



## Because It Is A Trial (Ezekiel 21:13)



### Introduction

Ever wonder why things happen? Why do people go through difficulties? Why do the wicked seem to get away with things? It is because there is a trial going on. Court is in session and has been for almost six thousand years. Like it or not, believe or not, you are involved. In fact, even atheists are involved.

### The Parties

As in any court case, there is the plaintiff. In this case, Satan is the plaintiff for Satan is known as "the accuser" (Revelation 12:10).

Other than taking it out on all the brethren, as the rest of the verse states, Satan's vendetta is with God, for Satan has stated, "I will be like the most High" (Isaiah 14:14).

So the legal document thus far should read, Satan vs. God.

### The Complaint

Though we do not have the official complaint, for it was filed in the heavenly courts and not on earth, we can use some of the evidence provided to piece together the complaint. According to the evidence presented by John, it was stated, "And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him" (1 John 4:16). Also, John presented that "now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ" (Revelation 12:10).

Focusing upon the power of Christ, which has far more power than those who "have a form of godliness" profess because they are "denying the power thereof" (2 Tim 3:5), Jude presented that the power "is able to keep you from falling, and to present [you] faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy" (1:24).

There is only one theme that appeared frequently in the evidence, even that of Jeremiah stating, "The crown is fallen [from] our head: woe unto us, that we have sinned!" (Lam. 5:16) Falling is associated with sin. To fall into "sin is the transgression of the law" (1 John 3:4).

Therefore, the complaint by Satan is that God is not loving, especially presenting a law,

known as the Ten Commandments, that is unable to be kept. Therefore, God will need to present that He is loving even though He has a law called the Ten Commandments, and that they are able to be kept.

### The Venue

The venue is earth (Revelation 12:4).

"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, [even] unto the end of the world. Amen." (Matthew 28:18-20)

### The Remuneration

As in any case there is a goal or reward or in technical terms, remuneration. If Satan wins the case, Satan tells us, "I will ascend into heaven, I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High" (Isaiah 14:13-14).

Heaven revealed, "behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end" (Luke 1:31-33).

Fortunately, when God wins (see the "verdict" below), all the witnesses will celebrate with Him in the remuneration for it has been declared "the righteous into life eternal" (Matthew 25:46).

Unfortunately, those on the losing side will suffer the punishment intended upon Satan. Just as in any court case, if it has been proven that false accusations have been leveled at someone and are blatant enough, the courts may prosecute the one originating the charge. In this case, we know Satan's claims are totally false. After review of the heavenly books, execution shall take place.

The event of reviewing the books is revealed in Revelation 20:4. "And I saw thrones, and they

The world has been given an open book exam —

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The "Thus Saith the Lord..." Ministers Newsletter is published monthly by "Thus Saith the Lord..." Ministries

### MISSION STATEMENT:

To strengthen the faith in God's Word by enabling you to have a "Thus Saith the Lord..." for all that you believe and do.

### CONTACT INFORMATION:

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**Hosea 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.**

## WHO ARE WE?

We are a ministry (not a church), encouraging church attendance, not as blind pew warmers but rather as upholders of a TSTL!

*"Thus Saith the Lord!"*

Our outreach includes printed newsletters for:

☰ The General Public,

☰ Children,

☰ And Ministers

Our websites provide additional services and contain a PDF of the printed newsletters.

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*sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and [I saw] the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received [his] mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years."*

After a thousand years of review, Satan and all that choose to witness for him "shall go away into everlasting punishment" (Matthew 25:46).

#### The Evidence

Now remember, the evidence for God's side is that God is loving yet believes that humans can keep the commandments. He knows it to be true. "Here is the patience of the saints: here [are] they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus" (Rev. 14:12). So for those that want to give evidence for God's side, are we going to argue with Him and say, "No one can keep the commandments"? That would sound like giving evidence to Satan.

Now in this venue of earth, nearly six thousand years of evidence has been presented. About four thousand occurred before Jesus was called to testify in person on earth and about two thousand years afterwards. Jesus even said, "because I testify of it" (John 7:7).

So Jesus and all of the witnesses testify every moment. Much has been recorded in the Bible as written evidence. Unfortunately, Satan has perpetrated a lie that is so far reaching that even many who profess to witness for God actually witness for Satan instead because many witnesses do not believe the Bible to be a true representation of evidence. In other words, way too many Christians do not believe the Bible to be accurate, or they believe there is error in it, or even worse, that it was concocted by humans. So such witnesses are already beginning on a false premise and such represent God's side in a bad light. In fact, they do not represent God's side. They unknowingly represent Satan's side.

At this point you can see the enormity facing God. First, most Christians are convinced that no one can keep the commandments and further, that the word of God is just a good book but not really the Word of God.

And look at the many Christians who continue in their sins and claim to be forever saved! Such are not witnessing that a sinless life is possible. Again, it is understandable that a person shall fall, but to excuse the continuance of it would be unheard of years ago but it is acceptable theology today.

#### The Witnesses

Who are the witnesses? "I have declared, and have saved, and I have shewed, when [there was] no strange [god] among you: therefore ye [are] my witnesses, saith the LORD, that I [am]

God" (Isaiah 43:12). "And ye are witnesses of these things" (Luke 24:48).

This list of witnesses is pretty broad. The direct answer as you search the Bible is that everyone is a witness, and every moment you are on the stand to give a witness. As one preacher stated, "Witnessing is not something you schedule to do; it is something you are."

Satan unfortunately has many more witnesses than God has. Of God's followers, not all have been perfect witnesses. Sometimes they represent Satan for a moment of time. The good news is that one can be a strong witness for Satan's side and switch to God's side (Isaiah 55:7). Likewise, the reverse is true as well (Ezekiel 3:20). "But he that endureth to the end shall be saved" (Matthew 10:22).

Luke states that there are things to be witnessing of. What are they? "And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem" (Luke 24:47).

If something goes into remission, such as cancer, it means that it is no longer active. Therefore, God's true witnesses show forth that sin is no longer active in their lives. "Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof" (Romans 6:12) "for the wages of sin [is] death; but the gift of God [is] eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

True, we ought to provide testimony declaring Jesus died for our sins and rose from the dead, but the greater witness is the power of grace to forgive us of all of our past sins without works (Galatians 2:16) and to live by faith a sanctified life shown by works or evidence. One faithful witness named James said, "I will shew thee my faith by my works" (James 2:18).

Another witness even encouraged others to witness properly. "My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not" (1 John 2:1). At the same time, he also encouraged those that gave a momentary false witness not to give up by stating that "if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous" (1 John 2:1).

You see, there is no greater evidence of what God does for us than to show forth that we are free from sin. By the power of grace being witnessed we show "that our old man is crucified with [him], that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin" (Romans 6:6-7).

And to be a fulltime witness is "being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness" (Romans 6:18) because "when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness" (Romans 6:20). In other words, we witness for Satan at that moment when we give into temptation and sin. "But now being

made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life” (Romans 6:22).

And when you think yourself all alone and can enjoy a little sin in private consider what Paul encourages. “Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset [us], and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of [our] faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God” (Hebrews 12:1-2). Evil angels watch every move to be able to point to God and say, “See, that Christian is sinning. If you let that person in heaven, you have to leave us in too!” In addition, there are God’s angels watching every move, holding out the hope that you would be a perfect witness.

To encourage you to endure the constant testifying we are all called to do, Paul writes, “Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses” (1 Timothy 6:12).

And how perfect of a witness ought we to be? “Ye [are] witnesses, and God [also], how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that believe: As ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father [doth] his children, That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory” (1 Thessalonians 2:10-12). At some point Paul was walking holy. Not only that but no one was able to point out a sin he had committed. The verse states that he was “unblameable” and this is in regard to his behavior. Why did he do that and live that way? So that you would also believe.

Would you believe more in Jesus if your Christian friend walked without sin or if he joined in some sinful practices just to fit in? Paul says the sinless life is the pattern and the best way to win converts. Those that brag of not sinning or being holy and are stuck up of course are not God’s witnesses. God can use “the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, [even the ornament] of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price” (1 Peter 3:4).

Now if you think this is an impossible thing to do, just remember that you are not working in your own might. “Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of [his] good pleasure” (Philippians 2:12-13). “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come

upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth” (Acts 1:8). “We are his witnesses of these things; and [so is] also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him” (Acts 5:32). And remember the power of the Holy Ghost is not only to pass out gifts, but “he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment” (John 16:8).

### The Verdict And Execution

Fortunately, we know the verdict already. This should make it easier to witness more fully for the winning side, but for some unknown reason, the vast majority witness for the losing side. This is quite peculiar.

What is the verdict? “But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death” (Rev. 21:8). “And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet [are], and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever” (Revelation 20:10).

### Counsel

“I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, [that] I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live: That thou mayest love the LORD thy God, [and] that thou mayest obey his voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto him: for he [is] thy life, and the length of thy days: that thou mayest dwell in the land which the LORD swore unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them” (Deut. 30:19-20).

“And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that [were] on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD” (Joshua 24:15).

“Death and life [are] in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof” (Proverbs 18:21).

“Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?” (Romans 6:16).

How about giving your best witness to God’s side? By the undeniable power of Jesus Christ, cease from sin in all forms. Avoid even the little misdeeds. Avoid even the things that if you avoid, you will probably be called a legalist by someone. “Abstain from all appearance of evil” (1 Thessalonians 5:22).

## THINK ON THESE THINGS

(Philippians 4:8)

### The Horse Is Prepared Against The Day Of Battle

Prov. 21:31 The horse [is] prepared against the day of battle: but safety [is] of the LORD.

Many teach that the Old Testament is all completed or at least lightly regard it. Even of those that do not teach to lightly regard the Old Testament, the Christian typically will spend more time in the New Testament than they do in the Old.

But if we use the Bible’s method of Bible study (“For precept [must be] upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, [and] there a little”) as found in Isaiah 28:10, we find that little snippets of information are placed throughout the Bible.

Now when one reads Proverbs 21:31, one may carelessly cast the verse off without regard to the future. But looking closer, it helps one to understand more of the future, specifically the Book of Revelation. Proverbs 21:31 is not talking about just any battle but the day of a specific battle.

Very similar warning is revealed in Revelation 19:11, “And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him [was] called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.” Instead of the use of “battle” the word “war” is used. And instead of referring to the name “Lord”, all kinds of descriptions are used to point to the same.

By the time you reach Revelation 19:21, “And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which [sword] proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh”, one begins to wonder if any shall survive. Revelation 19 does not say so, but that is where Proverbs 21:31 comes in.

If you want to be kept safe, be on God’s side preparing now.

## Debt Reduction Progress

Over our 10 year history, \$80,000 accumulated in ministry debt both from short periods of time of not being able to cover all of the expenses and the over 4 year period (Jan. 2004 - May 2007) when we personally could not sustain this ministry.

He had lost his employment due to religious conflict. Without that income we were not able to sustain this ministry and so the debt accumulated.

Now financial blessings are occurring in his employment, but in order to recover financially it requires him to work very long hours. Can you help eliminate this ministry debt faster?

### OVERALL STATS:

**\$80,000** Starting Balance

- **12,429** Readership

- **44,698** O'Donnell's

**\$22,873** Current Balance

### JAN. STATS:

**\$25,375** Starting Balance

- **340** Readership

- **2,162** O'Donnell's

**\$22,873** Current Balance

**We are over TWO-THIRDS of the way there!**

**We praise the Lord for your help!**

Any request to be removed from our mailing list because you cannot assist us or feel guilty will not be honored. That is not what this appeal is about.

## FOR MY THOUGHTS [ARE] NOT YOUR THOUGHTS, NEITHER [ARE] YOUR WAYS MY WAYS, SAITH THE LORD.

(Isaiah 55:8)



Ever hear the phrase, "Money is the root of all evil?" Well, it is not in the Bible. What is in the Bible is "*the love of money is the root of all evil*" (1 Timothy 6:10).

Why is this significant? Too many that are struggling to make ends meet look to those that have more than they need and use the first line against such people. This creates a wealth war.

The wealthy are not to depart needlessly with their money. Just because they have the money does not mean they are evil.

Unfortunately many unconverted wealthy people set a bad example causing the first statement of money being the problem. Many of the unconverted spend their money foolishly. Even worse, many use their money in harmful ways. They may buy expensive cars only to wreck them because of a night of alcohol. And how many sports figures and actors, as well as actresses, making a lot of money waste it on drugs? They do not know

what to do with such wealth. And of course it does not help much when rich executives cut a deal with the laborers to have the laborers cut their wages and the executives get huge bonuses.

But despite the poor examples of many of the rich, being rich is not sinful. It is the love of the money that is sinful. Even the poor can be guilty of this. Some poor envy the rich and nearly demand that the rich just hand over their wealth without the poorer folk doing anything for it. That is the love of money.

Oh, it is true that some wealthy people will hoard their wealth and are misers. Some even take from the lower classes in a legal but yet thievery method.

In either case, consider that first, though popularly spoken, money is not the root of all evil – just the love of it. And both those that have and those that have not can be guilty of the evil.

## ART THOU IN HEALTH (2 Samuel 20:9)



### Without Dimness Of Eyes

I went to the eye doctors when I turned forty and heard the doctor say, "Now that you are forty..." This was to prepare me to fail the eye test and expect to be wearing glasses. It would have been the third time I needed glasses.

In second grade I wore glasses but a baseball injury knocked my eyes "straight". Then shortly after college I had to wear the glasses because of all the computer work I was doing, but with a change in diet to being a Vegetarian and eating at least one kiwi and one carrot a day, both great in Vitamin A, I went from bifocals to no glasses whatsoever.

Now again, being forty I was being told to expect to wear glasses, but I passed without incident only to be warned that the next time I will definitely need them. Three years later I received the same story from a different doctor, but once again I left the office without needing them. How long will this continue? God only knows. But this time I

received the speech that, hardly anyone escapes turning forty-five without needing glasses. We will wait and see.

Society believes it is inevitable, but then "*Moses [was] an hundred and twenty years old when he died: his eye was not dim*" (Deuteronomy 34:7). Why do we have to give in to society's expectation that just because you become older you must eventually just wither down and become frail?

It was not a thought in years past, but today and only a few centuries ago, heavy amounts of sugar have entered the diet. And especially today, sugary deserts are readily available at a low cost. Could the intake of sugar be causing society's decrease in vision? Some doctors say so. The Bible says, "*[It is] not good to eat much honey*" (Proverbs 25:27). Although we are not told specifically why much honey is not good, we can expect it is not good for health. So do not give up sugar entirely for the body does need sugar, but let us cut way back in our consumption.



## DO YOU HAVE A TSTL FOR THAT?

The purpose of these Bible studies is to help you seek for a TSTL—"Thus Saith the Lord..." for all that you believe. May you go forward in this study with that goal.

### Nailed To The Cross?

1. What was nailed to the cross?  
**Colossians 2:14**

2. How were they originally received?  
**Colossians 2:14**

3. What do they tell the people to keep?  
**Exodus 12:14**

4. What specifically was one that was kept? **Exodus 12:43**

5. What object contained these writings?  
**Deuteronomy 28:58**

6. What was the purpose of these writings that were nailed to the cross?  
**Colossians 2:17**

7. What pointed to Jesus' death? **1 Corinthians 5:7**

8. What animal was associated with Passover? **Exodus 12:21**

9. What did John the Baptist call Jesus?  
**John 1:36**

10. What are we not to judge if people

keep or do not keep these writings?  
**Colossians 2:16**

11. What is assumed in Colossians to have been nailed but yet was explicitly stated to be performed in the Old Testament? **2 Chronicles 31:3**

12. What are we still to keep? **1 John 5:3**

### ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S STUDY:

#### God's Seal

According to scripture, the best way to not get the Mark of the Beast is to have the Seal of God.

1. Why has Jesus not returned yet?  
**Revelation 7:3** "*Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.*" Evidently not all of God's servants are prepared yet.
2. Where do people receive the seal?  
**Revelation 7:3** "*Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.*"
3. What is placed there? **Revelation 14:1** "*And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty [and] four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads.*"
4. What source provides the seal?  
**Ephesians 4:30** "*And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.*"
5. How do we receive it? **Romans 4:11** "*And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which [he had yet] being uncircumcised: that he might be the father of all them that believe, though they be not circumcised; that righteousness might be imputed unto them also*"

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6. What is the literal representation of the symbolic location for the sealing? **2 Corinthians 1:22** "Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts."
7. How are we to serve God? **Matthew 22:37** "Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind."
8. What specifically is sealed? **Isaiah 8:16** "Bind up the testimony, seal the law among my disciples", **Ephesians 1:13** "In whom ye also [trusted], after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise."
9. What is another name for the seal? **Ezekiel 9:4** "And the LORD said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof." So God has a mark and Satan or Antichrist has a mark. Consider that the mark of the beast is not financial but that of being the opposite of keeping God's law and the truth of the gospel of your salvation.
10. What are the people doing that receive it? **Ezekiel 9:4** "And the LORD said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof." They are in tearful prayer and concern over abominations happening not only in the world but how our churches are turning to the world.
11. How important is it to have God's seal instead of the Mark of the Beast? **Ezekiel 9:5-6** "And to the others he said in mine hearing, Go ye after him through the city, and smite: let not your eye spare, neither have ye pity: Slay utterly old [and] young, both maids, and little children, and women: but come not near any man upon whom [is] the mark; and begin at my sanctuary. Then they began at the ancient men which [were] before the house", **Matthew 13:49** "So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just." Having God's mark prevents you from being part of the group of wicked that are slaughtered.

## WHO HATH BELIEVED OUR REPORT? AND TO WHOM IS THE ARM OF THE LORD REVEALED?

(Isaiah 53:1)



### ▶Adelaide Now, Dec. 31, 2008 - Return of the 1950s housewife?

SHE sews, cooks, knits, gardens and raises chooks. The housewife is back – with younger women embracing traditional domestic crafts in droves, new figures show.

**COMMENT:** Proverbs 18:22 "[Whoso] findeth a wife findeth a good [thing], and obtaineth favour of the LORD." Instead of having a partner in the house that share in the workforce and send kids needlessly off to daycare so as to have the bigger house and the bigger car, it is good to see the family returning back to tradition, at least in Australia.

### ▶My SA News, December 30, 2008 - Teacher terminated over marriage

The reason for her termination turns on a theological tenet. According to Catholic doctrine, participants in a marriage must be an unmarried man and an unmarried woman. LaFortune

told the principal that her fiance had been divorced — a proceeding not recognized by the Catholic Church. "We have very clear policies on what we expect from Catholic people on our faculty, and there has been a violation of that," Brother Peter Pontolillo said. "When a person does something that is obviously contrary to everything that our Catholic school stands for, we cannot just look through our fingers." "As a general matter, religious institutions are free to engage in religious discrimination in employment," said Ira C. Lupu, a professor of law at the George Washington University Law School.

**COMMENT:** Isaiah 62:10 "Go through, go through the gates; prepare ye the way of the people; cast up, cast up the highway; gather out the stones; lift up a standard for the people." In this specific issue, we appreciate the stance taken by the Catholic Church. Too many times society deems right and wrong and Christians cave in. Too many times Christians cave to sympathy. True things happen and there are sad situations, but we have to keep in

mind the example set especially before impressionable, young minds.

► **World Net Daily, Dec. 28, 2008 - Christians called to abandon public education**

Now some people are fed up with public school treatment of Christianity and have launched a campaign calling for a rescue of kids from government education programs – a "Call to Dunkirk." "State-run public schools have become destructive to our children's Christian faith. They no longer educate but rather indoctrinate. Not only morally corrupt, public schools are unsafe because of the violence and crime that occurs in them on a regular basis," the campaign says.

**COMMENT:** Proverbs 22:6 *"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."* Do you have a choice of what to do with your children but out of convenience you send them to public school? What a disservice! To those that seem to have more money than they need for a basic life, have you looked around the church to find families in need of financial assistance to get their children out of public school but cannot afford it? True, some private schools offer financial assistance but for a family of multiple children and a stay home mom, more assistance is needed. Then we wonder why our children leave the church when they can.

► **Wired, December 23, 2008 - Cousin Marriage OK by Science**

In an age of sexual liberation, marriage between cousins remains taboo, at least in the United States — and from a scientific perspective, laws against the unions are a socially legitimized form of genetic and sexual discrimination. Thirty-one states outlaw marriage between first cousins, making the United States the only developed country in which the practice is regularly banned.

**COMMENT:** Expecting God to condemn such a union, we actually found that the ban of marriage extends furthest at the level of no-blood related aunt/uncle. Lev. 18:14 *"Thou shalt not uncover the nakedness of thy father's brother, thou shalt not approach to his wife: she [is] thine aunt."* Though sister, brother, father, mother, direct relatives further up the line, step relations directly in the family (like step-mom), uncle, and aunt (even if not directly blood related) are all forbidden. But nowhere in the Bible are first cousins forbidden. So do not come out against such, even though many cannot imagine the allowance of such, for God has not said a word against it in His list of forbiddings.

► **Telegraph, Dec. 20, 2008 - Most Britons do not believe in the nativity, survey shows**

Young people were particularly doubtful about the nativity, with 78 per cent of 16-24-year-olds saying they were not convinced of its historical reliability. Overall, 70 per cent were sceptical of

the baby's birth in a manger to a virgin mother, according to the poll of 1,000 people by the British Marketing Research Bureau. Almost a quarter of those questioned who described themselves as Christians admitted they did not believe certain aspects of the Bible's teaching about Jesus.

**COMMENT:** 1 John 2:5 *"But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him."* Once again we appeal to those that do not accept the Bible as the Word of God, leave Christianity. Christianity is not a club. By being part of Christianity, you give a poor example of what a Christian is and non-believers exploit it. And pastors that encourage membership without true belief are guilty as well.

► **Daily Mail Reporter, December 19, 2008 - Audience members flee 'pornographic' sex scene in Shakespeare play**

Outraged theatre-goers walked out of a performance of one of Shakespeare's most famous plays, describing a simulated sex scene between two men as 'pornography'. No genitals were on show, but buttocks were visible. There was nothing on the ticket that said it was unsuitable for children.

**COMMENT:** Jude 1:7 *"Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire."* We have now come to an age that all forms of sex can be flaunted and approaching the time where in the name of art or a claimed right that exposure will not be restricted. Just when one thought it could not get any worse. Sin just keeps waxing bolder and bolder.

► **World Net Daily, January 15, 2009 - Kissinger affirms call for 'new world order'**

Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger reaffirmed his call for the incoming Obama administration to use the current financial crisis to create a "new world order," in a commentary piece for the International Herald Tribune. Kissinger's commentary makes clear globalists intend to utilize the current global financial meltdown to advance globalism.

**COMMENT:** *"These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast."* {Revelation 17:13} Could Kissinger's request be the groundwork for fulfillment? Many politicians are leaning towards a global government.

► **Reuters, December 24, 2008 - World woes due to rejection of God: Ahmadinejad**

"The crises in society, the family, morality, politics, security and the economy ... have come about because the prophets have been forgotten, the Almighty has been forgotten and some leaders are estranged from God," Ahmadinejad

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(Main Article)

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said, according to a translation of his message. "If Christ were on earth today, undoubtedly he would stand with the people in opposition to bullying, ill-tempered and expansionist powers."

**COMMENT:** Sounds a lot like Hosea 4:6 *"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children."* But here is the rest of the story. Hosea 4:1-5 *"Hear the word of the LORD, ye children of Israel: for the LORD hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because [there is] no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land. By swearing, and lying, and killing, and stealing, and committing adultery, they break out, and blood toucheth blood. Therefore shall the land mourn, and every one that dwelleth therein shall languish, with the beasts of the field, and with the fowls of heaven; yea, the fishes of the sea also shall be taken away. Yet let no man strive, nor reprove another: for thy people [are] as they that strive with the priest. Therefore shalt thou fall in the day, and the prophet also shall fall with thee in the night, and I will destroy thy mother." Could the enemy be right?*

►WND, Dec. 20, 2008 - 7 students suspended - refusing anti-Christian class

Seven Christian students in Quebec have

been handed suspensions in the last few days – and could face expulsions – for refusing to participate in a new mandatory Ethics and Religious Culture course that, according to a critic, is a "superficial mish-mash of trendy theoretical platitudes" with the goal of convincing children that "all religions – including pagan animism and cults – are equally 'true.'"

**COMMENT:** 1 Timothy 3:15 *"But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth."* Paul believed there was only one true religion. If any Christian does not believe in this fundamental stance, which sadly many Christian do not hold, you ought to leave the church. Imagine if Israel had this attitude when God chose them to be His only people. Come to think of it, that is exactly why the intermingled with the other nations and accepted their customs. Paul also wrote in 1 Corinthians 10:6, *"Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted."* The Israelites are our example. If God punished them for thinking all religions were the same, He surely will not accept us thinking the same way. The true God chose the Israelites were chosen of God. Deuteronomy 14:2 *"For thou [art] a holy people unto the LORD thy God, and the LORD hath chosen thee to be a peculiar people unto himself,*

*above all the nations that [are] upon the earth."* He chooses the Christian people much the same way. 1 Peter 2:9 *"But ye [are] a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light."* True Christians are those that believe we are God's peculiar people today. Such are found in every denomination and even without a denomination. You may call yourself a Christian but not believing we are the true religion is no friend of Christ. Face it. You are a Christian because you follow Christ. If you believe Israel is the true religion today, you are wrong. They do not follow Christ. If you think Hindus or Muslims are equally true, you are lying to yourself because they do not follow Christ. This thought of equality between religions accelerated after 9/11. Do not sell out your faith. Jesus says in Luke 18:8, *"Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?"* Will Jesus find His faithful people or will they be part of the get along with everyone else religion? How in the world are we going to take the gospel to the whole world when every form of religion is equally accepted. That is because you have been lied to or you are believing a lie. Of course it began with the dismissing of the Bible as the Word of God. So this is probably falling on deaf ears if you do not believe the Bible to be wholly true and the guidance for everyone's life today.