

# Church of God, The Eternal

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## Announcement Letter April 1996

Dear Brethren,

Though mostly unseen, yet, the prophesied events of the last days insidiously continue to develop. When reality surfaces, it is too late for us to accomplish required mastery. What we have seen should be sufficient to cause us to act now. To effect in our day-by-day living the urgency of life, the moral and spiritual change, and the growth of faithful confidence necessary for inheritance of God's benevolent promise. The most urgent question: Do our hearts and minds manifest the confidence God wants to see in us?

### **Spiritual Principle/Current Event: Multi-culturalism—The Destruction of a People**

In the last *Announcement Letter*, covering the subject of "Multi-culturalism—The Destruction of a People"—we concluded with the stories of Noah and Lot as they specifically relate to the time of Christ's second coming. With respect to race, nationality, Noah alone remained perfect. Others had intermarried as they willed. The story of Lot, at least the latter part of his physical life as lived in his chosen area of domicile, is a story of moral bankruptcy. It, too, depicts the times in which we live—the time just preceding the return of Christ.

Israel, the chosen of God, was a nation created and established on the foundation of Biblical principle. They were a people required to live the principles—though from a physical premise—as ordained of God. For that reason a number of most interesting and demanding obligations were voiced. Israel, though to be confronted with rank paganism, was to take every step to insure faithful obedience to the righteous and perfect ways of God—including marriage and the procreation of children. God commanded them to literally destroy every relic and evidence of paganism, including the people themselves. Why? Because their sins had come to the full (Gen. 15:16). All to be destroyed; for no such custom, relic, or practice could be used to serve God.

Because of the enormity of the required consequence, God lovingly and emphatically delivered many warnings. In Deuteronomy 12:30–32, the people were instructed to follow no Gentile custom—only that which He would command them. The seriousness of any infraction is indicated by the scope of an indictment Moses was given, and in turn delivered to the people (Deut. 13:6–11). The very lives of blood relatives could not be sustained. Please compare with other emphatic proscriptions. In Deuteronomy 7:16, 25 and 8:19–20 any Israelite who was induced to turn to and practice any form of paganism had signed his own death warrant.

God did not want His own chosen people to become corrupted either racially or morally. They were to remain a peculiar people to Him. Their very future blessings were dependent upon obedience to the ways and requirements of God (Deut. 9:5–6). Even so, recognizing their human fallibility, whatever blessings accrued did so not because of their value—worth—but primarily due to the corruption of those who had preceded them in the land.

When God evicted the squatters who had arrogantly assumed possession of that land which had been safeguarded for Israel from the foundation of the world, He entered into a conditional covenant with the new owners. To the nation of Israel, the children of Abraham, He said: ". . . [I]f thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the Lord thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth" (Deut. 28:1). However, since the agreement is conditional there is another side to the issue. He also said to Israel, "[I]f thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God . . . The stranger that is within thee shall get up above thee very high; and thou shalt come down very low. He shall lend to thee, and thou shalt not lend to him: he shall be the head, and thou shalt be the tail" (Deut. 28:15, 43–44).

As a nation and people they were destined to fail. They were human. Long before the reality of that failure God had prognosticated it (Deut. 4:25–28). Little did they genuinely understand that such a separation meant God was no longer on their side in specific matters. He said that He would be against them. How does it strike us to know and realize that God actually is working against us—as a nation? Why? Just to keep the central concept of this part of the Announcement Letter in mind let us reiterate: Mixing of the races, as well as religions, is proscribed by God. What is being done today is most surely setting ourselves up for the ultimate fall. We are destined to see it happen.

Since our own day is mirrored in the events of the historical past, let us take a synoptic look at those events of dim antiquity. As written they reveal our own fate. What did Israel of old experience?

Though having been warned many times, seeing the tragic consequence of rebellion time and time again, and manifesting the ultimate defiance and rebellion, Israel sinned with

impunity. The result? She became—and continues to bare the same shame—the laughing stock among all Gentile nations (Psa. 44:14). Israel sinned by turning to the customs and ways of the Gentiles—the ways of Babylon. Though Gentiles are the creators of Babylonianism, Israel borrowed their customs, enhanced them, and then attempted to sell their perverted product back to the Gentile world as a Christian form of religion. Heathenism, in all of its corruption and perversion, became the foundation of nominal Christianity. It is the core of Babylonianism. As time inexorably moves forward, all peoples will be forced to accept that way as the one and only tolerated by the powers that be. That which is being designed as a "perfect religion" is a counterfeit of that which in His own time God will bring to pass on this earth. The amalgamation of the races is a pivotal part of that nefarious scheme.

Though there have been a number of attempts to coalesce into one identity the races throughout human history, the ultimate is now taking shape around the world. Mysteriously, especially to those who know not the purpose of God, elements of that Satanic scheme are surfacing. In a relatively short period of time, that last and final manifestation of Babylonianism will gain control and produce much havoc on this earth before God intervenes (Rev. 17:1–18). And despite their claim to have achieved their long sought after objective—peace—the way of man—Babylonianism—produces only destruction (I Thess. 5:1–3).

What is the plan of God? By a synoptic understanding of His purpose we should be able to see and comprehend elements of Babylonianism as they take place on this earth. It is for that very reason God commands the faithful to "Watch!"

In God's perfect plan all races and peoples are to be made one (Eph. 2:11–18). Physical Gentiles are without God and promise—hope. Spiritually speaking, all, regardless of race, are Gentiles. Only through Christ can any human being become a part of Christ and thereby, a recipient of the promise.

Christ was the lion of the tribe of Judah. And salvation is of the Jews. Then, through Christ we all must be made spiritual Jews (Rom. 2:28–29). Paul clearly and extensively explains this mysterious and fantastic transformation in Romans 11:1–36. Jew or Gentile, all must become a part of the body of Christ (Rom. 12:5). This is accomplished through baptism (I Cor. 12:13–14). Then, finally, all become one—no race, color, or other physical condition—in Christ. We become the seed of Abraham and heirs of the promise (Gal. 3:28–29).

And, just what is the promise given? That Israel—not of the flesh but of the Spirit—should possess the whole earth (Rom. 4:13). Was not that the very promise which was given to Abraham?

God is the Creator of the earth. In the process of time, it was fractured and subsequently formed into given sections as predetermined by God (Gen. 10:5, 25, Acts 17:26, Deut. 32:8). Indeed, there is an awesome plan being worked out here below. Men simply do not realize what is happening. The whole of this plan and purpose is succinctly presented in the book of Daniel. Though ignorant of this fact, men of the earth are going to be judged according to that plan (Psa. 98:9). That plan is encompassed in the gospel as dogmatically stated by the Apostle Paul (Rom. 2:16). And what is the essence of that gospel? The Kingdom of God—a kingdom which will replace all kingdoms of this world (Dan. 7:1–28).

Tragically, some, even of the called, lose faith due to a lack of patience. They are the "now" generation. Whatever they want, they want it now. They expect God to act in their time, not according to that plan and schedule which God formulated from the foundation of the world. Men inspired and manipulated by the "god of this world" are attempting to circumvent the whole plan and purpose of God. In the interest of "peace"—which they do not comprehend (Rom. 3:11–18)—they are attempting to weld the human race into one entity, create a world religion of their own making, establish a single government which will be totally authoritarian in nature, and generate a host of other elements which directly counterfeit that plan established by God. These human beings are going to be judged not by the concepts of that counterfeit plan but solely by the plan of God established from the beginning (Rom. 2:16).

In the very days of Jesus Christ, Satan, the contriver of the counterfeit, attempted to induce Christ to buy into his system (Luke 4:1–13). Jesus, being a most sage individual, did not succumb. He knew that with patience and obedience the kingdom was to be His at the appointed time. Further, He knew that a counterfeit cannot produce the results of the genuine. Forced intermarriage of human beings will not produce the oneness of mind and heart which is purposed by God.

What was the plan and purpose offered to Christ? The counterfeit which has held sway over man for thousands of years and now in its last breath is being foisted arbitrarily upon an unsuspecting human population? The current events part of this analysis will be given next time.

## Births

Mr. and Mrs. Scott Fernau (Susan Sheffold): A daughter, named Amanda Victoria, was born March 15. The baby weighed in at 5 pounds, 9½ ounces and was 19¼ inches long. Both baby and mother are doing fine.

## Office

Please be reminded once again of the telephone area code change which will take effect on June 1. The new code number will be 541 and can be used right now. The old number 503 can still be used until June but it would be good to get into the habit of using the new number as soon as possible.

Though we have mentioned the need before, may we once again impress upon everyone the need for diligent and most fervent prayers for the Bouwer family in South Africa. Without the urgent and immediate intervention of God, they could be among the homeless. Jobs for whites are rare.

Last month we mentioned the availability of albums of Song of Moses—produced several years ago. There are a number of these albums still available—free. May we urge you to give to any relatives, friends, or whomever that might be interested in well-produced music? Any albums remaining after May 15 will be destroyed. Too much urgently needed space in the office is being taken up by storing these excess albums.

After years of sending out tapes, we have noticed a very definite pattern of tape returns. Few—very few—are returning these to us in the envelopes provided. This is very fine. It does, however indicate a need for change. Those who are returning them via the inserted envelopes will continue to receive those envelopes. All others will find their shipped tapes protected by cut strips of heavier paper. Those receiving tapes sent in this manner should continue to return them in boxes, or take them to the Feast where they will be boxed and shipped to Eugene. By making this adjustment we will save money. Fewer envelopes will have to be purchased and printed.

## Trip Schedule

April (eve of 2), 3, 4, 6	Austin	R.C.C.
April 10	C. California	R.C.C.
April 27	Rochester	R.C.C.
May 4	Vancouver	R.C.C.
May 25, 27	Switzerland	R.C.C.

## Tape Schedule

Tape Series	Mailed	For	Title/tape #
HPS/HNO 1996	03/13	<b>04/02</b> <b>04/03</b>	Passover Night to Be Observed
HUB 1996 1&2	03/13	<b>04/04</b>	First Day of Unleavened Bread am & pm
WSE-RC 59-36	01/31	<b>04/06</b>	Despair or Glory, Which #36
HUB 1996 3&4	03/13	<b>04/10</b>	Last Day of Unleavened Bread am & pm
WSE-BC 149-3	02/14	<b>04/13</b>	The Teachings of Christ #3
WSE-RC 59-37	02/14	<b>04/20</b>	Despair or Glory, Which #37
WSE-BC 147-25	02/28	<b>04/27</b>	The Mighty Acts & Miracles of God #25 (I Kings 20–23)
WSE-RC 59-38	02/28	<b>05/04</b>	Despair or Glory, Which #38
WSE-BC 149-4	03/13	<b>05/11</b>	The Teachings of Christ #4
WSE-RC 59-39	03/13	<b>05/18</b>	Despair or Glory, Which #39
WSE-BC 149-5	03/28	<b>05/28</b>	The Teachings of Christ #5

In Christ's service,



Raymond C. Cole

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