

Restoring Original Christianity—for Today!

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Dear Brethren,

On the world's Roman Calendar, we are beginning a New Year. Those who have been in the Church for decades have anticipated, on more than a few occasions, that by this time we would be in the Kingdom of God. However, as Jesus Christ Himself said, He is going to return at the precise time predetermined by God the Father. While we are always to watch current events as they develop, we need to remember what Jesus said: "But concerning that day, and the hour, no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only" (Matt. 24:36). Yet, at the same time, we need to realize that everything prophesied in the Word of God will be fulfilled exactly as God has said, not according to our own ideas and assumptions.

A Momentous Prophetic Event Quietly Established: While the attention of the world has been focused on economic problems, a momentous event took place in Europe that lays the political foundation for the coming of the final *Beast* of Revelation thirteen. The twelve core nations of the European Union (as formed under the Lisbon Treaty) became a single, viable political entity with the recent election of a *president* and a *foreign minister*, paving the way for Europe to become a world superpower.

To understand this event we have to go back to the year 1948. At that time there were two significant developments that have helped set the stage for the fulfillment of end-time biblical prophecies—especially those of the book of Revelation.

The **first** was obvious—known worldwide and marked by war and bloodshed: the sudden establishment of the Jewish state of Israel by the United Nations. This event was of great prophetic significance, as it would cause Jerusalem to become *the* focal point of world attention. Since that time, the Jewish state has developed into the most powerful nation in the Middle East, and has become the center of the Islamic/Jewish conflict that now consumes the attention of the world on a nearly daily basis. In that conflict, Jerusalem has been plagued by hatred, contention, strife and violence, just as prophesied by Zechariah: "**Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people all around, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem. And in that day I will make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people. All who burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the nations of the earth be gathered together against it**" (Zech. 12:2-3).

This passage accurately describes Jerusalem and the Jewish nation today. Other prophecies show that the *whole world*—led by Satan, the Beast and the False Prophet—will eventually be drawn to the final battle of Armageddon near Jerusalem to fight against the returning Jesus Christ and His army of resurrected saints.

The **second** event—the 1948 Treaty of Brussels—was hardly noticed. By all appearances it was simply a treaty designed to help rebuild the nations of Europe and reestablish peace and commerce after the ravages of World War II. In reality, however, it was the *start* of what is now the United States of Europe.

What follows is a summary report by T. Leon Sexton of the **Legacy Institute** detailing the milestones in the formation of the United States of Europe:

1948 Treaty of Brussels

This was a treaty signed between Belgium, France, Luxembourg and the United Kingdom that expanded a mutual defense pledge between France and England known as the Dunkirk Treaty. **This mutual defense pledge formed the foundation for a Western European Union.**

1951 Treaty of Paris

This was a treaty created and signed between mainly France and Western Germany, but also Italy and the Benelux countries. Its purpose was to establish the European Coal and Steel Community. The main goal was to produce diplomatic and economic stability in Western Europe after World War II. The members of this new community were former enemies in [what had been] a bloody war. But they were now sharing production of coal and steel, both essential to war efforts. The Treaty of Paris [was] not all they signed. They also signed something called the European Declaration, which *declared that the treaty had given birth to Europe*.

This declaration was signed by all the leaders present and emphasized the supranational principle of a new, united democratic Europe. What is noteworthy about this 1951 treaty is that it was the brainchild of former enemies France and Germany, both of which claim Holy Roman Emperor Charlemagne (German: Karl der Grosse) as a national hero who united Europe.

1954 Western European Union

The Western European Union was created in 1954 by a new European pact signed in Brussels, allowing the re-arming of the Federal Republic of Germany and its integration into the WEU.

1957 Treaty of Rome

This treaty created the European Economic Community (EEC), which was later changed to just the “European Community.” The original signatories were the same six countries that formed the European Coal and Steel Community: France, West Germany, Italy, Belgium, Netherlands, and Luxembourg.

Another treaty, signed at the same time, created the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom). It and the EEC were the first international organizations based on the idea of supranationalism. Supranationalism is a method of decision-making in multi-national political organizations wherein power is transferred or delegated to an authority [set up] by governments of member states. The authority can therefore institute a supranational rule of law above (supra) the constituent national laws. In other words, the signatory countries give up some or all of their sovereign rights.

1965 Merger Treaty (or Brussels Treaty)

The purpose of this treaty was to combine the executive bodies of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC), European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom), and the European Economic Community (EEC) into a single institutional structure.

1986 Single European Act

The Single European Act (SEA) was a major revision of the Treaty of Rome. Its objectives were to create a European common market and to codify European political cooperation. This treaty was signed in Luxembourg and the Hague.

1992 The Maastricht Treaty

This treaty, also known as the Treaty on European Union, created the European Union and the common monetary unit known as the Euro. This treaty also sought to extend the scope of [unity] to the areas of foreign policy, military, criminal justice and judicial matters.

As the Union worked to extend the scope of its supranational power, it received resistance. The countries of Denmark, France and the UK resisted giving up more and more sovereignty.

1997 Treaty of Amsterdam

This treaty made substantial changes to the Treaty on European Union (Maastricht). It increased the powers of the European Parliament and formed the beginnings of a common foreign and security policy.

2001 The Treaty of Nice

It amended the Maastricht Treaty and the Treaty of Rome. The Treaty of Nice also reformed the institutional structure of the European Union to accommodate membership from nations of Eastern Europe.

2007 Treaty of Lisbon

The stated aim of this most recent treaty is to complete the process started by the Treaty of Amsterdam and the Treaty of Nice. Ireland’s acceptance of this treaty was defeated by the Irish people in a referendum vote. Subsequently, it was somehow passed in another, later

referendum.

The Treaty of Lisbon created a President of the European Council as well as a High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (a Foreign Minister, comparable to a U. S. Secretary of State).

Both of these persons have already been selected. Belgian Prime Minister Herman Van Rompuy is now the President of the EU. Baroness Catherine Ashton (Britain) holds the post of High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

In spite of the reservations of the French, Danes, Irish, Dutch and others, the Treaty of Lisbon was finally ratified by all member states. The implementation of the Lisbon Treaty is the icing on the cake, so to speak, for those who have worked hard for the birth of a united Europe.

With a President and a Foreign Minister, the European Union takes on all the trappings of a viable sovereign state. The EU can now enter into various international treaties and maintain a national army. Its foreign policy will be that of all of Europe, not that of each individual member country. Britain will no longer be able to choose her own path apart from the continent. Denmark must tow the line. France will not be able to enter into bilateral relationships apart from the EU as a whole. All member states must follow the path of what the Germans call “Europa.”

In mythology, Europa was the Phoenician daughter of the King of Tyre. Zeus, king of the Greek pantheon, fell in love (or should I say “lust”) with beautiful Europa. He transformed himself into a bull and went to where Europa and her attendants were gathering flowers near the seashore.

She saw the bull and sought to tame him. She put a wreath of flowers around his neck and climbed up onto his back. The bull took this opportunity to jump into the water, swim away with her, and commit fornication with her.

The Bible is full of prophetic symbols representing real things such as prophets, kings, empires, churches, angels, etc. Symbolism is used today. The eagle holding arrows and an olive branch represents the United States of America. The bear represents Russia. The double-headed eagle was used to represent the German Holy Roman Empire, etc. So, symbols are not insignificant.

I find it revealing that the European Parliament has chosen as its symbol a woman riding a beast! Europa riding the bull sounds symbolically similar to Revelation 17, doesn't it? There are today statues of Europa riding the bull sitting in front of the European Parliament buildings in Strasbourg, France, and Brussels, Belgium. Is God trying to tell us something through this symbol which the European leadership has chosen to represent this new “empire”?

The symbolism is striking.

We may not understand clearly what Bible symbols represent. But what is clear is that this rebirth of a united Europe has been going on since just after the end of World War II, just before I was born. Now I am almost 60. So this has been going on for 60 years! Did you know that?

Now it has arrived. Babylon has risen again.

End of summary excerpts by T. Leon Sexton © Legacy Institute 2009

It is clear that the foundation for the final stage in the rise of Europe has now been set. Howbeit, it was done very quietly, with seemingly insignificant political figures who pose no threat to anyone. But, the *offices* have been established. The key office of “president of Europe” will undoubtedly be the office that the final Beast will assume in a coming time of trouble. There is no way of knowing how many European presidents will serve before the Beast takes over.

Two major, difficult problems remain for Europe:

1) How will Europe survive unless they deal severely with the Islamic problem? As I have speculated in the past, will Europe eventually be forced to expel all Muslims, whether immigrants or European-born, back to their native countries? Such a move would most likely begin in Germany, with the other nations following suit. Or, the EU may pass a law forcing all European nations to expel Muslims. The Islamic problem will certainly need to be addressed if Europe is to become a world superpower.

2) Demographically, Europe is quite old, with a military made up mostly of soldiers age 30 to 50. In order to resolve this problem and preserve the European peoples, could the Pope

issue an edict that young people need to follow the admonition of the Roman Catholic Church to marry and have children?

In various periods of European history—even going back to the days of Augustus in ancient Rome—government programs have been implemented to encourage marrying and having children. If such is the case today, it means there will be considerably more time until the Great Tribulation period.

One final observation: If you look at the map of Europe today, with the twelve core nations of the EU and the associated nations of eastern Europe, it covers the exact territory that the Germans had conquered at the height of their World War II power. As some have speculated concerning the Allied victory in Europe, *they won the war, but lost the battle*. With today's United States of Europe, and Germany as the leading nation, they have indeed won the battle without any further war!

In spite of the recent developments in Europe's unification, other events in the world indicate that Jesus' return is not immediately ahead of us. On the other hand, it is not clear when or how major events leading up to the Great Tribulation will unfold.

In addition to the formation of a united Europe led by the Beast, Jesus warned of **another major sign**—the rise of **false prophets** who will be so convincing that many people will follow them: “If anyone says to you, ‘Behold, here *is* the Christ,’ or, ‘*He is* there,’ do not believe *it*. For there shall arise false Christs and false prophets, and **they shall present great signs and wonders, in order to deceive, if possible, even the elect**. Behold, I have foretold *it* to you” (Matt. 24: 23-25).

Jesus often warned about false prophets who would come *in His name*. While preaching in His name they would teach a false Jesus, with a false gospel—the easy way to salvation—and thus deceive many. At the beginning of His ministry, He told His disciples, “Enter in through the narrow gate; for wide *is* the gate and broad *is* the way that leads to destruction, and many are those who enter through it; **for narrow *is* the gate and difficult *is* the way that leads to life, and few are those who find it. But beware of false prophets who come to you in sheep's clothing, for within *they* are ravening wolves**.

“You shall know them by their fruits. They do not gather grapes from thorns, or figs from thistles, do they? In the same way, every good tree produces good fruit, but a corrupt tree produces evil fruit. A good tree cannot produce evil fruit, nor can a corrupt tree produce good fruit. Every tree *that is* not producing good fruit is cut down and is cast into the fire. Therefore, you shall assuredly know them by their fruits” (Matt. 7:13-20).

At the end of Jesus' ministry leading up to His crucifixion, He again warned of false prophets: “**Be on guard lest anyone deceive you. For many shall come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ’; and they shall deceive many**” (Mark 13:5-6).

The apostle Paul emphatically warned the Thessalonians against being deceived. “Now we beseech you, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, that you not be quickly shaken in mind, nor be troubled—neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by epistle, as if from us, *saying* that the day of Christ is present. **Do not let anyone deceive you by any means** because *that day will not* come unless the apostasy shall come first, and the man of sin shall be revealed—the son of perdition, the one who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God, or that is an object of worship; so that he comes into the temple of God and sits down as God, proclaiming that he himself is God. Do you not remember that when I was still with you, I told you these things?” (II Thess. 2:1-5).

Living in a world deceived by Satan the devil (Rev. 12:9), how do *we* avoid being deceived? By remaining faithful to God the Father and the *true* Jesus Christ, and by “proving all things” by the Word of God, as did the Bereans: “*For* they received the Word with all readiness of mind **and examined the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so**” (Acts 17:11).

What is God's standard for examining the teachings of a dubious prophet—especially if they look good and sound convincing? Through the prophet Isaiah, God gives us clear instructions on how to test the messages of prophets who deceive: “And when they shall say to you, ‘Seek unto them that have familiar spirits and to wizards who peep and mutter [spiritism and demonism]’—*but* should not a people seek unto their God? *Should* the dead *be sought* on behalf of the living? **To the law** [Old Testament] **and to the testimony** [New Testament]! **If they do not speak according to this Word, *it is* because *there is no light in them***” (Isa. 8:19-20).

Here is a vital principal that we all need to use when confronted with strange teachings. In speaking to the Pharisees, John the Baptist witnessed about Jesus and made it clear that Jesus had, in fact, come from God and that He spoke the words of God: “He Who comes from above is above all. The one who is of the earth is earthy, and speaks of the earth. He Who comes from heaven is above all; and what He has seen and heard, this *is what* He testifies; but no one receives His testimony. The one who has received His testimony has set his seal that God is true; **for He Whom God has sent speaks the words of God; and God gives not the Spirit by measure unto Him**” (John 3:31-34)

That is the test! Do they actually speak the words of God? Or do they use *some* of the words of God and subtly weave in false teachings? We need to be alert to see if such teachers are rightly dividing the Word of God. Paul admonished Timothy, “See that *they* remain mindful of these things, earnestly charging *them* in the sight of the Lord not to argue over words that are not profitable in any way, *but which lead to the* subverting of those who hear. **Diligently study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of the truth;** but avoid profane and vain babblings because they will *only* give rise to more ungodliness, and their words will eat away at the body like gangrene...” (II Tim. 2:14-17).

During our years in the Church of God, we have all seen many people we thought were believing brethren. However, many of them have abandon the truth of God for the religious lies and myths of deceitful men who assumed positions as trusted ministers. For their *own* profit, such “ministers” deceitfully use the Word of God, twisting the Scriptures to create false doctrines—teachings which may at times “sound true.”

Why Are There False Prophets and Teachers? Why does God allow false prophets and teachers? He tells us why! He is testing us—**He wants to know what is really in our hearts, and whether we truly love Him with our whole being. Do we truly love God the Father and Jesus Christ and the truth of the Word of God—or not?**

Notice what He instructed the children of Israel concerning false prophets: “If a prophet rises among you, or a dreamer of dreams, and gives you a sign or a wonder, and the sign or the wonder which he foretold to you comes to pass, saying, ‘Let us go after other gods, which you have not known, and let us serve them,’ **You shall not hearken to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams, for the LORD your God is testing you to know whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. You shall walk after the LORD your God and fear Him, and keep His commandments, and obey His voice, and you shall serve Him and hold fast to Him**” (Deut. 13:1-4).

We are always to be vigilantly on guard against false teachers and apostles. Jesus commended the church in Ephesus because they tested and carefully examined the teachings of the of those who claimed to be apostles and found them to be imposters and liars: “I know your works, and your labor, and your endurance, and that you cannot bear those who are evil; and **that you did test those who proclaim themselves to be apostles, but are not, and did find them liars**” (Rev. 2:2).

Jesus also said it is not what they *profess*, but what they *do*. In spite of many apparent good deeds, miracles and even the casting out demons, the real question is: **Are they practicing the will of the Father in heaven?** Jesus made this clear when He said, “**Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but the one who is doing the will of My Father, Who is in heaven.** Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy through Your name? And *did we not* cast out demons through Your name? And *did we not* perform many works of power through Your name?’ And then I will confess to them, ‘I never knew you. Depart from Me, you who work lawlessness’ ” (Matt. 7:21-23).

We need to be watching at all times—not only world events, but our *own* spiritual standing before God the Father and Jesus Christ. In Luke 21, **Jesus told us what we need to be doing**, whether we live until the return of Christ or we die and go to our place of safety in the grave: “Then He spoke a parable to them: ‘Observe the fig tree, and all the trees. When they have already begun to bud, *and you look at them*, you yourselves know that summer is near. In the same way also, when you see these things [He had just described] coming to pass, know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I say to you, *there is* no way that this generation [that sees these things] shall pass away until all *these things* have taken place.

“ ‘Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My words shall never pass away. **Watch yourselves, lest your hearts be preoccupied with high living and drinking and the cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly.** For as a snare it shall come upon all those who dwell on the face of the earth. **Watch therefore, and pray at all times that you may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man**’ ” (Luke 21:29-36).

Church at Home: We now have our new Web site—Church at Home—up and running. As you know, we have been preparing this site for a long time. You will be surprised at the quality of these programs. They are not like our videos of sermons you have seen in the past. After we record each program, Dave Froloff does the camera work and some initial editing and compiles the scriptures used in each segment. He then sends the videos to Randy Vild of Vild Productions in Simi Valley, California. Randy is a professional video editor and a member of God’s Church. When he edits these rough programs, he makes them come alive by adding graphics and streaming the scripture quotes so the viewer can read them as well as hear them.

Church at Home is designed for new people who have never heard of the Church of God. This is our outreach to the world. Furthermore, it has come at a most important time, as we now realize that there are millions of people who have *quit* going to the various so-called “Christian” churches of this world. In fact, these churches are losing people at an alarming rate. They are leaving because they are not being taught the *truth* of the Bible or about God. This is the audience we are targeting; I will bring a sermon in the near future explaining this amazing turn of events in great detail.

If you have a computer and high-speed Internet service, you will be able to download the streaming video programs (otherwise you can still download the audio of each program). Each program is a half hour in duration. We now have 14 or 15 up and running, with over 50 downloadable articles that are 3-5 pages in length. In time, we plan to have hundreds of Church at Home video programs on this site. (We have also added a video section to our regular Web site, cbcg.org. We have finally converted many video sermons from past years to MP4 format.)

For those of you who do not have computers, the CD in our next mailing will include the audio of all the Church at Home programs. This way, you will not miss out on anything. We will also periodically send you a DVD which will contain three of the video programs so you can watch them at home. As you can see, we have been quite busy!

Brethren, we thank God the Father and Jesus Christ daily for His goodness and mercy for all His people. We pray for you personally every day—for your health, healing, faithfulness, and especially for those who need encouragement because of difficult circumstances, such as those who need jobs. We thank you for your prayers, love and faithfulness to God and each other, as well as your prayers for us and all the brethren. We thank you for your faithfulness in your tithes and offerings. We pray that God will bless you with His love, grace and spiritual strength in all circumstances.

With love in Christ Jesus,

Fred R. Coulter
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