

Announcement Letter February 2021

Dear Brethren:

A special greeting to the members of this remnant body, wherever you are scattered around the globe, and a hearty thank you for your continued support of the doctrines and principles that we are defending together through the work of God's Church. Especially as we are being cut off more and more from free travel to visit many of you, the contact that we do have—including through these monthly mailings—may begin to take on increasing importance in coming months. We pledge to do whatever we can to continue to provide spiritual support for each one of you, and to give you God's Words—not man's words—to guide you in troubled times.

In the aftermath of the US election and the inauguration of a new president last month, other Church of God groups, which continue to be steeped in *prophecy interpretation*, have been very active in trying to tell everyone what is happening in the world and what to expect next. One major splinter group, in typical fashion, staked its claim to "inside wisdom" and asserted that the previous president *must be re-elected* because Bible prophecy says so. Oops! There has been no limit to the amount of embarrassing "egg on the face" predictions that many of these so-called prophets have made, which very decidedly *did not transpire*. But that never keeps them from trotting out new interpretations. They seem never, ever, to learn!

As you know, Church of God, The Eternal does not engage in prophetic speculation, and we do not claim to have any special gifts from God to reveal details of future events. In fact, we have taught you instead that such prophetic knowledge would be detrimental to God's people, setting up a false and dangerous distraction that undermines real faith. We have given you many sermons and letters to confirm that Christ's command to "watch" has nothing to do with keeping up with "current events." For years we have emphasized to you that the wise among God's children will be *watching themselves*, and *watching the Church!* Global events will take care of themselves. By all means, keep up with current events, but never become entrapped by the false thinking that you will be "saved" physically by "putting together" some prophecy pieces in advance. The just shall live by faith, *the evidence of things not seen* (Hebrews 10:38; 11:1).

What good will it be if you recognize the true last-day identities of Gog, Magog, Assyria, Edom, Moab, Persia, etc., but fail to prepare yourself spiritually? So what if you recognize the coming hurricane before anyone else does? What good is your "early-warning

system" if you have done nothing to prepare for that storm when it arrives? All of these so-called prophets are like weathermen claiming to know when the next hurricane will form, and where it will track. They crave to be able to point to the danger and to proclaim, "There it is, just watch! I knew it before anyone else! Here it comes!" And yet, these very ones have made *no provision* to weather the actual storm. They have not boarded up their homes (spiritually), stockpiled emergency provisions, nor made any of the other most critical common-sense preparations. They stake all of their energies upon storm identification and tracking, but have not a single care for being able to actually *weather a natural disaster*.

By comparison, we have taught all of you to be *hurricane ready* at all times, even when things seem peaceful. If you stand ready every single day, then it matters not when and from where the threat emerges. It is certainly nice to have advance intelligence about looming threats, but those who are *standing their spiritual watches vigilantly* are never in danger of being caught off guard. If you are truly close to God, praying, fasting, focusing upon making faithful choices under pressure day by day, then no matter what surprising threat you face from any direction, you will have all of the spiritual tools and provisions necessary to make the right choices under pressure.

Let God take care of the geopolitical pushing and shoving among the nations. I do not need to know who is the King of the North or the King of the South (Daniel 11) in order to prepare to do my part to honor God under pressure. In the Judgment, I will not be tested upon whether I had put together the pieces of what modern nation today actually correlated to what ancient nation from the Bible. That knowledge is helpful for novices who are just trying to prove whether the Bible is true and whether it speaks to real events of the last days. But if you are a mature Christian—already convinced that the Bible is God's Word to confirm what is coming—then the specifics on the world stage at any given time *do not matter*. Being spiritually prepared in heart and mind to make correct choices and to avoid compromise will be *the sum total of your test* in the Judgment. Who will turn out to be Gog and Magog, physically, nationally? Who cares? But God help those who allow themselves to become Gog and Magog *spiritually*, by rebelling against the revelation of God and by defying Jesus Christ through poor personal choices in the crucible of trial. That is the battle that really matters, and the battle that this ministry is urgently trying to prepare you to fight.

May God grant every one of you the wherewithal to see what you need to see, spiritually, and then to "make hay while the sun shines" to prepare for persecution and tribulation. The storm is indeed coming. Actually, the storm has been raging already in our midst for years, and God is already making judgments based upon our daily choices, right now! How are you doing? How much more do we all need to apply urgency in order to put on more of the mind of Jesus Christ? We all are in need of that kind of spiritual preparation.

New Moon

The new moon, Adar (twelfth month), begins Friday evening, February 12. The new moon day is Sabbath, February 13.

Holy Days

- Passover Friday, March 26
- Night to be Much Observed Saturday, March 27
- First Holy Day—Days of Unleavened Bread Sunday, March 28
- Second Holy Day—Days of Unleavened Bread Sabbath, April 3

Trip Schedule

Mr. Jon Brisby

- February 20 Columbia, South Carolina
- February 27 Maryville, Tennessee
- March 26–28 (Passover/1st HD-UB). Grand Rapids, Michigan
- April 3 (2nd HD-UB). Tilton, Illinois

Recorded Sermon Schedule

Sermon #	Mailed	Played	Title
WSE-JWB 225-33	12-24-20	01-30-21	Just What Do You Mean—Faith Once Delivered? #33
WSE-RC 26-1	01-14-21	02-06-21	The Technicalities of Divorce and Remarriage #1
WSE-JWB 225-34	01-14-21	02-13-21	Just What Do You Mean—Faith Once Delivered? #34
WSE-RC 26-2	01-14-21	02-20-21	The Technicalities of Divorce and Remarriage #2
WSE-RC 26-3	02-04-21	02-27-21	The Technicalities of Divorce and Remarriage #3
WSM-RWL	02-04-21	03-06-21	Pre-Passover Examination: In an Unworthy Manner
WSE-JWB 225-35	02-04-21	03-13-21	Just What Do You Mean—Faith Once Delivered? #35

In Christ's service,



Jon W. Brisby