

## Announcement Letter April 2011

Dear Brethren:

Thank you for the chance to greet you again in this new month—the first month of a new year in God's calendar. What a joy it is to share with all of you the excitement of the upcoming Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread. We are among those most blessed of all peoples on the face of this earth to have received the knowledge of God's Truth which instructs us in the meaning of these annual occasions as they explain God's dealing with man for his ultimate salvation. Therefore we express again our love and regards to all of you, with hopes and prayers that your preparations are going well, and that you will be ready to offer an acceptable sacrifice to God and thereby to be well pleasing in His sight.

Should there be any doubt that we all need, more than ever, to grow closer to God? Just look at what is going on in the world around us, especially with the upheavals which have transpired in the last thirty days. Not only have we witnessed the overnight destruction and continuing rippling threats from the Japan earthquake, but likewise the widespread political volatility and rush to war which is engulfing the Middle East.

We are not like so many other groups whose ministers love to highlight the latest news with dramatic flare as a way to scare and to titillate their members into believing "this is it." No, the church at large has been fed a heavy diet of alarmism over many decades, and we have all run many "gun laps," expecting the end of the age "very soon," because ministers—none of whom are prophets—have jumped to conclusions. We will not do that.

But neither will we hide our heads in the sand and behave as if nothing ominous is occurring. Are the events we are witnessing today the evidence that terrifying prophetic events are just around the corner? Or will these be like so many others in past years which seemed for a time to foreshadow "the end," only later to settle down and allow us to carry on our normal lives? We do not know. But we certainly know we are closer to the end of this age than at any time in previous history, and the events which are transpiring on the world scene do indeed fit the pattern of events prophesied to occur just before the end.

What is true is this: Whether things in this world will settle down again or not, you and I should be zealously focused upon preparation for the end. Your "end" is when you stop breathing. Even if you do not live in the flesh to witness the return of Christ, you could die tomorrow, and that would catapult you immediately to the Judgement. Your time of training and evaluation is "up" when you die. None of us knows how much time we each have left, and we can easily be shocked when ones we know are "cut off" unexpectedly. Jesus Christ will indeed come as a thief in the night (1 Thessalonians 5:2). For most of God's people, that does not involve living to the very *end of the age*. It means dying unexpectedly and finding that for us, there is "time no more."

Your hope is not in ferreting out the ins and outs of future prophecy to "figure out" how specific news headlines might match particular Bible prophecies. Your hope should lie in being prepared at all times, through putting on more of the very mind and character of Jesus Christ—growing in faith and confidence in Him, and learning to love His Truth. If that is how we are spending our time, then when the *final events* do take place—either the return of Christ or, more likely, our deaths—we will be ready.

The troubling events in the world show that the nations of Israel continue a downward slide in power and influence. We continue to lose the special blessings God gave to the descendants of Abraham (which were predicated upon *his* faithfulness, not *our* worthiness). The times of the Gentiles seem to be very much upon us. The enemies of the Israelitish peoples are waxing more and more in power and influence, while Israel is waning more and more with every passing day. The path we are traveling is clear. We also know the ultimate outcome of that path. What we do not know is how much time is still left for these events to unfold to their climax.

Is there any doubt then that we should relish the Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread all the more this year? We should value and appreciate the commands of God always, but a day is coming when we will not be able to convoke and to worship in peace and tranquility as we do now. Perhaps that day of persecution for the Church is still "far off." So what if it is? This still might be *your* very last Passover. How can you go wrong by celebrating it as if it were? How can any of us go wrong by showing enthusiastic appreciation for the chance to come before God to renew our vows of baptism with the bread and wine of the Passover service? And how can we go wrong by entering into the seven-day Feast of Unleavened Bread with thanksgiving for the knowledge of God's gift of spiritual exodus from sin?

We all have much to celebrate this month. And regardless of where we might be in time, we all have reason to be urgent about our preparations for the end. That "end" could come at any moment. May you have a very rewarding and inspiring Holy Day season, and may your light shine brightly in hope of that promised reward of the faithful.

## **New Moon**

The new moon, Nisan (first month), will begin on the evening of April 4. The new moon day is April 5.

The new moon, Iyar (second month), will begin on the evening of May 4. The new moon day is May 5.

## Holy Days

Lead men should be making appropriate preparations for these days:

Passover (evening) .....	Sunday, April 17
Night to Be Much Observed .....	Monday, April 18
1st Holy Day—Days of Unleavened Bread .....	Tuesday, April 19
2nd Holy Day—Days of Unleavened Bread .....	Monday, April 25

## Trip Schedule

### Mr. Brisby:

April 16 .....	Phoenix, Arizona
April 17–19 .....	Stephenville, Texas
April 23, 25 .....	Maryville, Tennessee

### Mr. Robert Litz:

April 16–19 .....	Mansfield, Massachusetts
April 23, 25 .....	Maryville, Tennessee

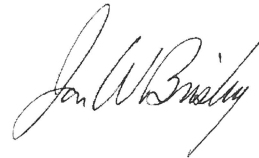
### Mr. Richard Litz:

April 30 .....	Baltimore, Maryland
May 7 .....	Mansfield, Massachusetts

## Recorded Sermon Schedule

<u>Sermon #</u>	<u>Mailed</u>	<u>Played</u>	<u>Title</u>
Holy Day Sermons	03-10-11	—	Passover, Days of Unleavened Bread
CL 1-17	03-17-11	04-02-11	What Does God Require of Us? Attitude, Belief, Denial, Offense (#4)
WSE-JB 22-125-25E-11	03-17-11	04-09-11	Fund. of Belief #25: Marriage and Divorce: God's Marriage in a Song #11
WSE-JB 22-126-25E-12	03-17-11	04-16-11	Fund. of Belief #25: Marriage and Divorce: God's Marriage in a Song #12
CL 1-19	04-07-11	04-23-11	What Does God Require of Us? Attitude, Belief, Denial, Offense (#5)
CL 1-18	04-07-11	04-30-11	Resolve All Difficulties (#1)
WSE-JB 22-127-25E-13	04-07-11	05-07-11	Fund. of Belief #25: Marriage and Divorce: God's Marriage in a Song #13
CL 1-20	04-28-11	05-14-11	Resolve All Difficulties (#2)

In Christ's service,



Jon W. Brisby