

The background of the cover is a photograph of a row of ancient stone columns, likely from the Temple of Baalshamin in Palmyra. The columns are made of light-colored stone and show signs of weathering and damage. They are arranged in a perspective that leads the eye from the foreground towards the background. The sky is a clear, bright blue. The overall scene is set in a desert environment with some low-lying vegetation and a hill in the distance.

THE SACRED NAME BROADCASTER

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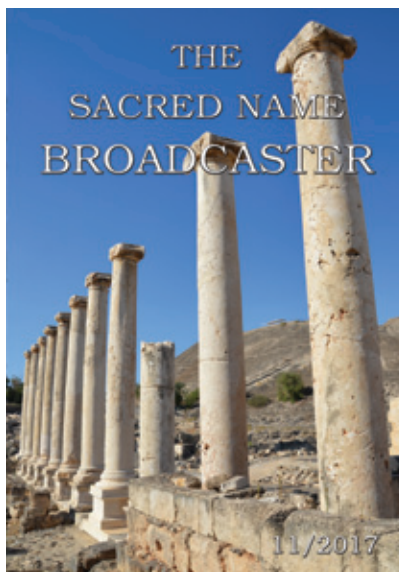
The world today is drinking in the spirit of the Adversary who is leading the world into the clutches of the Beast system.

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All quotes in **The Sacred Name Broadcaster** are from **The Sacred Scriptures, Bethel Edition**, 1981, Assemblies of Yahweh, Bethel, PA 19507, unless otherwise stated. All translations of the Bible quoted herein have been corrected to be consistent with the oldest available manuscripts. Copies of **The Sacred Scriptures, Bethel Edition**, are available. For information about purchasing your copy, write to Assemblies of Yahweh.

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Our Cover:

This month's cover reveals a common scene that is found all over Israel today—the ruins of an ancient Israelite city with the ruins of a later Roman city nearby. The tel of Beth Shean is seen through the columns of the Roman city.

Judges 1:27 records how Manasseh did not drive out the inhabitants of Beth Shean, but they became a thorn in Israel's side and their mighty ones became a snare to them.

How accepting are you of the pagan religious practices that are commonly practiced today? Have you fully rejected the worldly pagan holidays, or are you ensnared with the ways of the heathen?

Yahweh is calling to His people to come out of Babylon before His judgments are poured out on this wicked generation. Who will heed that call?



Throughout the summer months, most people work diligently at their vocations. Few may be engaged in agriculture; nevertheless, summer affords an opportunity for everyone to accomplish all kinds of tasks around our homes that have been set aside during the cold weather months. Some people are able to take a leisurely vacation during the summer months, and this

by Elder Jacob O. Meyer

absorbs their time.

The sequence of work days during the summer months are interrupted by three holidays here in the United States: Memorial Day, Fourth of July, and Labor Day. Although some of these holidays result from patriotic observances, it seems

as though they are scheduled to occur with some degree of regularity, and they relieve the monotony of work days.

From Labor Day, several months elapse until, in late fall and early winter, three holidays with religious overtones occur in consecutive months.

Let us take a closer look at them to determine if the True Worshiper should engage in the

observance of these days at that time of year.

Halloween— A Preoccupation With Death

Each year, we cannot help but notice the increasingly large amount of information that is published in the news media expressing great concern regarding the trends bent toward violence and Satan worship common now in celebrating this fall holiday. The celebration has been presented throughout christianity as a very innocent day of fun and frolic. However, many historians trace the Halloween observance to the date associated with the Roman feast of Pomona—a female mighty one who blessed the people with fruits and seeds and was honored after the time of the fall harvest.

Other commentators have traced the Halloween holiday dating and practices to an ancient New Year festival that was celebrated by the Druids in the British Isles. At that time of year, the Druids honored their dead ancestors. It was said to have been the date upon which the mighty one of death recalled the souls of the dead back from the bodies of the animals which they had been condemned to inhabit the year before. He would, on that day, decide what animal form these spirits of the dead would be required to inhabit for the coming year.

A philosophy and religion professor at a local college here in Pennsylvania made the observation, “*The problem with Halloween is that no one knows a lot about it, although there has been an attempt to link it to the Druids, the Celts, the Vikings, and Nordic religion.*” Could this assertion be true?



There is more to this English term “bonfires” than meets the eye. Bonfire has a **highly unusual meaning** (from the **Webster’s New World Dictionary, Second College Edition**): “**bonfire** *n.* [ME. *banefyre*, lit. bone fire; later, funeral pyre] a large fire built out-of-doors.” Isn’t it amazing how this connection is made between death and bonfire in the etymology of the term?

In the book, **The American Book of Days**, by G. W. Douglas, a passage is quoted as saying, “*The witches held a party on Halloween and the women who seemed like other people during the rest of the year, but had sold their souls to the devil, would put a stick in their beds anointed with the fat of murdered babies. This stick would change itself into their likeness and they could fly up a chimney on a broom stick attended by black cats.*” (Undoubtedly, the reference to the murdered babies harks back to human sacrifice.)

Why do children today dress up in masks with hatchets

sticking in their heads? Why do they dress in garbs of death? Why is there a demonic, Satanic atmosphere attached to the celebration of the day? These customs and their recent innovations originated somewhere! Let us find out.

The Druids (a priestly religious order of the Celts) undoubtedly had something to do with originating the modern-day observance of Halloween. Since they specified their new year to begin on November 1, they proclaimed an end-of-the-year festival of Samhain—the mighty one of **death**. Huge bonfires were lit (undoubtedly in honor of

the worship of the sun), horses, and *sometimes humans*, were sacrificed, and everyone was on the lookout for evil spirits and ghosts.

When the Roman Catholic Church began spreading out, their priests found converts who intended to retain the Celtic celebration of Samhain. If they tried to squash the pagan customs, the Catholic missionary priests believed people would rebel against the new religion. If they handed out notices of excommunication, the church would lose many of their new members. Consequently, the Roman Catholic priesthood decided to allow the pagans to retain their customs, but to also Christianize the festival (and other obviously pagan practices) as a religious holiday. This is how the Roman Catholic Church assimilated customs that were derived from a pagan origin.

To retain All Souls Day, the church fathers specified November 1 as All Hallows Day. The night before was celebrated as All Hallow Even or All Halloween (hallow evening).

We have already mentioned the bonfires which were obviously lit in celebration of sun worship. As the fall cool weather deepened and the sun receded further south, the pagan people needed something to remind themselves of the warm summer sun; therefore, they lit bonfires. Bonfires then took on a sacred significance to remind them of the sun.

However, there is more to this English term “bonfires” than meets the eye. Bonfire has a *highly unusual meaning* (from the **Webster’s New World Dictionary, Second College Edition**): “**bonfire** *n.* [ME. *banefyre*, lit. bone fire; later, funeral pyre] a large fire built out-of-doors.” How

astounding!

Isn’t it amazing how this connection is made between death and bonfire in the etymology of the term? Obviously, the bone fire was used to immolate people who had died and is obviously reminiscent of ancient human sacrifices, or of death generally.

The Celts believed that the spirits of the dead ones would come back and demand food during the Samhain festival. If they didn’t receive it, they would cast an evil spell on all those who refused to give them anything. This would, undoubtedly, be the origin of the trick-or-treat.

The Irish apparently brought the jack-o’-lanterns from Europe. They had a legend, in which one particular *Jack*, who was refused admission to both heaven and hell, ended up roaming the earth with his lantern. A jack-o’-lantern was made from a hollowed out turnip with a live coal inside. The coal was said to have been supplied by the devil himself. Other vegetables used for lanterns were rutabagas and, finally, pumpkins. Today we find that jack-o’-lanterns are carved out of pumpkins, but still reminiscent of the Jack who was condemned by Satan to wander the earth. Can the True Worshiper engage in such obvious paganism? Certainly not!

American Thanksgiving Celebration

During the early weeks of November, throughout the United States, preparations are being made for what has become known as “T-Day” or “Turkey Day.” The concept of thanking an Almighty Being for the blessings we have so generously received from Him is far from the minds of the average individual. Usually, the people only look forward to

having a day or two off work and to indulging in a sumptuous feast featuring roast turkey.

Although the children in school are sometimes taught to remember the immigrant Pilgrim fathers and their first American Thanksgiving Day, it is impossible to prove that the date of the Thanksgiving Day observed in the early Plymouth colony of Massachusetts was held at the end of November!

After planting and harvesting an abundant crop, the Pilgrim colony of Plymouth, Massachusetts, wished to give thanks to the Almighty for sparing them, since so many of the colonists had died that first winter. Thereupon, Governor William Bradford declared a day of feasting to commemorate their thanksgiving. The first thanksgiving feast is reliably reported to have been held from October 3-6, 1621. A later record in the annals of the Plymouth colony lists 20 additional thanksgiving festivals held over the next 50 years. However, the early October dating is certainly much more in agreement with the date of the scriptural Feast of Tabernacles.

In 1789, the Congress of the United States recommended that a universal Thanksgiving Day be established. President George Washington appointed Thursday, November 26, as the national American Thanksgiving Day. For a while it was moved forward to the third Thursday of the month of November.

Many authors, however, recognized the relationship between the biblical Feast of Tabernacles and the American Thanksgiving Day. They cannot, however, justify the discrepancy between the dates that are observed.

As a matter of fact, the Canadian Thanksgiving Day is

observed on the second Monday of October, a time which more accurately corresponds with the Feast of Tabernacles held in the seventh scriptural month and is the biblical thanksgiving. But, if so close, why not celebrate a Thanksgiving Day during the time that Yahweh designates as His time of thanksgiving?

How did November come to be chosen as the date for the thanksgiving feast here in America? Could it possibly have come out of the Bible? Actually, the Bible shows that King Jeroboam of the 10-tribed, northern House of Israel originally designated the day: ***“AND JEROBOAM ORDAINED A FEAST IN THE EIGHTH MONTH, on the fifteenth day of the month, like the feast that is in Judah, and he went up to the altar; so he did in Beth-el, sacrificing to the calves that he made: and he placed in Beth-el the priests of the high places that he had made. And he went up to the altar which he had made in Beth-el on the fifteenth day in the eighth month, even in the month which he had devised of his own heart: and he ordained a feast for the children of Israel, and went up to the altar, to burn incense.”*** (1 Kings 12:32–33).

Many years the fifteenth day of the eighth scriptural month falls near or on the date of the American Thanksgiving Day! Amazing, don't you think? Yet here is proof that the American Thanksgiving Day is designated to circumvent the Law of Yahweh.

The Sacred Scriptures makes no mention of a Thanksgiving Day as the Americans observe it; rather, it teaches us to keep Yahweh's feast days, among which the Feast of Tabernacles



is observed in late September or early October. It is surprising, however, how sometimes the American Thanksgiving Day does indeed fall within the week of the Feast of Tabernacles as it would be observed in the ***eighth month*** of the time which Jeroboam specified.

Should the True Worshiper then celebrate a day so closely related to a **change** in Yahweh's Laws? Please read Daniel 7:25–26. Will you continue to support a change in Yahweh's Laws by observing a day that is not scriptural? Perhaps you will some day regret your actions when you stand before the judgment seat of the Messiah.

The Chr-stmas and New Year Celebration

As the month of December draws to a close, perhaps the most popular holiday of the year occurs. Usually people today will acknowledge that they will work 364 days each year, but

on Chr-stmas day they will not work. Why should this day be so holy in the minds of people who rarely, if ever, concern themselves with any religion?

Most people will tell you that they are celebrating the birthday of the Messiah by keeping December 25. As a matter of fact, from the first chapter of Luke, we can systematically trace the progression of events from the annunciation by the angel to Zachariah concerning the birth of his son John (who became the Baptizer), to the annunciation to the virgin Miriam (not Mary—which would be Maria) of the birth of her son, Yahshua the Messiah, in Bethlehem. However, most people do not concern themselves with understanding the meaning of the words they are reading, nor of finding their antecedents in the Old Testament Hebrew Scriptures. Consequently, they do not understand that the term—**course of Abiyah**—served to designate a certain period of time.

Specifying December 25 as the birth of the Messiah did not occur until about 225 years after His birth. A Roman historian, Julius Sextus Africanus, in the year 221, suggested that the birth of the Messiah occurred on December 25.

December 25—or the winter solstice—had been a pagan holiday that harks all the way back to ancient Babylon. Nimrod was executed for idolatry by his great-uncle Shem. Nimrod's wife Semiramis, thereafter, bore a child who she claimed was Nimrod reincarnated. She called his name Tammuz. She depicted his birth as the reincarnation of Nimrod, a tree who had been cut down. From a dead tree stump sprang up a new little sprout of a tree. Consequently, we have

the origin of tree worship by putting up and decorating Chr-stmas trees at that season of year, which ultimately depicts Nimrod's re-birth.

The Romans observed their feasts, Saturnalia, Brumalia, and Bacchanalia, at virtually this same time of year during which the world today observes Chr-stmas. Many of the customs related to these pagan observances are today attached to the Chr-stmas celebration. Things like the boar's head festival, having pork on Xmas day for the Chr-stmas feast, drinking huge amounts of alcoholic beverages, closing the schools, courts, government offices, and businesses generally, along with the setting up of a tree, were all part of the ancient pagan Roman observance. In fact, the Roman feasts were actually given the name—Paganalia—pagan feasts. How about that?

The Roman Catholic Ch-rch had a proclivity for sanctifying, or Chr-stianizing, paganism. From a substitution of the names of local ethnic idols for the Name of the True and Living Elohim, Yahweh, and the Name of His Son, Yahshua the Messiah, to incorporating holidays previously observed by pagan people, the Roman Catholic priesthood has been instrumental in not converting the people of the world to the worship of the Bible. Rather, they proof text idolatrous doctrines and practices from the pages of the Scriptures and approve them for Messianic worship. Protestantism has slavishly followed their mother.

Again, building a fire com-

Will you continue to support a change in Yahweh's Laws by observing a day that is not scriptural? Perhaps you will some day regret your actions when you stand before the judgment seat of the Messiah.

prises a central theme of this worldly holiday. The modern-day burning of the yule log, the burning of the greens, candle lighting, and other fire ceremonies, take us back again to human sacrifices, and the death of the old year, with the bonfire (bone fire) to mark its funeral pyre.

On January 1, the world celebrates a new year. But Yahweh's new year is scheduled for celebration in the month of Abib, which falls around the end of March, or the beginning of April. Nevertheless, the Xmas-New Year celebration makes a convenient eight-day celebration to substitute for Yahweh's Feast of Tabernacles. Yahweh has commanded us to observe His holy days, and He has given us a calendar in the heavens which we must follow to set His holy days as He wishes them to be kept. Yahweh's new year does not begin in the middle of winter, but the new year of this worldly system begins then, because ***that was the time when the sun had noticeably begun its northward journey after going far to the south.***

Did you know that our calendar today preserves the number of the months according to the biblical calendar? The names September, October, November, and December mean seven, eight, nine, and ten in Latin, but today

they are the ninth, tenth, eleventh, and twelfth months of our common calendar, which follows a solar calendar.

Yahweh's new year begins in the spring with start of the new growing season. He wanted us to remember the agricultural season

in Israel, which constitutes the outline for His plan of salvation.

Yahweh's Feasts Versus Pagan Holidays

In a recent religious publication, the author of an article titled, **Symbols of Chr-stmas**, sought to attach each individual who read it to an emotional remembrance of the Chr-stmas celebration. He began his article by quoting Exodus 13:14, which relates to Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread. This passage has nothing whatsoever to do with Chr-stmas! This is how Chr-stianity constantly misquotes and misapplies the Sacred Scriptures.

Furthermore, the author tries to proof text the acceptability of the Chr-stmas tree when he explains, *"For example, we could put up the Chr-stmas tree because its that time of year, or we could point out that some 400 years ago a LEGEND holds that Martin Luther in Germany saw a lofty pine against a night sky with stars shining through the trees. That night a glittering tree blazing with stars simulated by bright candles was Luther's gift to his loved ones and to the world. He is credited with cutting the first yule tree and covering it with lights. In addition, the trees are always evergreens, symbolizing the life which is ours*

in [Yahshua the Messiah]—*a life of union with him into everlasting life. The tree has a strong trunk, and so must the Chr-stian life be strong at the center where [the Messiah] himself dwells, rooted and grounded in love.*”

There is no scriptural passage one could quote to substantiate the necessity of putting up a Chr-stmas tree to commemorate December 25. Rather, evidently, the author did not know of Jeremiah 10:1–4. Let us consider the passage now, **“Hear the word which Yahweh speaks to you, O house of Israel: Thus says Yahweh, Learn not the way of the nations, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the nations are dismayed at them. For the customs of the peoples are vanity; for one cuts a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman with the axe. They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it moves not.”**

In seeking proof for the star on top of the tree, the author of this article says, *“The tree tapers toward a point and reaches upward toward heaven, and so does the life of the Chr-stian. The tree gives out its light, and that is the way [the Messiah] is often referred to in the Bible—the light of the world. Our tree at home has a star, and so do many others (although angels are also a popular topping for the tree). The star symbolizes the star of Bethlehem which guided the wise men to the babe in the manger. Chr-stmas is rich in meaningful symbols when we know the meaning.”*

It is obvious, however, that the author who wrote the above does not know the meaning of the symbols! The Chr-stmas tree

is condemned without reservation in the Sacred Scriptures. Was it really a star, or was it an angel that led the wise men? If it was an angel that led the wise men (who were the *magoy*, magi, magicians) to Bethlehem, they pronounced doom upon the entire region, since all the male children under the age of two were slaughtered when those travelers from the East did not reappear before King Herod in Jerusalem.

Common among Chr-stian clergymen are found thoughts and ideas such as he included in the following quote: *“But romanticism does not have to be escapism. It can be realistic if its meaning is implemented in our lives. When the “new branch from the old root” enters into our lives and changes them, it becomes real. In that day “the nations will rally to him” and it will surely be a time of well-being and peace, and it will be real. Romanticism becomes real when the message becomes a real part of our lives.”* In other words, error and falsehood may become truth? Obviously that happens in the Santa Claus myth!

Why do people keep pagan holidays? Because they are so romantically and emotionally ingrained within their memories, lifestyles, and the very being of the people of this world that they cannot seem to escape.

We would challenge each one of the readers of this magazine to write in for free articles on the subject of these fall holidays that will be offered in conjunction with this article. Write in and request your in-depth studies of Halloween, Thanksgiving Day, and Chr-stmas. Then, do as the members of the Assemblies of Yahweh have done—begin to keep Yahweh’s holy days rather

than the pagan holidays of this world. Request your free article on the need to keep Yahweh’s holy days in this New Testament era. SNB



Learn the Startling Truth About Christmas!

The high point of the pagan religion and secular calendar was, and remains, December 25—Christmas. Revelry and worship, commercialism and customs, ornaments and rituals have been examined and identified in **The Case Against Christmas**, a thorough, scholarly study of this pagan holiday.

Write today for this free, in-depth study.

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Q. I have learned that you find that the American Thanksgiving, as observed in the month of November, is derived from false worship. Can you prove this from the Bible? —Louisiana

ANSWER

The American Thanksgiving, which has become so traditional, is supposedly traced to the observance of a period of thanksgiving to the Almighty for a plentiful harvest by the early Pilgrims of Massachusetts. Amazingly, when this observance is researched, it can be learned that they did not celebrate this thanksgiving in November, but in early October. Some reference books give October 3rd to 9th, and this would have been at exactly the same time which was set for observance of the scriptural Feast of Tabernacles. This date appeared in one of my children's history textbooks in school. You may also research this in encyclopedias at the library and discover similar dates.

The Pilgrim Fathers were diligent Bible scholars, especially of the Old Testament. A **Reader's Digest** article, which appeared in 1965, described them as Hebrew scholars. In fact, in an article which appeared in the July 1966 **United Israel Bulletin**, the editor, Mr. David Horowitz, presents information that the New England colonists had become so hostile to the British government prior to the Revolutionary War, that a popu-

lar movement among them was seriously considering changing their native language to Hebrew! These founding fathers of our country were indeed dedicated Bible students and tried their best to live what they found in the Bible. For this reason, they were called Puritans, since they were attempting to re-establish the pure religion which is described in the Bible. These colonists refused to celebrate either Christmas or Easter, since they found no scriptural basis for their observance. They did, however, observe the scriptural Sabbath and the feast days of Yahweh, until a new group of settlers re-introduced the corruption of false doctrine.

Thanksgiving days have been observed at various times since the founding of our country, but the present Thanksgiving day was first set aside

by the proclamation of President Lincoln in 1864 and has been proclaimed as a national holiday by each succeeding presi-



***The Feast of
Tabernacles
is the time of
rejoicing and
thanksgiving to
Yahweh, which
He has Himself
commanded in
His Word.***



***Usually the
Feast of
Tabernacles
is observed in
early October...
One month
later...would
correspond with
the feast which
Jereboam had
devised for
himself.***

dent. Reference books inform us that it is set by tradition for the last Thursday of November. Now, we might inquire where such a tradition originated, and, to our surprise, we learn that it can be found in the Bible!

As I stated previously, the Feast of Tabernacles is the time of rejoicing and thanksgiving to

Yahweh, which He has Himself commanded in His Word. Please read Exodus 34:22 and Deuteronomy 16:13-14. Man, of his own volition, cannot sanctify a day which our Heavenly Father does not recognize instead of His commanded holy days. However, we find that the first king of the ten northern tribes of the House of Israel did exactly that, in 1 Kings 12:32-33. Since our Heavenly Father had commanded that all worship must be offered at His house, the Temple in Jerusalem, Jereboam, fearing that if his people returned three times each year to Jerusalem for worship as the Law of Yahweh prescribed, the priests would again seek to reunite the Kingdom under the Davidic dynasty. To forestall such an eventuality, Jereboam had to devise a new system of worship to keep his people within his own territorial limits.

Jereboam knew that his people—the ten tribes of Israel—were not particularly anxious to make the long journey to Jerusalem each autumn. Some of them, especially in the highlands, probably had not completed their harvest before the Feast. Consequently, he must have concluded that a king who relieved the religious burdens imposed upon them by the ruling class in Judah would always be regarded as a benevolent benefactor. So, you find that it is recorded that he devised a feast—in the eighth month, in the month which he had devised of his own heart (Hebrew says here, by himself)—and he led Israel down the pathway of disobedience by offering upon the altar to the golden calf located in Bethel and burning incense (1 Kings 12:3).

Since few people, except the diligent Bible students, realize that the scriptural months are

set aside by the moon, they do not know the implications which are presented here. Speaking simply, Jereboam merely moved back the dates of the Feast of Tabernacles—the scriptural Thanksgiving time—by one month. Usually the Feast of Tabernacles is observed in early October (this year the dates were October 6-13). One month later would make the observance fall on November 3-11, and this would correspond with the feast which Jereboam had devised for himself. During the administration of Franklin D. Roosevelt, he moved the Thanksgiving observance ahead to the third Thursday of November instead of the fourth, so that the merchants would have more opportunity to promote “Chr-stmas” holiday shopping during the depression. When this holiday was moved ahead, it usually fell within the time period of the 15th to the 22nd of the eighth scriptural month. However, we find that, in 1967, the American National Thanksgiving fell around the end of the Feast of Tabernacles, if it had been observed in the eighth month and, again, in 1978.

When I learned these remarkable facts in my study of the Bible, I had no choice to make between the days which I had to keep, if my life was to be pleasing in the sight of Yahweh. I had to begin to keep His holy days—the Feast of Tabernacles included. I had to reject the holiday which was devised, or invented, by an idolatrous king to lead Israel astray. In the Assemblies of Yahweh, we usually serve the traditional turkey dinner with all the trimmings for the last Great Day of the Feast of Tabernacles, and the national thanksgiving day becomes merely another working day for us. ^{SNB}

Avoiding the Filthiest Lucrere

PART TWO

by Elder Jacob O. Meyer

“Belshazzar the king made a great feast to a thousand of his rulers, and drank wine before the thousand. Belshazzar, while he tasted the wine, commanded to bring the golden and silver vessels which Nebuchadnezzar his father had taken out of the temple which was in Jerusalem; that the king and his rulers, his wives and his concubines, might drink from them. Then they brought the golden vessels that were taken out of the temple of the house of Elah which was at Jerusalem; and the king and his rulers, his wives and his concubines, drank from them. They drank wine, and praised the elohim of gold, and of silver, of bronze, of iron, of wood, and of stone. In the same hour came forth the fingers of a man’s hand, and wrote over against the candlestick upon the plaster of the wall of the king’s palace: and the king saw the part of the hand that wrote. Then the king’s countenance

was changed in him, and his thoughts troubled him; and the joints of his loins were loosed, and his knees struck one against another. The king cried aloud to bring in the enchanters, the Chaldeans, and the soothsayers. The king spoke and said to the wise men of Babylon, Whoever shall read this writing, and show me the interpretation of it, shall be clothed with purple, and have a chain of gold about his neck, and shall be the third ruler in the kingdom. Then came in all the king’s wise men; but they could not read the writing, nor make known to the king the interpretation. Then was king Belshazzar greatly troubled, and his countenance was changed in him, and his rulers were perplexed. Now the queen by reason of the words of the king and his rulers came into the banquet house: the queen spoke and said, O king, live forever; let not your thoughts trouble you, nor let your countenance be

changed: there is a man in your kingdom, in whom is the spirit of the holy elohim; and in the days of your father light and understanding and wisdom, like the wisdom of the elohim, were found in him; and the king Nebuchadnezzar your father, the king, I say, your father, made him master of the magicians, enchanters, Chaldeans, and soothsayers; because an excellent spirit, and knowledge, and understanding, interpreting of dreams, and showing of dark sentences, and dissolving of doubts, were found in the same Daniel, whom the king named Belteshazzar. Now let Daniel be called, and he will show the interpretation. Then was Daniel brought in before the king. The king spoke and said to Daniel, Are you that Daniel, who are of the children of the captivity of Judah, whom the king my father brought out of Judah? I have heard of you, that the spirit of the elohim is in you, and that light and understand-

ing and excellent wisdom are found in you. And now the wise men, the enchanters, have been brought in before me, that they should read this writing, and make known to me the interpretation of it; but they could not show the interpretation of the thing. But I have heard of you, that you can give interpretations, and dissolve doubts: now if you can read the writing, and make known to me the interpretation of it, you shalt be clothed with purple, and have a chain of gold about your neck, and shall be the third ruler in the kingdom. Then Daniel answered and said before the king, Let your gifts be to yourself, and give your rewards to another; nevertheless I will read the writing to the king, and make known to him the interpretation. O you king, the Most High Elah gave Nebuchadnezzar your father the kingdom, and greatness, and glory, and majesty: and because of the greatness that he gave him, all the peoples, nations, and languages trembled and feared before him: whom he would he killed, and whom he would he kept alive; and whom he would he raised up, and whom he would he put down. But when his heart was lifted up, and his spirit was hardened so that he dealt proudly, he was deposed from his kingly throne, and they took his glory from him: and he was driven from the sons of men, and his heart was made like beasts', and his dwelling was with the wild asses; he was fed with grass like oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven; until he knew that the Most High Elah rules in the king-

dom of men, and that he sets up over it whomever he will. And you his son, O Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, though you knew all this, but have lifted up yourself against the Elah of heaven; and they have brought the vessels of his house before you, and you and your rulers, your wives and your concubines, have drunk wine from them; and you have praised the elohim of silver and gold, of bronze, iron, wood, and stone, which see not, nor hear, nor know; and the Elah in whose hand your breath is, and whose are all your ways, have you not glorified: then was the part of the hand sent from before him, and this writing was inscribed. And this is the writing that was inscribed: MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN. This is the interpretation of the thing: MENE; Elah has numbered your kingdom, and brought it to an end. TEKEL, you are weighed in the balances, and are found wanting. PERES; your kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians. Then Belshazzar commanded, and they clothed Daniel with purple, and put a chain of gold about his neck, and made proclamation concerning him, that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom. In that night Belshazzar the Chaldean king was killed. And Darius the Mede received the kingdom, being about sixty-two years old.” (Daniel 5).

In *Avoiding the Filthiest Lucre*, Part 1, we considered the subject of the Beast, the anti-Messiah's economic system, and the reasons why Yahweh detests this system so much. Yahweh warns us that we cannot accept

the mark of the Beast, “*...And that no man should be able to buy or to sell, except he that has the mark, even the name of the beast, or the number of his name.*” (Revelation 13:17). Can you see how important the sacred Name is? We cannot accept any other name, or worship under any other name, or be governed by any other name than the Name of Yahweh.

Let us begin reading with verse 15. “*And it was given to him to give breath to it, even to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as should not worship the image of the beast should be killed.*” The image of the Beast is a pattern of a past government that will be re-established here on this earth in the last days. That image, or pattern, of government will be in power when Yahshua the Messiah returns. Various other prophecies, such as Daniel 7 and 11, reveal what that Beast government will represent.

They will make an image to the Beast, who had the stroke of the sword and lived. So how did that stroke of the sword kill a government? Through war, obviously. This government will become a false government that will be worshipped as a religion. Our forefathers, who were members of the Apostolic Assembly and for several generations after that, paid the price of martyrdom for not worshiping the government. Did you know that at every government function they had to put a pinch of incense on the altar? If they came into a court or public building, or sporting event, they had to recognize the authority of the government at the door. If they refused to do that—and our forefathers re-

jected the authority of Rome in favor of the authority of Almighty Yahweh—they paid the price of martyrdom.

“...And he causes all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free and the bond, that there be given to them a mark on their right hand, or on their forehead....” (Revelation 13:16). This is converse to the mark that you find in various places of Scripture. The mark of Yahweh is identified in Ezekiel 9 and Exodus 13, as I have pointed out in past sermons on the mark of the Beast. The mark of Yahweh is converse to the mark of the Beast. In Ezekiel 9:4, the word *tau* represents the Name of Yahweh. It was written like a lazy X and represents His Name. Yahweh will put His Name upon those who sigh and cry against all of the abominations that are done in the land.

In the end times, people will be making religion—worship—out of economics and finance and it will be idolatry, rejecting Almighty Yahweh. This idolatry of materialism that we see all around us

today is going to get this nation, the Western European nations and other nations as well, into serious trouble.

Let’s take into consideration Isaiah 2, which states that the Law of Yahweh will go forth from Zion and the Word of Yahweh from Jerusalem. ***“O house of Jacob, come, and let us walk in the light of Yahweh.”*** (Isaiah 2:5). Light represents Yahweh’s Torah. Proverbs 6:23 reminds us that the Law is light. If you want to say that the Assemblies of Yahweh today is the house of Jacob, then this is a prophecy for our time. Let us walk in the Law of Yahweh—and in the light of Yahweh—and not in darkness. This world is hidden in darkness just like Egypt before the plague of the firstborn, where Egypt went into gross darkness.

This is what Isaiah the Prophet says will happen in the end times. Gross darkness is going to cover the peoples. ***“For you [antecedent Yahweh] have forsaken your people the house of Jacob, because they are filled with customs from the east, and are soothsayers like the***

Philistines, and they strike hands with the children of foreigners.” (Isaiah 2:6). This modern-day generation is descended from Jacob (Israel). In this instance, the house of Jacob represents the physical people descended from the house of Israel—the 10 lost tribes.

Years ago, I attended a seminar, and several well-known professors were in a discussion about what happened to the 10 lost tribes. They said they have to be somewhere. They can’t have just disappeared off the face of the earth. Scholars have tried to find them, but they were looking in the wrong place for these people. We are bearing the genetic seed of ancient Israel (Jacob), but people reject spiritual values in favor of customs from the east, to be soothsayers like the Philistines. They strike hands with the children of foreigners. They introduce foreign religions and customs that are not from Yahweh, religions that do not trace back to the True Worship that is described in the Sacred Scriptures.

“And their land is full of

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silver and gold, neither is there any end of their treasures; their land also is full of horses, neither is there any end of their chariots." (Isaiah 2:7). Let us understand this as money, currency, or wealth. Today, the United States enjoys a status of wealth such as never has been seen in any nation down through history. I remember an individual from Africa, who visited the Assemblies of Yahweh a number of years ago, had a conversation with me about the economic condition of the United States. When I said, *"In actuality, we are bankrupt, we hardly have the money to pay back all of the loans that the U.S. government has taken out,"* he replied, *"You are not bankrupt. This country is the wealthiest country that is on the face of the earth!"* When you go to foreign countries, you don't see what we take for granted in the United States. Poverty is a very real and threatening force in the third world. I have seen millions of people in poverty-stricken India and various nations of Africa. I have seen poverty, and it is much worse than what you see here in the United States of America, even in our worst, economically-blighted areas.

"And their land is full of silver and gold, neither is there any end of their treasures; their land also is full of horses, neither is there any end of their chariots." (Isaiah 2:7). Actually, today, it is claimed that there are about as many horses as there were in our country during the time when horse power served to till the land. That is a fulfillment of prophecy. Chariots can also represent conveyances such as cars, buses, public transportation, or it can also connote military weapons. The United States is fulfilling

Idolatry is something that is in the heart, and materialism is worshipping things that are made, or things that they produce.

this prophecy today, and there is no end, it seems, to our chariots. The streets of the world today are clogged with traffic, and gigantic highways have been built. Here it says *"...neither is there any end of their chariots."* See also Nahum 3.

"Their land also is full of idols; they worship the work of their own hands, that which their own fingers have made." (Isaiah 2:8). Does this mean images? Not necessarily. Idolatry is something that is in the heart, and materialism is worshipping things that are made, or things that they produce. Now, our eyes have been opened! How much could we give up to gain entrance into the Kingdom of Yahweh? Is materialism the goal of your life?

"And the mean man is bowed down, and the great man is brought low: therefore forgive them not." (Isaiah 2:9). The mean man (commoner) is bowed down. The average individual bows down to materialism and is brought low by materialism. They worship the things their own fingers have made.

"Enter into the rock, and hide in the dust, from before the terror of Yahweh, and from the glory of his majesty. The lofty looks of man shall be

brought low, and the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and Yahweh alone shall be exalted in that day." (Isaiah 2:10-11). Why is it that people will violate the Law of Yahweh in order to acquire material possessions when they cannot take with them out of this life? The only thing we can take out of this life is knowledge. Knowledge will stay with us into the Kingdom of Yahweh. Knowledge is what is going to make us of some value to Almighty Yahweh in the Kingdom age.

Continue with Isaiah 2:17, *"And the loftiness of man shall be bowed down, and the haughtiness of men shall be brought low; and Yahweh alone shall be exalted in that day."* Today, people are arrogant against anything that is spiritual. Eventually, Yahweh will be exalted over all of this earth. *"And the idols shall utterly pass away. And men shall go into the caves of the rocks, and into the holes of the earth, from before the terror of Yahweh, and from the glory of his majesty, when he arises to shake mightily the earth."* (Isaiah 2: 18-19).

If you want to read something that is frightening, go back and reread the plague of the hail. This is something highly unusual in Exodus 9:14, when it says, *"For this time I will send all my plagues upon your heart, and on your servants, and on your people; that you may know that there is none like me in all the earth."* Yahweh sent thunder, hail, and fire raining down to the earth, ferocious bolts of lightning, and fire falling from heaven. You usually do not get rain and fire together, because rain extinguishes fire. This was a highly unusual event.

It says in verse 34, ***“And when Pharaoh saw that the rain and the hail and the thunders had ceased....”*** This was a display of the mighty power from On High. When you were a child, you didn’t like to see the lightning bolt flash and an immediate clap of thunder. When that happens, you know that the lightning bolt struck nearby. Here, the terror of Yahweh is going to send people underground—perhaps, like during a tornado, people are forced to go into tornado cellars. ***“And men shall go into the caves of the rocks, and into the holes of the earth, from before the terror of Yahweh, and from the glory of his majesty, when he arises to shake mightily the earth.”*** (Isaiah 2:19). Have you ever heard thunder that seems as if the whole earth was shaking under you, thunderclaps that shook the house? The one in Exodus 9 was worse than that! I will send it to your heart, Yahweh says to Pharaoh through Moses’ testimony.

“In that day men shall cast away their idols of silver, and their idols of gold, which have been made for them to worship, to the moles and to the bats; to go into the caverns of the rocks, and into the clefts of the ragged rocks, from before the terror of Yahweh, and from the glory of his majesty, when he arises to shake mightily the earth.” (Isaiah 2:20-21). I remember when I was going to school, that a teacher would grab a rebellious child and shake that child vigorously. I used to think: *“I am sure glad that it wasn’t me.”* ***“Cease from man, whose breath is in his nostrils; for in what is he to be accounted of?”*** (Isaiah 2:22). The answer is nothing.

True teachers will be guiding the future nation of Israel and the world under Yahshua the Messiah. ***“And you shall defile the overlaying of your carved images of silver, and the plating of your molten images of gold: you shall cast them away as an unclean thing; you shall say to it, Go away!”*** (Isaiah 30:22). Doesn’t this describe the laminated coins of our time? Right there it is, in front of our eyes. There is always some kind of an image on a coin, isn’t there? Our money has no value, and I call it funny money! I remember some time ago, we got a contribution of some silver coins that were supposed to be solid silver, but when they were closely examined we found that they were laminated coins, plated with silver, and of little value.

Do you see it more clearly now, brethren? The anti-Messiah government is committed to serving themselves and to cobble together an economic system in order to maintain control over this world.

That’s what the International banking community is committed to do—to maintain authority over all of the individuals on this earth. And they are doing it! They are persuading people to sign over their lives for five or six years, just to buy a car. When I was a young man, you could buy a new car and pay it off in two years! You can’t do that anymore, because the prices are too high. Now, loans are from four to 10 years, or even a lease. At the end of the lease, you don’t have control over the car. All you are doing is paying for the use of the car, and at the end of the lease you have nothing. I heard a discussion on one of the financial channels recently, and they were talking about leasing a vehicle. They are getting use of the car for a certain period of time, and then they have to give it back, or buy out what remains as the value of the lease.

How much could you give up in order to gain entrance to the Kingdom of Yahweh? Is there

Can we walk away from any material possession, or is there an idol in our hearts?



a material possession that you have under your control at this moment that you can't walk away from? When the Beast government takes over power in the western world, and the Beast system will, you are going to have to make that decision. Could you walk away from material possessions? Are you willing to violate any of Yahweh's commandments in order to keep them? How about the Sabbath, or the holy days, or His dietary laws? Will you violate the very sanctity of the Majesty On High by accepting the authority and the name of this Beast government? That is the question that we are all going to have to face! **CAN WE WALK AWAY FROM ANY MATERIAL POSSESSION, OR IS THERE AN IDOL IN OUR HEARTS?**

What is wine a symbol of? Well, we can go back to the book of Ephesians 4, and we can see that starting in verse 18-19, **"...being darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of Elohim, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardening of their heart, who being past feeling gave themselves up to lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness."** In the fifth chapter, verse 18, we see, **"And be not drunken with**

wine, in which is riot, but be filled with the Spirit," indicating the Holy Spirit of Yahweh.

In Leviticus 10, Nadab and Abihu had accepted a false spirit. Now, remember, it is either the Holy Spirit of Yahweh, or Satan and his demonic false spirits. There is no gray area. **"Behold, the blood of it was not brought into the sanctuary inside: you should certainly have eaten it in the sanctuary, as I commanded."** The over-imbibing of wine is what the Cain civilization was apparently doing. They were eating, drinking, and giving in marriage. The word for drinking in the Greek text means to imbibe, and when you imbibe, you imbibe alcoholic beverages. Yahshua warned us that, just as it was in the days of Noah, is how it will be when Yahshua returns (Leviticus 10:8-11). **"And Yahweh spoke to Aaron, saying, Drink no wine nor strong drink, you, or your sons with you, when you go into the tent of meeting, that you die not: it shall be a statute forever throughout your generations: and that you may make a distinction between the holy and the common, and between the unclean and the clean; and that you may teach the children of Israel all the**

statutes which Yahweh has spoken to them by Moses."

Wine is *yayin*, and strong drink is *shekar*. Strong drink may also mean doubly fermented wine, since they would sometimes put honey in wine and re-start the fermentation process again. *Shekar* may also have some relation to grain alcohol, as well as doubly fermented grape alcohol. **"Drink no wine nor strong drink, you, or your sons with you, when you go into the tent of meeting, that you die not: it shall be a statute forever throughout your generations."**

What does drunkenness do? It clouds our judgment! **"...And that you may make a distinction between the holy and the common, and between the unclean and the clean...."** The Law of Yahweh tells us what is holy and common, what is clean and unclean! If someone is over-imbibing in alcoholic beverages, they can't tell the difference between holy and common things, between clean and unclean things, **"Remember the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded to him in Horeb for all Israel, even statutes and ordinances."** (Malachi 4:4).

Satan the Adversary uses drunkenness, or the over-imbibing of alcoholic beverages,



"Look not upon the wine when it is red,
When it sparkles in the cup
When it goes down smoothly:
At the last it bites like a serpent,
And stings like an adder."

—PROVERBS 23:31-32

for his own purposes. Proverbs 20:1 says ***“Wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler; and whoever errs by them is not wise.”*** Wine is a mocker—it mocks your sensibilities.

In Proverbs 31 is the admonition to King Lemuel. Lemuel is a substitute name for King Solomon himself, because Lemuel means “a king for El or to El.” David called his son Solomon, but Yahweh called him YedidYah, (beloved of Yahweh), and so this passage represents Solomon. ***“What, my son? And what, O son of my womb? And what, O son of my vows? Give not your strength to women, nor your ways to that which destroys kings.”*** (Proverbs 31:2-3). His mother is teaching him. ***“What am I going to teach you?”*** she asks. ***“Give not your strength to women, nor your ways to that which destroys kings.”*** He failed to follow this sound advice, and he had 700 wives and 300 concubines. How could he keep 1,000 woman satisfied? They wore him down, they dripped on him, and he yielded to these foreign women. He made shrines for them, and he allowed them to worship their mighty ones. Then, perhaps he started talking with the priesthood of these pagan idols temples and shrines and their philosophers. Pagan philosophy does not reason from the solid rock of Yahweh’s Covenant Law, as we do, but they start out with a fallacy, and they reason from that point on, convincing the unknowing and ignorant people.

“Give not your strength to women, nor your ways to that which destroys kings. It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine; nor for princes to say, Where is strong drink?” (Proverbs 31:3-

4). This takes us right back to Leviticus 10, doesn’t it? ***“Lest they drink and forget the law.”*** Now, remember that wine represents a spirit, and here is the spirit of the world! Everyone is a king! Everyone should live like a king. That’s not what Yahweh intends. He intends some form of austerity. ***“Lest they drink, and forget the law, and pervert the justice due to any that is afflicted.”*** (Proverbs 31:5).

“Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has contentions? Who has complaining? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes? They that stay long at the wine; they that go to seek out mixed wine. Look not upon the wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup when it goes down smoothly [when it sparkles in the cup may be a reference to champagne of some kind]. ***At the last it bites like a serpent, and stings like an adder*** [Satanic symbols]. ***Your eyes shall behold strange things, and your heart shall utter perverse things.”*** (Proverbs 23: 29-33). This is what the spirit of the anti-Messiah will do, and this is what materialism is designed to do—to bring out the worst in you.

What else does wine represent? ***“Babylon has been a golden cup in Yahweh’s hand, that made all the earth drunken: the nations have drunk of her wine; therefore the nations are mad.”*** (Jeremiah 51:7). Isn’t this what is happening right now? I hear things on talk or news programs, and I will say to my wife, ***“Insanity!”*** They have taken a quantum leap in logic, far from sound reasoning!

The world today is drinking in the spirit of the Adversary,

and it is leading the world into the clutches of the Beast system. The structure of the Beast system is already here, it is just not enforced with authority yet. Babylon is all around us—in the cities and towns—all over. ***“You have showed your people hard things: you have made us to drink the wine of staggering.”*** (Psalm 60:3). Here, the **King James Version** uses the word astonishment—the wine of astonishment.

In Daniel 5:22, ***“And you his son, O Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart*** [Belshazzar is a type of the anti-Messiah; he has the anti-Messiah attitude], ***though you knew all this, but have lifted up yourself against the Elah of heaven; and they have brought the vessels of his house before you, and you and your rulers, your wives and your concubines, have drunk wine from them; and you have praised the elohim of silver and gold*** [money and currency], ***of bronze, iron, wood, and stone, which see not, nor hear, nor know; and the Elah in whose hand your breath is, and whose are all your ways, have you not glorified....”*** (Daniel 5:22-23). The filthiest of lucre is to accept the mark of the Beast and to apply the results of that mark—the receiving of profit from that mark for continued material gain. They did not know that Yahweh gave them all these things.

Now drop down to verse 25, ***“And this is the writing that was inscribed: MENE, MENE....”*** The same term is used in Isaiah 65:11 (#4507 in the **Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance**). *Mene* means *the apportioner, fate, as an idol*. *Mene* is an idol and is represented in other countries as Bacchus, as

well as other mighty ones. *Mene* is from #4487 and is a prime root, which corresponds to #4483, means to *count, or appoint, as well as enumerate or enroll*. So what do you do with money? You count it. Number 4483 is *menah, to count*. What word do we have in the English language that sounds just like it? Money! That's what this gold and silver represents. They used the vessels of Yahweh—and we are supposed to be a vessel for Yahweh—to praise the elohim of gold and silver, bronze, iron, wood, and stone, to make materialistic idolatry, and to make Yahweh's people serve materialism and idolatry!

Let's look at Isaiah 65:11 in relation to the pagan religious solstice holidays. ***“But you that forsake Yahweh, that forget my holy mountain, that prepare a table for Fortune....”*** *Fortune* is *gawd* in the Hebrew. ***“...And that fill up mingled wine to Destiny....”*** The word *destiny* is #4507, *menî*, from #4487, *manah, to count*. But, then, #4489 is *money*—something weighed out, or something counted.

You know, it is all here in this Bible, and, yet, too many people say it bores them. It doesn't bore me! It just thrills my heart as I read, study, and find out things that are going to be happening shortly and to prepare myself. I always say that fear of the unknown causes anxiety. Yahweh has given us end-time prophecy so that we may be assured of what is going to happen in the future, and we need not have any anxiety. I know how it is all going to come out in the end and how Yahweh's promises are going to be received by His people. His

promises of judgment will fall upon the heads of the people of the world.

Now, we have the second term, *tekell*, meaning *to be weighed*. *Tekell* is like a balance—you weigh something in the balance. *Upharsin* is from *peres*, mean-

***“And he said
to them, Take
heed, and keep
yourselves from all
covetousness: for a man's
life consists not in the
abundance of the things
which he possesses.”***

LUKE 12:15

ing *divided*. Your kingdom is divided. Then, Daniel gives the interpretation: you are weighed and found wanting, and your kingdom is divided and is given to the Medes and the Persians.

We need to understand that we cannot put our faith in materialism as the people of the world are doing today. Don't serve material things! Here is the secret that Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob knew. The material things of this world are to be our servants, not that we should serve material things, or acquire material things. Yahweh gives blessings, and you acquire certain material things that should serve you. But when you are loaded down with a crushing load of debt, you are actually serving material things to maintain control over those things. Just remember this—material things are there to serve you, not for you to serve them!

“Therefore say to the house of Israel, In this manner says

the Sovereign Yahweh: Do you pollute yourselves after the manner of your fathers? And do you play the harlot after their abominations?” (Ezekiel 20:30). Abominations are things that Yahweh hates and some of these are listed in Proverbs 6. ***“There are six things which Yahweh hates; yes, seven which are an abomination to him: Haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood; a heart that devises wicked purposes, feet that are swift in running to mischief, a false witness that utters lies, and he that sows discord among brethren.”*** (Proverbs

6:16-19). You shall not bear false witness, because that is a capital offense. That means you could be executed under biblical Law. That is treachery. That is how Naboth lost his life, because Jezebel set up false witnesses—sons of Belial to lie against Naboth. The government killed Naboth wrongly at Jezreel. Naboth could not even say anything in his own defense! *Naboth* means *first fruits*.

“Therefore say to the house of Israel, In this manner says the Sovereign Yahweh: Do you pollute yourselves after the manner of your fathers? And do you play the harlot after their abominations? And when you offer your gifts, when you make your sons to pass through the fire, do you pollute yourselves with all your idols to this day? And shall I be inquired of by you, O house of Israel? As I live, says the Sovereign Yahweh, I will not be inquired of by you....” (Ezekiel 20:30-31). No, I am not going to tell you anything about the future, and that's

exactly what Yahweh is saying to the world. Worldly religion is weak (watered-down, liberal), and Yahweh is not going to tell anyone who doesn't want to know what the Truth is. He is not going to inform them.

“And that which comes into your mind shall not be at all, in that you say, We will be as the nations, as the families of the countries, to serve wood and stone.” (Ezekiel 20:32). You can cross-reference Deuteronomy 4:28 and 29:14-21 here. We want to be like the families of the world! Just as in 1 Samuel 8, where Israel asked for a King, “*We want a king, we want to be like the nations! We don’t want a judge over us! We want a king that we can influence.*” ***“And he said, This will be the manner of the king that shall reign over you: he will take your sons [he will manipulate our children], and appoint them unto him, for his chariots, and to be his horsemen; and they shall run before his chariots, and he will appoint them to himself for captains of thousands, and captains of fifties; and he will set some to plow his ground, and to reap his harvest, and to make his instruments of war, and the instruments of his chariots. And he will take your daughters to be perfumers, and to be cooks, and to be bakers. And he will take your fields, and your vineyards, and your oliveyards, even the best of them, and give them to his servants.”*** (1 Samuel 8:11-14).

That is what is happening today. Good farming land is being confiscated by the government for taxes. ***“And he will take the tenth of your seed, and of your vineyards, and give to his officers, and to his servants.***

And he will take your menseservants, and your maidservants, and your best young men, and your asses, and put them to his work. He will take the tenth of your flocks: and you shall be his servants.” You read in Leviticus 27:30-33, that from everything that is grown in the field—a tenth of it is Yahweh’s; of the flock and the herd—the tenth is Yahweh’s. However, now the government takes their share first, and, today, the government takes twice as much as the tenth, just as Samuel foresaw! A twenty percent income tax, or more, is generally what is deducted. ***“And you shall cry out in that day because of your king whom you shall have chosen; and Yahweh will not answer you in that day.”*** The people refused to listen. They wanted to go through this experience and have a king, just like the nations.

“And he said to them, Take heed, and keep yourselves from all covetousness: for a man’s life consists not in the abundance of the things which he possesses.” (Luke 12:15). The 10th commandment is that you shall not covet, but that’s the hardest commandment to prove. How do you know what is in the heart of a person? How do you know if covetousness is there? Only Yahweh can expose that.

“They have blown the trumpet, and have made all ready; but no one goes to the battle; for my wrath is upon all the multitude of it. The sword is outside, and the pestilence and the famine inside: he that is in the field shall die with the sword; and he that is in the city, famine and pestilence shall devour him. But those of them that escape shall escape, and shall be on the mountains

like doves of the valleys, all of them moaning, every one in his iniquity.” (Ezekiel 7:14-16). Notice the word *iniquity*, which means *lawlessness*. This is what the Beast system will introduce. Opposition to Yahweh’s Law will be exalted, glorified, and lauded.

“All hands shall be feeble, and all knees shall be weak as water. They shall also gird themselves with sackcloth, and horror shall cover them; and shame shall be upon all faces, and baldness upon all their heads.” (Ezekiel 7:14-16). They are fleeing to get away from death. These people have to flee away, because they know that they are violating Yahweh’s Word and, because of this, judgment is being poured out on the world. Yahweh’s True Assembly, however, will have protection.

“They shall cast their silver in the streets, and their gold shall be as an unclean thing; their silver and their gold shall not be able to deliver them in the day of the wrath of Yahweh: they shall not satisfy their souls, neither fill their bowels; because it has been the stumblingblock of their iniquity. As for the beauty of his ornament, he set it in majesty; but they made the images of their abominations and their detestable things in it: therefore have I made it to them as an unclean thing.” (Ezekiel 7:19-20). What does it tell us here? ***“They shall not satisfy their souls, neither fill their bowels.”*** This reminds us of Haggai 1:2. ***“In this manner speaks Yahweh of hosts, saying, This people say, It is not the time for us to come, the time for Yahweh’s house to be built.”*** We need to build Yahweh’s House (Bethel) as fast as we can, because we don’t have



“Now therefore thus says Yahweh of hosts: Consider your ways. You have sown much, and bring in little; you eat, but you have not enough; you drink, but you are not filled with drink; you clothe, but there is no one warm; and he that earns wages earns wages to put it into a bag with holes.”

HAGGAI 1:5-6

very much time left. I think there is just enough time remaining to complete this.

“Then came the word of Yahweh by Haggai the prophet, saying, Is it a time for you yourselves to dwell in your ceiled houses, while this house lies waste?” (Haggai 1:3-4). Bethel doesn’t exactly lie waste, but we need to press on and complete the job of fulfilling the Great Commission. ***“Now therefore thus says Yahweh of hosts: Consider your ways. You have sown much, and bring in little; you eat, but you have not enough; you drink, but you are not filled with drink; you clothe, but there is no one warm; and he that earns wages earns wages to put it into a bag with holes.”*** (Haggai 1:5-6). At this present time, people are made rich who don’t deserve it. All of our efforts

are just leaking out through the holes in our bag. Other people are benefitting, but not you.

“Behold, the days come, says the Sovereign Yahweh, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of Yahweh.” (Amos 8:11). Here is a description of famine, when fair virgins and young men will faint for thirst. Where are they going to find the Word of Yahweh? They are going to find it with the Assemblies of Yahweh.

Ezekiel says this filthy lucre—dirty money—is going to be cast away. Isaiah says it is idolatry, and people are going to cast it away—the laminated, worthless, funny money. They are going to say, *“Get away from me, this is unclean,”* because they are violating Yahweh’s Covenant. We must emphasize that the mark of the

Beast, and the name and the authority of the Beast commands and demands subservience to its mighty one, rather than the Sacred-Scripture-teaching, Covenant-Law-keeping authority of Yahweh. We need to bear this in mind.

Achan sold his life for a good Babylonish mantle. That is the Babylonish mantle of nominal religion. ***“And Achan answered Yahshua, and said, Truly I have sinned against Yahweh, the Elohim of Israel, and this have I done: when I saw among the spoil a good Babylonish mantle, and two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold of fifty shekels weight, then I coveted them, and took them: and, behold, they are hidden in the earth in the middle of my tent, and the silver under it.”*** (Yahshua 7:20-21). He hid it underground, in his tent. What about our tent today? This is our tabernacle, our temporary dwelling. What is in our hearts? Achan paid for this abominable sin with his life. ***“And I will give her her vineyards from there, and the valley of Achor for a door of hope....”*** (Hosea 2:14). The destruction of materialism will introduce the Kingdom of Yahweh. Yahshua 7:26 reads, ***“And they raised over him a great heap of stones, to this day; and Yahweh turned from the fierceness of his anger. Therefore the name of that place has been called, The valley of Achor, to this day.”***

“For she did not know that I gave her the grain, and the new wine, and the oil, and multiplied to her silver and gold, which they used for Baal.” (Hosea 2:8). The word *Baal*, when translated into modern-day English, is *lord*.

Ch-rchianity is worshipping L-rd, instead of the Name of Yahweh. ***“Therefore will I take back my grain in the time of it, and my new wine in the season of it, and will pluck away my wool and my flax which should have covered her nakedness. And now will I uncover her lewdness in the sight of her lovers, and none shall deliver her out of my hand. I will also cause all her mirth to cease, her feasts, her new moons, and her sabbaths, and all her solemn assemblies. And I will lay waste her vines and her fig-trees, of which she has said, These are my hire that my lovers have given me; and I will make them a forest, and the beasts of the field shall eat them. And I will visit upon her the days of the Baalim, to which she burned incense, when she decked herself with her ear-rings and her jewels, and went after her lovers, and forgot me, says Yahweh. Therefore, behold, I will allure her, and bring her into the wilderness, and speak comfortably to her. And I will give her her vineyards from there, and the valley of Achor for a door of hope....”*** (Hosea 2:9-15). The door of hope is *petach tikvah*. Today, there is a city in Israel named this, near the Ben Gurion Airport. The door of hope opening into the Kingdom of Yahweh is the rejection of materialism.

“When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt. The more the prophets called them, the more they went from them: they sacrificed to the Baalim, and burned incense to carved images. Yet I taught Ephraim to walk; I took them on my arms; but they knew not that

I healed them. I drew them with cords of a man, with bands of love; and I was to them as they that lift up the yoke on their jaws; and I laid food before them. They shall not return into the land of Egypt; but the Assyrian shall be their king, because they refused to return to me.”

(Hosea 11:1-5). Our forefathers, the Israelites, went into Assyrian captivity, wherein they were lost and became assimilated into the nations. Even to this very day, they are still following assimilationist’s traditional paganism.

Now remember, Isaiah, Amos, Micah, Hosea, prophesied at the same time. Micah follows the book of Jonah. ***“And all her graven images shall be beaten to pieces*** [Money has a graven image on its face, from ancient times to this very day. It depicted the ruler of the nation whose authority had coined the currency of the realm. Today, it usually depicts historical figures.], ***and all her hires shall be burned with fire, and all her idols will I lay desolate; for of the hire of a harlot has she gathered them, and to the hire of a harlot shall they return.”*** (Micah 1:7). This is a depiction of the harlot religion. They gather their wealth under the teachings of the harlot religion that says you can work seven days a week if you need to do that. Eventually, the harlot is going to come back and get her money again. That is what the Beast is going to do—tax religion and take the wealth away. Periodically, we hear that the last major source of taxation is religion. Separation of church and state is losing ground, and there are people who are actually preparing lawsuits to challenge the concept that religion should

be tax exempt. It won’t be that long until they bring a persuasive case in a time of pressure and tension.

“Woe to them that devise iniquity and work evil upon their beds! When the morning is light, they practice it, because it is in the power of their hand. And they covet fields, and seize them; and houses, and take them away: and they oppress a man and his house, even a man and his heritage.” (Micah 2:1-2). They seize one’s inheritance, just as it was when I was trying to settle my mother’s affairs. On two occasions, I had communications from the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue, Bureau of Inheritance Taxes, stating *“You are the executor of your mother’s estate, and we need to know how much money is coming in, and are you paying your taxes?”* Nothing is certain, but death and taxes! There is a death tax, in that when someone dies and you inherit any money, there is an inheritance tax due. The government wants its share. That is what it says in the above-stated verses. ***“...They oppress a man and his house, even a man and his heritage.”*** Heritage means inheritance. It is all here in the Bible! Yet, how many people say that it has no relevance for our time! It is very relevant.

“And I said, Hear, I pray you, you heads of Jacob, and rulers of the house of Israel: is it not for you to know justice?” (Micah 3:1). Do you know justice? You should, because you should have been taught it. ***“You who hate the good, and love the evil; who pluck off their skin from off them, and their flesh from off their bones; who also eat the flesh of my people, and flay their skin from off them***

[You hear the word skinflint; they use flint knives to do skinning. So they are actually skinning the people alive. That's what taxes do.], **and break their bones, and chop them in pieces, as for the pot** [so they can even get the benefit out of the marrow], **and as flesh within the caldron.**" (Micah 3:2-3). That is what I feel is happening today—taxes, all these taxes—just as Daniel predicted.

"Then shall stand up in his place one that shall cause an exactor [in the King James, a raiser of taxes, a tax collector] **to pass through the glory of the kingdom; but within few days he shall be destroyed, neither in anger, nor in battle. And in his place shall stand up a contemptible person** [another title for the anti-Messiah]." Here is a description of Antiochus Epiphanes. The word *Antiochus* means *anti, against*—so you can relate this contemptible person to the anti-Messiah. We don't know yet what his name will be, but we will be able to tell it when he arrives. **"...To whom they had not given the honor of the kingdom: but he shall come in time of security, and shall obtain the kingdom by flatteries...And as for both these kings, their hearts shall be to do mischief, and they shall speak lies at one table: but it shall not prosper; for yet the end shall be at the time appointed."** (Daniel 11:20-21, 27). They are basing today's system on a covenant of lies. When you read over this again, ask yourself, "Aren't we in that time?" They are speaking lies at one table—putting a new spin on everything and giving a new direction to the truth. The time appointed—remember the word *gets*—at the absolute end of the

age. The *gets*, or the absolute end of the age, will eventually happen, and you can depend on it. There is no avoiding the absolute end.

"And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he pervert by flatteries...." (Daniel 11:32). That is what is happening right now in our government. They gain support by the flattery of certain people. **"...But the people that know their Elohim shall be strong, and do exploits. And they that are wise among the people shall instruct many; yet they shall fall by the sword and by flame, by captivity and by plunder, many days."** Here, a martyrdom for the end of the age is indicated. **"Now when they shall fall, they shall be helped with a little help; but many shall join themselves to them with flatteries. And some of them that are wise shall fall, to refine them, and to purify, and to make them white, even to the time of the end; because it is yet for the time appointed."** (Daniel 11:34-35). Who is going to fall away at that time of the great falling away, the *apostasia*, that we haven't even seen yet, but will occur at the end of the age?

"And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every El [he will sit in the temple, saying "I am the one who is going to make the rules; I am the almighty"], **and shall speak marvelous things against the El of elohim; and he shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished; for that which is determined shall be done. Neither shall he regard the elohim of his fathers** [he will reject the True Worship of

Yahweh], **nor the desire of women** [idolatrous figures; for example, the women weeping for Tamuz], **nor regard any Eloah; for he shall magnify himself above all. But in his place shall he honor the Eloah of fortresses; and an Eloah whom his fathers knew not shall he honor with gold, and silver, and with precious stones, and pleasant things."** (Daniel 11:36-38). All of the taxes will be going for this false, pagan religion.

"Because you say, I am rich, and have gotten riches, and have need of nothing; and know not that you are the wretched one and miserable and poor and blind and naked...." (Revelation 3:17). Isn't that what the rich man said—**"I will tear down my barns and build greater, and I will have so much wealth and say to my soul, eat and drink and be merry."** That's what Wall Street tries to project today. You need all of this money, and a person shouldn't retire unless he has a million, or more, retirement wealth and possibilities.

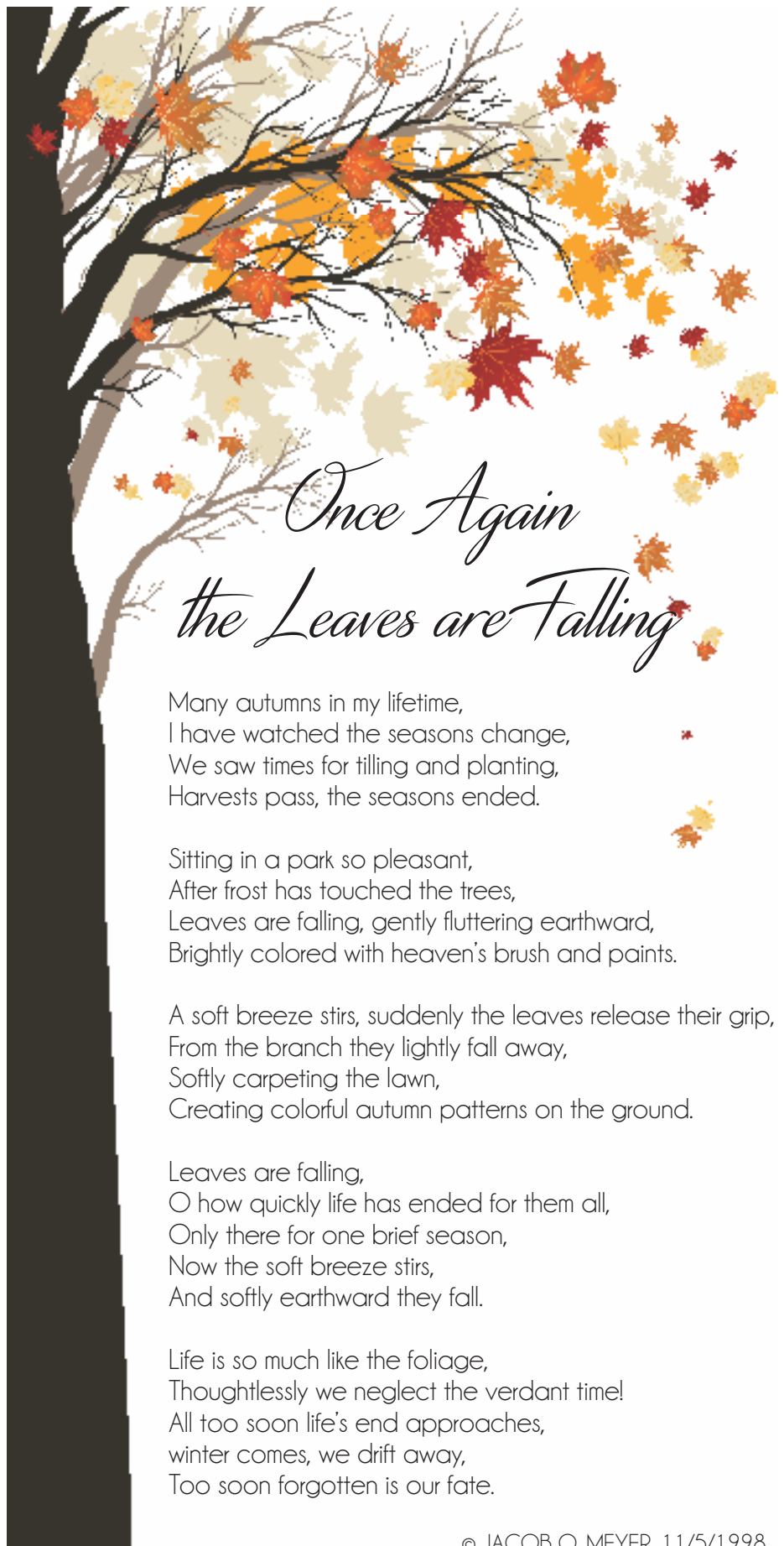
Today, the riches are in the wrong place. **"There is that makes himself rich, yet has nothing; there is that makes himself poor, yet has great wealth."** (Proverbs 13:7). They haven't laid up riches in heaven or in the obtaining of scriptural knowledge. Revelation 14:9-12 warns us not to take the mark of the Beast.

What is wrong with electronic money? Why do I see problems with debit cards, or the overuse of credit cards? Because this system does not hold us immediately accountable for our extravagance, but, later, the accounts must be paid. By then, however, the people are hooked.

We must be strong and keep the Word of Yahweh. We must not allow Satan to use the materialism of this Laodicean age to capture, or desensitize, us to the keeping of the commandments of Yahweh. What are we supposed to do? I spell it out in the **Statement of Doctrine** section titled *Spiritual Life in the Assemblies of Yahweh*. “It should be our goal to live a simple life, abstaining from activities with which this worldly society around us amuses itself.” Live a simple life. **“Be free from the love of money; content with such things as you have: for himself has said, I will in no way fail you, neither will I in any manner forsake you. So that with good courage we say, Yahweh is my helper; I will not fear: what shall man do to me?”** (Hebrews 13:5-6).

We have to rely on the great and powerful Yahweh, be strong, keep the Faith, and not violate the commandments of Yahweh. **“Here is the patience of the saints; They that keep the commandments of Yahweh, and the faith of Yahshua.”** (Revelation 14:12). This immediately follows the warning about the mark of the Beast—accepting this Beast government. **“And the dragon became exceedingly angry with the woman, and went away to make war with the remnant of her seed, that keep the commandments of Yahweh, and hold the testimony of Yahshua....”** (Revelation 12:17). The anti-Messiah religion is here in this age, and the anti-Messiah spirit is all around us. The attitude of the anti-Messiah is New Age materialism, and non-judgmentalism. Be warned and prepare for what lies just ahead.

SNB



Once Again the Leaves are Falling

Many autumns in my lifetime,
I have watched the seasons change,
We saw times for tilling and planting,
Harvests pass, the seasons ended.

Sitting in a park so pleasant,
After frost has touched the trees,
Leaves are falling, gently fluttering earthward,
Brightly colored with heaven's brush and paints.

A soft breeze stirs, suddenly the leaves release their grip,
From the branch they lightly fall away,
Softly carpeting the lawn,
Creating colorful autumn patterns on the ground.

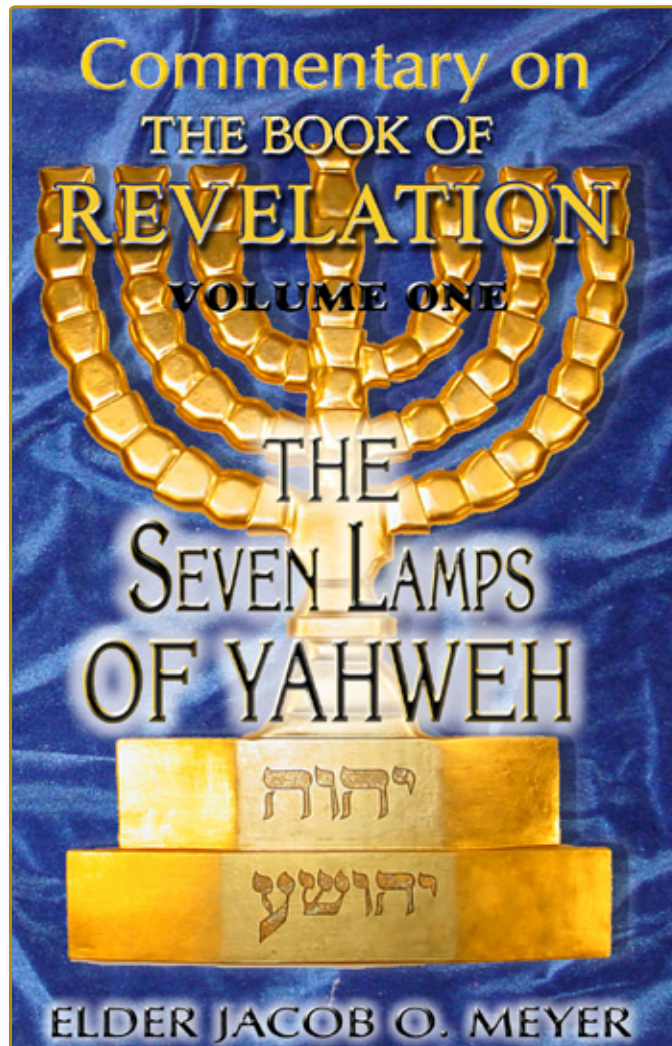
Leaves are falling,
O how quickly life has ended for them all,
Only there for one brief season,
Now the soft breeze stirs,
And softly earthward they fall.

Life is so much like the foliage,
Thoughtlessly we neglect the verdant time!
All too soon life's end approaches,
winter comes, we drift away,
Too soon forgotten is our fate.

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The Seven Lamps of Yahweh

by Elder Jacob O. Meyer



***“Declaring the end from
the beginning.”***

(Isaiah 46:9-10)

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