have said he didn't know where "all the people" had come from as more coach-loads were arriving to pack out the hall.

Over 16,000 submissions to the Senate Inquiry sent a strong message to the Government that marriage must be kept between a man and a woman. Only a tiny fraction sent in submissions opposed to the bill. The number of submissions surpassed the only other issue etched indelibly in the public consciousness - the Euthanasia Laws Bill where the Senate Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee received a record number of submissions from every State and Territory in Australia.

Mr. Howard applauded the organisers of the Forum and said the large numbers of people present showed the importance of the issue to the community. he said at the forum, "I have a very simple view about the issue that is currently before the federal parliament, and that is to insert affirmatively into the Marriage Act the definition of marriage that we have always commonly understood in our society."

"It expresses the fundamental Judeo-Christian view and that is that marriage is a lifelong union between a man and woman to the exclusion of all others. It is also a view of marriage which is entertained by many other religions around the world and also by many people who profess no religious faith at all," Mr Howard said. Other Forum speakers included labor's Attorney-General Nicola Roxon, who

told the marriage forum that Labor's position on homosexual marriage was identical to the Government's.

On Friday August 13, 2004, proponents of the Marriage Amendment Bill (2004) were jubilant after the Senate passed the legislation reaffirming marriage between a man and a woman. Despite opposition by the Greens (John Laws calls them "watermelon greens", he says they are green on the outside, but red on the inside! CIM) and Australian Democrats Senators, the overwhelming majority of Senators voted for the Bill (38) with only seven Senators voting against it.

However the Greens, the Democrats and indeed Labor will not let this issue rest after the federal election. The controversy continues to play our in mainstream and niche media. Homosexual newspapers are replete with letters from angry homosexual activists such as Rodney Chrome who was present at the forum to report on the happenings. Chrome and his ilk are putting pressure on Labor to introduce marriage by stealth. The next push for the homosexual lobby groups is to garner support for legal recognition and registration of same-sex relationships.

Marriage as a hetero-sexual institution is in a precarious position. When the floodgates open, what will one see marriage defined as - two men? two women? four men and one woman? four women and one man? Really, anything is then possible. Vitriol poured forth from some Senators during the debate, in particular homosexual Democrat Senator Brian Greig who scornfully denigrated the over 1000 people attending the marriage forum and then suggested that opposing homosexuality can be equated with opposing aborigines or Jews.

However, how can one align opposing same sex marriage with race? One is a life-style choice, the other a pre-determined origin. Have no doubt about it, the vocal minority plans to make plenty of noise about this issue. Labor will review the status of homosexual relationships under a Latham Government. If homosexual unions are given recognition, or registered officially, they will gain the ground they may have lost in this last month.

Labor not only plans its subversive method of giving same sex couples the legal privileges of married couples but according to Ms Roxon's statement at the forum, the ALP also plans to introduce the much loathed national anti-vilification legislation which is proving to breed great disharmony within our society.

Let's not forget the children. Marriage as a basic cell of society helps more youngsters grow up within the unit of two biological, married parents in a healthy stable relationship. Research overwhelmingly shows it's the best way to raise children. Future generations will look back on the days we live in as a time when either the church solidified marriage as a bedrock of society or allowed it to founder, paving the way for the brave new world of marriage where literally 'anything goes.'***** - and -

.... discrimination and vilification laws

We are thankful that the amendments to the Marriage Act have been passed, defining marriage as "the union of a man and a woman to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life" and ensuring that same-sex "marriages" performed overseas cannot be recognized in Australia.

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by Hulda Regehr Clark, Ph.D., N.D.

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Although Nicola Roxon, ALP shadow Attorney General, announced at the marriage Forum that Labor would pass the amendments to the Marriage Act, she noted that Labor would remove all discrimination against homosexuals.

Senator Ludwig, for the ALP, quoted Mark Latham saying (31 May) "The Labor Party decision not to advocate for gay marriage is a position that was determined last year by our Labor caucus as part of a whole package of other reforms relating to same sex couples that we are taking to this election."

In addition to giving relationship rights, Labor plans to introduce vilification laws based on sexuality. Labor Senator Ludwig said during the Senate debate: "Only Labor will immediately introduce anti-discrimination laws based on sexuality and introduce protection from harassment and vilification."

The Democrats and Greens have been actively promoting these proposals - as well as same sex marriage - for a long time.

The choices are becoming clearer - we just need to be perceptive and discerning.

ACTION: Analyse the policies of ALL the parties in the lead-up to the election. *****

Canada: Bible Distribution Forbidden

For more than 50 years, the Canadian Bible Society has offered free Bibles to people becoming citizens of Canada. In 1998, they signed a formal agreement with the government, affirming their right to do so. However, where they had previously been allowed to say something in the citizenship court, and tell people about the fact that [the Bibles] were there as a free gift from the Bible Society, since 1998 they had only been allowed to have a 'silent presence' and people had to approach the Society's table to receive a Bible.

Recently, however, the Citizenship Commission, an administrative tribunal composed of citizenship judges, told the Society that they cannot continue to hand out Bibles to those who request them. Senior Citizenship Judge Michel Simars said that "allowing holy books to be made available at citizenship ceremonies detracts from the message of multiculturalism." *****

Courtesy Salt-Shakers, PO Box 6049 WANTIRNA Vic. 3152.

(www.saltshakers.org.au)

[it has been said, put the sitting incumbents of all major parties last, and put independents first. Think about it. I saw in Time Magazine (Sept 20, 04, p.16) that "*Under Howard and Costello, foreign debt has doubled to \$A393 Billion (equivalent to 50% of national output)*" CIM]

MEDIA KEEP LID ON WORST HOLOCAUST IN HUMAN HISTORY JEWISH KILLERS MASSACRE 66 MILLION IN SOVIET GULAG

by **Texe Marrs**

"I love strong opponents! It's such fun to break their backs! said the Leningrad interrogator Shitov. "And if our opponent e.g. your prisoner) is so strong that he refuses to give in, all your methods have failed and you are in a rage? Then, don't control your fury! It's tremendously satisfying, that outburst! Let your anger have its way; don't set any bounds to it. Don't hold yourself back! That's when interrogators spit into the open mouth of the accused! And shove his face into a full toilet! That's the

state of mind in which they drag Christian believers around by the hair. Or urinate in a kneeling prisoner's face! After such a storm of fury you feel yourself a real honest-to-God man!"

- Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn
The Gulag Archipelago

It's been all over the press, on TV and in newspapers. Mel Gibson, the famous movie actor and director, has been horribly slandered, defamed, and verbally mauled by the Jewish elite who uniformly hate and despise Gibson's powerful film, *The Passion of The Christ*. The ADL, the Simon Wiesenthal Center, and other racist ant-Christian hate groups have made Gibson their whipping boy now for over a year.

But, hold on! You think Gibson has been treated unfairly, you haven't seen anything yet. Consider the case of Nobel Prize winning historian and writer Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn. The Jews have been tipping into, slandering and otherwise savaging the reputation of the solidly Christian Solzhenitsyn for some four years now. But unlike the Gibson affair, the controlled media disingenuously refuse to report it. Solzhenitsyn is the hapless victim whose brutal mental whipping and emotional beating the world knows nothing about.

It now seems aeons ago that the stoic Russian author was celebrated for his insightful, poignant accounts of the horrible, subhuman treatment of the victims of the Soviet Communist Gulag, an interlocking system of thousands of concentration and slave labor camps. Solzhenitsyn himself had been a prisoner of the Gulag for a decade, preventively jailed for nothing more than the fear of the communist overlords that he might someday write something the Kremlin masters might find offensive to the state.

Solzhenitsyn: The "Conscience of the 20th Century"

Historian Solzhenitsyn's gut-wrenching book, *Gulag Archipelago*, went through countless printings—in over 50 languages—and touched the hearts of westerners. Expelled by the Kremlin for telling the awful truth, this great man was honored by freedom-loving people both in the United States and in Europe. He was often called the "Conscience of the 20th Century" and recognized universally as one of the globe's prime examples of bold courage and moral conviction. Even the liberal press initially had nice things to say about Solzhenitsyn. They were reluctant to go up against a man so honored for high moral stature, and recognized by so many as a truth-teller of the highest character.

Then, the historian and truth-teller Solzhenitsyn made was was, to liberals and communists, a grave error. Asked at a press conference his opinion on *why* the terrible events behind the Iron Curtain had occurred, *why* millions were carted away, tortured, starved and worked to death in Gulag slave camps, Solzhenitsyn gave this simple, yet startling, response: "Man has forgotten God."

"Outrageous," the Critics Roared

"*What did you say? God? Outrageous!*" the critics roared. Immediately, the world's press began a reversal of opinion about this man they once had lionized. Some called him a "*Christian fanatic*." Others said Solzhenitsyn was "*reactionary ... right wing ... a religious nut*."

Then, in 2000, Solzhenitsyn released a blockbuster new book he had penned entitled *Together For two Hundred Years*. The new book was a lengthy treatise, a thor-



ough and far-reaching compilation of several decades of research by Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn into the machinations for two centuries of Jews inside Russia and the Soviet Empire.

Accurate in every detail, painstakingly documented, the author showed how, over the centuries, a small band of revolutionary Jews had conspired and plotted to overthrow the Russian Czars. Their aim: seize control of Czarist Russia and establish a beachhead for a Jewish utopia on planet earth—the long sought after Kingdom of the Jews.

The Gulags of the Jewish Revolutionaries

With staggering implications, *Together For two Hundred Years* showed how Lenin, Trotsky and other Jewish conspirators had overthrown the Romanov dynasty in 1917 and set up their own Bolshevik totalitarian system. The result: The nightly assassination and roundup of thousands of innocent men, women, and children, most of whom were herded by black-hearted Big Brother secret police into thousands of monstrously evil Gulag concentration camps.

The largest number of victims, Solzhenitsyn reports, were Christian believers, understandable since the revolutionary Jews despised and hated Jesus and His Chosen People, the Christians. All-in-all, about *66 million* innocent people were kidnapped and eventually died a hideous death at the hands of the Jewish “Ivan the Terrible” corps.

66 million murdered by mostly Jewish Gulag overlords! That’s over ten times the number of Jews claimed to have been slain in Nazi concentration camps. Obviously, such a powerful—and truthful—book as *Together For Two Hundred Years* must be suppressed. And it has been. No English-speaking publisher, either in Britain or in the U.S.A. has dared to publish it. So far, Solzhenitsyn’s book has only been issued in the Russian language.

“Crush This Insolent Wretch”

Shamelessly, yet quietly and without a lot of fanfare, Jewish organizations have put out the word: “Crush this insolent wretch, Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn. Give his works, his voice no forum, kill him with neglect. If you must mention his name, say it with scorn and with taunts and ridicule. Punish him severely for attempting to reveal our secrets to the world. Let him be an example of what the Jewish Power can do to a man who stubbornly refuses to tow the Zionist party line.”

I have seen what they have done to Solzhenitsyn. I have read their biased and spiteful reviews of his book in the controlled media and witnessed their vengeful hatred of him in countless Jewish magazines, websites, and journals, influential but relatively unknown to the public at large. The ruthless Jewish Power clique works to kill men in a variety of ways. With Mel Gibson, it was more public. With Solzhenitsyn, it is more personal and private. Clearly, Solzhenitsyn’s writings about the Jewish leadership of the Soviet Holocaust is viewed as a grave threat to the Jewish Plan for global supremacy.

In Russia, millions of people—many of them survivors of the Gulag—still love and respect the aging man of God, Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn. They have read his newest book, and they know it is true. They lived it! They also well understand why such a book is being kept from the American people. The Talmudic Jews are fiercely determined that

the whole truth about their repugnant, genocidal crimes be covered up. Solzhenitsyn’s reputation must be progressively tarnished and his writings buried forever.

So now, the man, Solzhenitsyn, who suffered under the Jewish Gulag tormentors for so long, must now be tortured once again, and for the same purported “crime,” the offense of using “words.”

It was Lenin who once said, “Words are more deadly than bullets.” Leninist ideology is truly an exemplar of the poisonous Talmudic Jewish mindset. Today, in America, there are, consequently, many things a man cannot say, cannot write about, and cannot publish. I know. I have, myself, faithfully followed God’s calling and done my best to follow in Solzhenitsyn’s footsteps. The Jewish holocaust revisionists have punished me, too, and they continue today to threaten and bully whip me and *Power of Prophecy* ministries.

Like Mel Gibson and Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, Texe Marrs is now being falsely and cruelly branded an “anti-Semite,” a “Jew-hater” and worse, on all seven continents.

Fascinating, isn’t it, how much fury, venom, and wrath just a touch of truth can whip up among the Jewish overlords and their Gentile accomplices, who today guide Western culture and minutely monitor and control ever aspect of media reporting on politics, economics, and religion.

The Fearless Few Are Hated

Their greatest hatred, their most vicious spewing of venom, is reserved for the fearless few who dare to reveal to the world the heinous crimes committed by the Jewish Power in the Communist Gulag, especially the Zionist murder of *66 million* men, women, and children, many of them Bible-believing Christians.

Equally hated are men like Ernst Zündel of Canada, who have questioned whether six million Jews actually died in a Nazi Holocaust. But even if six million died in a Nazi Holocaust, what of the *sixty-six million* who perished in the Jewish Gulag? And remember: Thousands of Nazis have been tracked down and punished for their reported crimes against humanity. Why is it that *not even one Zionist Jew* has ever been brought to justice for the heinous crimes committed in the Jewish Communist Gulag? Why?

For almost six decades, America and the planet have been preaching to the Germans, reminding them of the terrible crimes of their Nazi ancestors. It is only fair and just that we all now turn our attention to the Communist Gulag Holocaust, that we expose the Jews’ role in its monstrous crimes and remind the Jews of what *their* criminal ancestors did to these sixty-six million innocent victims, most of whom were Christians.

Isn’t it time we demand construction of a *Christian Holocaust Museum* in Washington, DC, to be erected next door to the existing taxpayer-funded Jewish Holocaust Museum? Is only the suffering of Jews worthy of being memorialized? What about the pain and suffering endured by so many other ethnic and religious groups, including that of Russian and Eastern European Christians during the Jewish Bolshevik era? Don’t these tens of millions of Gentiles killed and tortured deserve to be remembered as well?

Courtesy Power of Prophecy, 1708 Patterson Road, Austin, Texas
78733 USA (June 2004)

New Tapes

S-974 **A Message for the Brethren from Romans 12**, Pete Peters

S-975 **Heaven and Earth Will Pass Away**

S-976 **Signs of New Heavens and New Earth**, Pete Peters

S-977 **25th Anniversary of LaPorte Church of Christ**, Pete Peters

S-978 **Snake-Stompin’ Sense**, pt 15

Snakes in the Gates, Pete Peters

S-980 **The True Church - Gates of Hell & Change**, Pete Peters

S-981 **God’s Ultimate Cure for Stupidity**

S-982 **Enter The Rock**, Pete Peters

S-983 **Enter Into Thy Chambers and Shut Thy Doors**, Pete Peters



THE CELTIC CROSS AND THE GOLDEN THREAD OF TIME

Was the Celtic cross really a scientific working instrument that could measure the stars, tell the time, build pyramids and navigate oceans?

[This article was extracted from the author's website to enable those who do not have access to the Internet to be able to read about this interesting book. Crichton Miller presents an interesting thesis about the Celtic Cross, in a similar way to Martin Doutré, author of *Ancient Celtic New Zealand*. It is unfortunate that religious ideas colour the past and this give us an incorrect view of our ancestors. I do hope you find this interesting, Wayne Lawrence, editor of **ORIGINS** Newsletter]

by Crichton E.M. Miller, member of The Society of Author, sailor, historian, researcher, philosopher and author.

"The Golden Thread of Time" by Crichton E M Miller, ISBN 0-9541639-0-7, is one of the most profound enlightenments about our history and religion to come to light since the science of investigative archeology started. Miller has not just posed a theory, he has revealed a working artifact that proves his theory in exceptional detail. What is surprising, is that the scientific community and the popular press have not made this amazing discovery public. The cross is the most well known icon in the world and to find that it was an ancient computer revealing the complexities of geometry, calls into question the competence of scientific and religious authorities.

Well written and personal, the author goes on to show that our ancestors not only could design pyramids, cross oceans and keep time. He also reveals how the ancients thought both spiritually and practically and it seems to me that they were far more civilised and in balance with the world than we are today. To read his book will change the readers perspective completely, because any rational person will find it hard to disagree with. A Classic.

To achieve the building of a pyramid or stone circle and align it with the stars, common sense dictates that the construction site had to be skilfully surveyed and the stars measured and that requires an instrument. Until now, no such instrument has been found by science, or if it has, it has been suppressed to avoid offending established religion. The author has no intention of deliberately offending anyone, but has taken the decision to make his life's work available for public scrutiny in the name of truth. The discovery of the working Celtic cross shows with little doubt that our underestimated ancestors were capable of detailed astronomy, navigation and time keeping, which they achieved by measuring the stars.

These skills developed long before recorded history, led to a clear understanding of and respect for the forces of Nature and our ancestors learned this by observing the motions of the sun in the heavens and recorded and measured the regular cyclical changes of creation that we know as Time. To understand and predict these cyclical changes they created a system of measurement and an instrument with which to track the Sun against a background of fixed constellations during daylight and at night.

The only instrument that could logically perform these tasks and lead to such wisdom was a circle on a cross with measured divisions around the edge and a plumb line hung from the center, or a weighted wheel on an axle. The working Celtic Cross measured the angle of the rising sun.

Intensive research has shown that the Celtic cross did not belong to the Christians, or any other group or tribe (I do not believe this. I believe that God gave this knowledge to Adam's descendants, CIM), they all inherited it from pre-historic people who lived in harmony with Nature and moved freely all over the world by land and sea using the stars for guidance. This work unravels their methods and their source of awe and spiritual reverence for the forces that they lived and died by as we still do today. At this time of writing, despite the overwhelming evidence and research presented by the author Crichton E.M. Miller, the discovery of the working cross is still highly controversial and overtly challenging to established views.

THE WORKING CELTIC CROSS

2002 (Patent No. GB2344654)

The prototype instrument, constructed by Crichton E M Miller in 1998 measuring the angle of the rising sun. This version of a working Celtic Cross works as a mariner's instrument. The wheel rotates on an axle and is weighted at the bottom so that 0 degrees always points to the earth's centre through the constant effects of gravitational pull, in the same way as a plumbline and bob would do.

Since the wheel is a model of the planet divided into degrees of arc, any angle is read directly from the scale and allows the immediate calculation of latitude. This attribute allows the pre construction surveying of buildings, cartography, and the measurement of stars and planets for astronomy. But its greatest attribute is to measure the forgotten zodiac, the wheel of time and observe the ruthless recurring cycles of destruction and rebirth. It was only by observing the sky that our ancestors understood the nature of Time resulting in a philosophy for life designed for survival of our species. The Patents granted

were applied for on the model and theory of the working cross and plumb line as a navigation, astronomy and surveying instrument. This was carried out at the author's own expense so as to obtain an approval for the working model in support of the theory in the spirit of normal scientific practice.

The reason for obtaining the patents was not for commercial gain but was in absence of any academic group willing to carry out a peer review so as to judge the merits of the discovery. It is harder to gain approval for a patent that it is to obtain a peer review, since the examiners in the Patent Office must ensure that an invention is neither obvious nor already patented for tough and hard headed commercial reasons. Despite this, the author's reasonable hypothesis was turned down without examination by specialists in the fields of Archaeoastronomy and Archaeology at many prestigious universities. This causes a problem as no mainstream scientific magazine will publish papers that have not first received a favourable peer review from a University. A researcher who is not part of a University, may not obtain a peer review regardless of the merit of their work, whereas the author understands the motivation behind the current system of peer review, there is no obvious method of adding discoveries of merit to the pool of the knowledge of mankind from those who are outside the system. It is for this reason that the author has decided to self-publish and make his discovery available to the world through the world wide web and his book.

A HAND HELD CELTIC WORKING CROSS

Weighted so that the bottom of the wheel always points



to the earth's centre, the observer can always measure any angle from the slope of a hill to the declination of a star. In this case, the observer is measuring the angle of the rising sun whose angle of ascent can be read directly through the viewing hole in the cross arm.

To measure the angles of the topography is just as simple. So is sighting along the cross arm and directly reading latitude from a pole star. Turning the cross on its side allows the observer to triangulate any observation mark. It is truly a wonderful and unique spherical measuring instrument. It should be, for it created the Zodiacs as was the instrument of the Wise.

TELLING TIME

The only method of telling the time in ancient eras was to track the position of the sun both night and day since the peoples of the world, quite rightly saw the sun as the Father and maintainer of all life on earth (??? Sounds like this guy doesn't believe in God, eh. CIM). In the absence of miniature modern electronic and mechanical clocks or calendars, our ancestors had to rely on the only mechanical device that they could observe and that was the motions of the sun, moon and planets across the face of the fixed stars.

To recognize these stars, our ancestors joined the lines between groups of them to make an imaginary (images) and in a universally and easily recognisable form for the use of other observers and to pass the information down through the generations (I do not believe that. I believe that God named the stars, and the signs of the Zodiac. I suggest reading *THE GLORY OF THE STARS*, # 341 @ \$15.80) It is not important to argue what civilisation used what images, it is only important to understand the principles involved. The Sumerians, Egyptians, Chinese, Indians, Maya and the Greeks all created their own images of these groups of stars and for the purposes of recognition, however it was the Greek system that we adopt and still use in astronomy today, it is known as a zodiac, named after the word zoo for animals making the full meaning of the word zodiac as meaning a circle of animals.

The purpose of this 360° circle is to place the sun, the moon and the planets on the plane of the solar system known as the ecliptic so that you can see clearly their position against the stars behind them. The 360° circle is neatly divided into 12 signs of 30° and each of these individual degrees subdivided into 60 minutes of arc.

By these ancient systems of measurement the hours and minutes of the day and the weeks and months of the year can be accurately determined, providing you have an instrument with which to measure them. Of course, it is obvious, or it ought to be so, that you cannot measure what constellation the sun is in when you actually see the sun. The result of seeing the sun is what we call daylight and in daylight, no stars can be seen at all except during a solar eclipse. There had to be another simple and logical method of measurement of discovering the exact position of the sun on the ecliptic plane.

The following reasoning should lead the reader to the conclusion that our ancient ancestors once knew that the world was round and only deterioration and corruption of a society's knowledge would lead them to conclude that the earth was flat. Such deterioration of knowledge was extant in Christendom in the Dark Ages but not in the earlier Islamic or Hellenistic eras.

It has come to the author's notice through considerable research that there was such a logical method of determining the position of the sun in a zodiac sign during daylight and it is obvious but is shrouded and obscured in superstition and myth. There is a further zodiac that is connected geometrically to the ecliptic one and that obscure zodiac is known as the circumpolar zodiac. The ancients thought in wheels and there are two of these zodiac wheels in the

northern hemisphere, the ecliptic and the circumpolar. In the same way, there are two poles, the celestial or north pole and the ecliptic pole which holds our attention for the purpose of telling time.

Why? Because the celestial pole star drifts through the actions of precession at the rate of 1° every 72 years and is therefore not reliable over time, but the ecliptic pole which is directly over the centre of the sun is constant and varies little over hundreds of thousands of years. No matter what you are told by any other researcher, it was impossible for our ancestors to determine the exact position of the sun in a constellation by observing the stars at dawn or sunset, to suggest otherwise is preposterous showing either a lack of actual observation and research, or a deliberate fudge to obscure the truth. It is the ecliptic pole that determines the position of the sun in an ecliptic zodiac sign and this can only be determined at night by observing the constellation Draconis with a Working Celtic cross.

BRENDAN

Brendan the navigator is a legend amongst the Irish and Celtic people for many reasons. There are many who would like to see more evidence that the transatlantic voyages of Brendan could be more than just exaggerated stories.

The current academic position against such a voyage of discovery 900 years before Christopher Columbus rests solely on the presumption that St Brendan, like earlier potential transatlantic voyagers, had no knowledge of the fundamentals of navigation. There can be little argument about the other side of the technology required, which is a substantial and seaworthy enough craft to make the voyage. This point was proved when a voyage in the footsteps of St Brendan, was made by Tim Severin in 1977.

To fulfil 'The Brendan Voyage,' Tim Severin successfully built a Curragh, faithful to the construction methods of 6th century shipwrights and sailed across the Atlantic proving that the journey could have been done in principle. So, there only remains the question of navigation, since motivation is clearly shown.

As far as this article is concerned I intend to show, in combination with my earlier discovery that the Celtic Cross was a working navigational instrument, that the legends of St Brendan crossing the Atlantic to America hold considerable potential for truth. That it is highly likely that St Brendan understood the cross and plumb line for its true value using it in combination with the more ancient knowledge of our earlier ancestors

That this discovery was either esoteric in origin or that he discovered this knowledge from the prehistoric mounds at Ardfert where he chose to locate his Monastery. Ardfert means the height of the burial mounds. Ardfert cathedral is built on the earlier monastic site dedicated to St Brendan and is in the process of being restored. Not much is known about the earlier site only that over two thousand medieval burials were excavated and some of the burials had been aligned to an earlier structure. Brendan was born in Ciarraige Luachra, in County Kerry, Ireland in 484 AD and grew up by the sea. He was a charismatic leader and gained many followers, which resulted in the founding of monastic communities along the West Coast of Ireland over a period of some 30 years.

What is not generally understood, is that in the days of Brendan, there were very few roads. This was in the early days of the conversion of "Pagans" to Christianity by the Holy Roman Empire. The lack of safe overland routes made travelling by land a very difficult and sometimes hazardous affair. The way in which people travelled around and traded, in ancient times, was by sea. That is why most major settlements were by river estuaries and still are to this day. Evidence of this can be seen through the monastic sites that Brendan was associated with being located close



to the River Shannon. Brendan is known to have visited Iona in Scotland, France and Wales in his voyages.

He started Monasteries in Scotland in locations, by the water, near the sites of more ancient standing stones at Kilbrandon and Kilbrennan Sound. Of his spiritual power and Missionary zeal, there can be no doubt. This is shown by the expansion of religious houses to accommodate pilgrims throughout Ireland. Brendan the navigator's most celebrated foundation was Confert in County Galway. He died in 577AD in sister Briga's convent at Enachduin, now known as Anaghdown. His grave faces the front door of the Cathedral in Clonfert.

'Navigatio Sancti Brendani' was an account written by an Irish monk in the ninth or tenth century and describes the seven year voyage of St Brendan. More than 100 medieval Latin manuscripts of the Voyage of Brendan still exist today. Brendan was known to have met St Columba of Iona, and to have voyaged to France with St malo. The ancient French seafaring port of St Malo is named after the Welsh Saint and is the birth place of Jacques Cartier who was the first European reputed to land in Canada in 1534AD. Brendan set forth on a voyage to find the Blessed Islands, a myth even in his time. They were looking for the Promised Land, a fabled place of plenty beyond the western horizon. I believe that these ancient legends came from the earlier sea voyaging "Celtic" peoples. Such legends may be seen in the funerary culture of Ancient Egypt thousands of years earlier. There are varying accounts of between 60 and 150 monks accompanying Brendan on this hazardous voyage and the many accounts of their amazing adventures are well documented.

Now, it is said that there is no smoke without fire and there is considerable evidence of prehistoric artifacts in America and the British Isles that are similar in design that bear out the possibility that St Brendan inherited his knowledge and skills from his ancient ancestors and probably made it across the Atlantic with the working Celtic cross as his navigation instrument.

There are many courageous historians who have suggested that the Ancient peoples of the British Isles gained their knowledge from Egyptian or Phoenician sailors who traded for tin and other commodities long before written history. To see the uses of the principles of the cross and plumb line and the constellations of the zodiacs visit the work on the greatest users of astronomy and astrology the world has ever seen. Deep in the seventh wonder of the world is the evidence of a working cross that has been overlooked by archeologists and historians and misunderstood by great Victorian astronomers.**

This extract is only scratching the surface of this subject, but it is hoped that this outline will give you an idea of the contents of the book. Extracted from the author's website: www.crichtonmiller.com - the site gives you details about buying the book online. -----

Religious Freedom Under Attack

Increasingly, around the world, the religious freedom of Christians is under threat. In the UK, another attempt is being made to pass a religious vilification law. In December 2003, federal ALP Shadow Attorney General Robert McClelland put a private member's bill into Parliament called the Racial and Religious Hatred Bill. If this bill was passed it would prohibit 'religious vilification' like Victoria's Racial and Religious Tolerance Act. These stories highlight the variety of matters confronting Christians ...

Swedish Pastor in Prison

A court in Sweden has sentenced a Swedish Pentecostal pastor, Ake Green, to a month in prison, under a law against incitement, after he was found guilty of having offended homosexuals in a sermon.

Soren Anderson, the president of the Swedish federal Christian Identity Ministries - PO Box 146 - CARDWELL QLD 4849

tion for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights (RFSL), said, on hearing the sentence, that religious freedom could never be used as a reason to offend people. "Therefore," he told journalists, "I cannot regard the sentence as an act of interference with freedom of religion." During a sermon in 2003, Green described homosexuality as "abnormal, a horrible cancerous tumour in the body of society." (*Ecumenical News International*, 30/06/2004)

We understand that Pastor Green prepared his sermon, including Bible verses, and handed it out some days before giving his sermon last year. He was then charged and the decision has just been announced.

Sweden has a "hate crimes" law that forbids criticism of homosexuality. According to the church newspaper *Kyrkans Tidning*, the prosecutor in the case, Kjell Yngvesson, justified the arrest of Green, saying "One may have whatever religion one wishes, but this is an attack on all fronts against homosexuals. Collecting Bible citations on this topic as he (Green) does makes this hate speech." [*Lifesite.com* 6/7/2004]

Scottish B & B

When Tom Forrest told a homosexual couple they could not have the double bed in his Scottish guesthouse, *Cromasaig*, he didn't expect the avalanche of publicity that followed. After major newspapers reported on the case, he received more than 2,500 emails (from) around the world, with most of them supporting his decision.

Local Tourism Board, Visit Scotland, removed his guesthouse from their records saying it was because of "the discourteous and impolite manner with which he communicated to potential visitors to our country." Tom has asked us to pass on his thanks to all of our readers who wrote to him by email. Of course, homosexual activists were upset and called for 'discrimination laws' to prohibit this behaviour! But Tom is undeterred! He has now added this statement to his website "We will only allow heterosexual couples and singles to occupy our double bedded rooms."

Well done, Tom! Visit his website at:

<www.torridon-mountains.com/cromasaig>

Vilification in NSW

Much closer to home, Baptist pastor Robert Griffith from Orange NSW, who is standing as a candidate for the National Party, has been accused of 'inciting hatred towards homosexuals' by the local Greens candidate because of an article he wrote supporting the amendments to the Marriage Act and opposing same-sex marriage.

Then a Sydney homosexual lodged a complaint with the NSW Anti-Discrimination Tribunal during July - NSW has anti-vilification laws in the areas of homosexuality, transgender and HIV/AIDS. Please pray for Robert - read his very moderate article at:

www.robertgriffith.net/news/default.asp?action=article&ID=29

Courtesy SALTSHAKERS, address & website p.10 -----

We were saddened by another reader having passed away, and also another long-time reader not wanting to renew their donations for our *MESSENGER*. We know our message is not popular among the masses, and it really is only a remnant who want to read. But if you can, please help to increase our readership. We hope to be putting out another list of contacts, and another list of singles, soon. If you want to be on either list, you must let us know within 30 days or you will not be included. Lists go only to those who are on them, and not to the whole mailing list.

Thank you again for your letters and news clippings and for your much appreciated on-going support. We hope and pray that you find this *Messenger* interesting and educational, and that you continue to read it. May the God of our forefathers, who brought our ancestors out of Egypt, bless you and give you His protection,

Hendrik (Bank) Roelofs 14

