

Church of God, The Eternal

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Announcement Letter June 1996

Dear Brethren:

How fast time evaporates! Our prayers are that all are using the fleeting time wisely and judiciously. We must not be like that procrastinating child upon whom comes the test though he is not prepared. Now is the time to become everything God requires of us.

Spiritual Principle/Current Event: Planned Persecution/Extermination

This world belongs to Satan and his demons (John 14:30, Luke 4:5–7). It is he who is generally worshipped under the deception of worshipping God (II Cor. 4:4). By these deceptions the entire world lies under a blanket of lies and hypocrisy (Rev. 12:9).

Satan is a very rebellious individual. He revolted against God (Isa. 14:12–14, Ezek. 28:14–17). Though he once knew the truth (John 8:44), under the requirement of obedience and total surrender of his existence, he rebelled. He determined that equality with God was a consideration for which to fight. On the other hand, Christ did not seek to maintain equality with God, the Father (Ph'p. 2:6). The Williams translation renders the verse in this manner: "Though He was existing in the nature of God, He did not think His being on an equality with God a thing to be selfishly grasped." The attitude of mind manifested by Christ is that for which the called and chosen of God must strive.

As rebels, Satan and his demons hate the way of truth and anyone who attempts to live that precious way of life. Being the epitome of truth, Christ was hated with a vengeance by the product of Satan's influence—the world (John 7:7). And being despised His message was categorically rejected (John 8:45). Why? He was not of this world; He was of a different domain (John 8:23). This world lies in total deception—living absolutely contrary to the principles of the Spirit.

What was destined to happen to any and all who lived the truth following the physical days of Jesus Christ? Without equivocation He said: "If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you" (John 15:18–19). Tragically, anyone who attempts to live the truth of God will experience the same hate and contempt. It is through that very behavior pattern that both the Spirit of God and the spirit of Satan can be known. Those inspired and influenced by the spirit of Satan will both hate the truth and the one who proclaims that truth.

The Kingdom of God is not of this world (John 18:36). Within this present evil world, however, that kingdom is in the making. During the time of the development, there prevails a terrible conflict. Those of this world will hate those called to be a part of the Kingdom of God. Nations, likewise, will become involved (Psa. 2:1–3).

What was it about Christ the people did not like? Not His personality. He was a very popular and inspirational individual. It was the message—the word which He spoke—that generated so much hate, contention. Is it not basically the same thing today which is beginning to rear its ugly countenance? Some, for reason, hate the eternal doctrines of God. The same doctrines which Christ taught. And manifestations of the same hate which He experienced and which He said would come upon those who followed Him.

What was it which became so offensive about the Christian Identity church in Wisconsin? It was their belief that the Anglo-Saxon race descended from the lost ten tribes of Israel. Why? According to *Criminal Politics* (April 1995) these people were found dangerous because this particular belief is offensive to the Zionists who consider it anti-Semitic and racist. From generation to generation people—groups—appropriate doctrines based on some technical understanding. Such acceptance does not imply full and spiritual obedience to the truth of God. Yet, by a masterful stroke Satan can through the rebellious orientation of particular groups cloud the significance and beauty of parts of the doctrine of God. Worse yet, those who love the truth and honor God in obedience will be classified as comparably dangerous individuals. This, of course, is done deliberately. Satan knows what he is doing. He hates the truth. In the words of *Criminal Politics*: "The government is in the business of deciding whose religion is bonafide . . . and of annihilating all whom it interprets as being anti-Semitic and racist. . ." (ibid).

Governmental intervention has already aggressively begun, aided by religious groups who have accepted the prevailing philosophy. Alan W. Bock in his book, *Ambush at Ruby Ridge*, says, "The National Council of Churches has adopted a resolution to the effect that Christian Identity is not a valid expression of Christian beliefs." The media characterizes any religious group outside the mainstream as a cult. James D. Tabor and Eugene V. Gallagher,

in their book: *Cults and the Battle for Religious Freedom in America: Why Waco?* say, "When the term 'cult' is used to describe any religious group it becomes easier to view that group as religiously illegitimate, psychologically and physically harmful to its members, and dangerous to society." The Cult Awareness Network and others, "have worked hard to stigmatize many new or alternative religious movements." And Robert Mueller avows "fundamental believers" who refuse to compromise their beliefs are the biggest threat to world peace. He emphasizes, "They have found the total absolute truth, and you cannot even discuss any alternatives with them" (*Free Inquiry*, Winter 1995–1996). Further, according to *Criminal Politics* (May 1995), if current "anti-terrorist" legislation is enacted within twelve to eighteen months the government would have a complete list of everyone in the U.S. whose beliefs are not considered politically correct. According to one official, seven hundred to two thousand "cult-like" groups have already been targeted for further investigation when the new laws go into effect.

In her volume entitled: *The Book of Co-Creation—An Evolutionary Interpretation of the New Testament*, Barbara Marx Hubbard makes it clear that those who refuse to embrace the approved homogenous, mainstream religion will not be tolerated: "[I]f allowed to live on to reproduce their defective disconnection, [they would] destroy forever the opportunity of Homo sapiens to become Homo universalis, heirs of God."

Severe persecution is inevitable. As Christ was persecuted, and for the same reason, so will be the faithful in these last days (John 15:18–25). David was inspired to describe the actions and intents of those who would abuse others (Psa. 10:1–11). They are wilfully malicious. They plan and design their ensnarements. They are arrogant and conceited.

What are the plans? And the bases of those plans? All of it will take the form of accusation—false accusation.

Racism: "To those familiar with the case [Randy Weaver], no credible evidence has yet been presented to counter the alarming impression that the Weavers were targeted largely—and perhaps solely—because the government [or elements within it] found their beliefs [identity of Israel] to be politically incorrect and wished to make examples of them" (Professor Koontz in foreward to *Ambush at Ruby Ridge*).

Anti-Semitism: "It is almost impossible to delve into the literature of apocalyptic fundamentalism without encountering material that denigrates Jews" (*Ambush at Ruby Ridge*). Let us face facts. There is a long history of antagonism against the Jewish people. Why?

Mental Instability: According to the World Federation of Mental Health, too many of the world's people have been infected with the *traditional views* and *beliefs* they were taught by their parents and which are not consistent with the *world view* necessary for the survival of mankind (*Mental Health and World Citizenship*, 1948). Their avowed purpose is to change this outlook of mankind. Those who cannot or will not be changed will be eliminated.

Child Abuse: And what do agencies of the government consider child abuse? 1) Refusal to have a child immunized, 2) administration of corporal punishment, 3) restricting a child's access to public education and, 4) enforcing religious training. How do they propose to correct these abuses? The removal of children from the home by "competent authorities" (from "The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child").

Physical Attacks: Don McAlvaney (Oct. 1994) said by "calling them 'dangerous anti-government, racist, hate groups, and subversives' [t]he government is now setting the stage and building its case to physically attack these groups. . . ."

Attempts to Change Offending Beliefs: An Oregon resident, Charles M. Selby, says that while reason is the "preferred method," modern attempts at "appropriate re-education" have proven "that ridicule and scoffing are quite effective instruments in bringing about changes in human behavior" and religious beliefs (*Free Inquiry*, Letter to Editor, Spring 1996).

Make no mistake about it. Former members—those who turn away from the revealed truth—family, friends, others will take part in that persecution. Note what happened to Christ (John 1:11; 5:16). As prophesied, it will occur to the faithful today, too (Dan. 11:30–35, Rev. 3:7–12, many others).

A terrible persecution is coming. All who live acceptable lives will sustain some trial. Yet, there is a promise for those who have the will to fully live the truth of God (Luke 21:36).

Office

Please be reminded once again of the telephone area code change which took 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.

Blessings of Brethren

[Omitted for confidentiality]

Jason Guthrie and Tabitha Hughes were married on March 31 at Stephenville, Texas. The wedding was officiated by Mr. Raymond Cole. We congratulate them and wish them a happy marriage.

David Kortum and Carmela Dovci were married on June 2, in Eugene, Oregon. Mr. Bryce Clark officiated. Our congratulations and wishes for a happy marriage go to them also.

[Omitted for confidentiality]

Deaths

Mr. Ed Pabis died in his sleep on May 4. He was an elderly gentleman but we were not advised of his age.

Mr. Archie Murray, age 91, father of Mrs. Helen Clark and Mrs. Marilyn Dennis died on May 28 of natural, age-related causes. Our condolences are extended to his family.

Trip Schedule

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|---------|-----------------|--------|
| June 1 | Switzerland | R.C.C. |
| June 15 | Charlotte | R.C.C. |
| June 22 | Baltimore | R.C.C. |
| July 13 | Hawaii | R.C.C. |
| July 20 | S. California | R.C.C. |
| July 27 | Vancouver, B.C. | B.G.C |

Tape Schedule

| <u>Tape Series</u> | <u>Mailed</u> | <u>For</u> | <u>Title/tape #</u> |
|--------------------|---------------|--------------|---|
| WSE-RC 59-40 | 03/28 | 06/01 | Despair or Glory, Which? #40 |
| WSE-BC 149-6 | 04/09 | 06/08 | The Teachings of Christ #6 |
| WSE-RC 59-41 | 04/09 | 06/15 | Despair or Glory, Which? #41 |
| WSE-JA | 04/24 | 06/15 | A Special Message and News from Switzerland |
| WSE-BC 147-26 | 04/24 | 06/22 | Mighty Acts & Miracles of God #26 (II Kings 1, 2) |
| WSE-RC 59-42 | 05/08 | 06/29 | Despair or Glory, Which? #42 |
| WSE-BC 149-7 | 05/08 | 07/06 | The Teachings of Christ #7 |
| WSP-RC 20-3 | 05/22 | 07/13 | How Does Your Conscience Guide You? #4 |
| WSE-BC 147-27 | 05/22 | 07/20 | Mighty Acts & Miracles of God #27 (II Kings 3, 4) |
| WSE-RC 59-43 | 06/05 | 07/27 | Despair or Glory, Which? #43 |

In Christ's service,



Raymond C. Cole

Bryce G. Clark