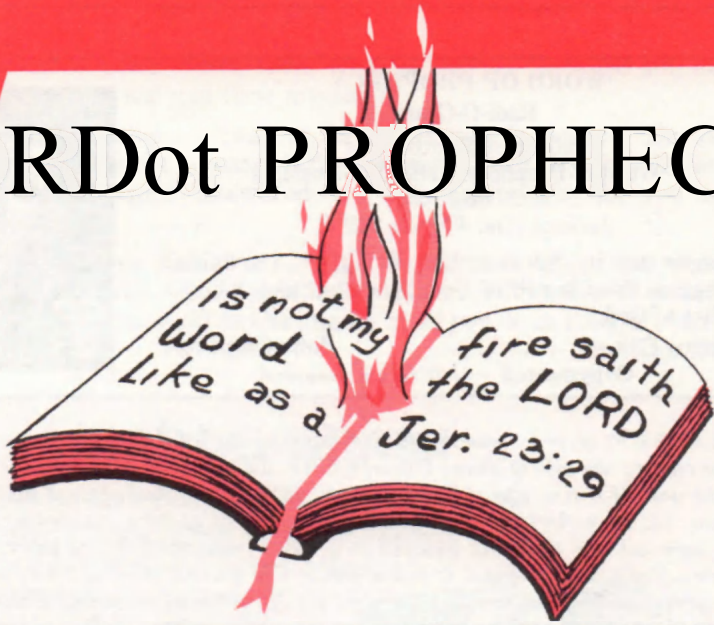
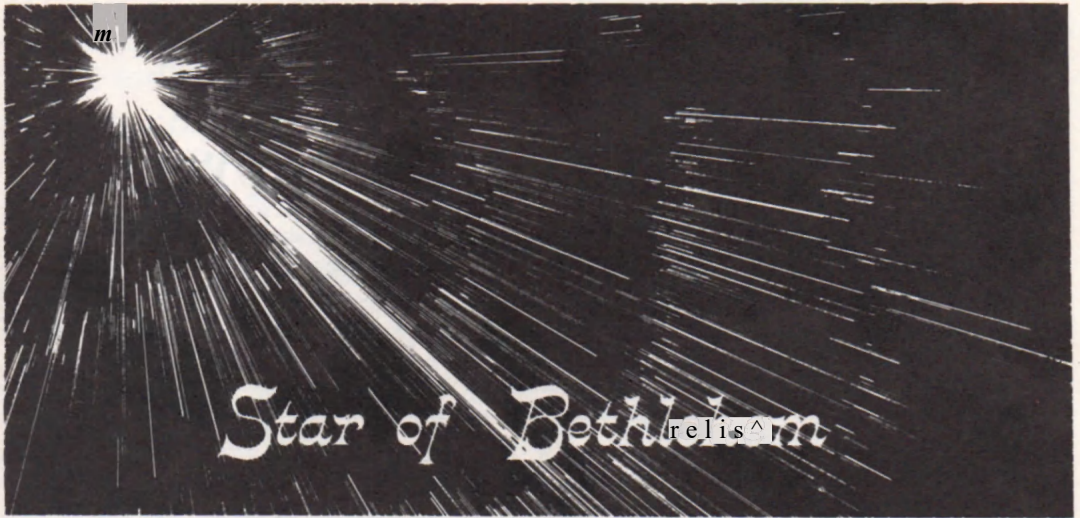


WORDot PROPHECY



RADI - 0 - GRAM

December 1977



Feature Message

- **Jesus Christ's Prophecy**

THE BEGINNING OF SORROWS

Other Messages Include

- **Christian or Pagan?**

CHRISTMAS — 1977!

WORD OF PROPHECY

Radi-O-Gram

Published Monthly By:

Word of Prophecy Radio Fellowship

P.O. Box 10200

Jacksonville, Florida 32207

Messages are by Brother Ray Pringle, an ordained minister of the Church of God, Anointed' and called a Prophet of God.

Associate Editor: June Carpenter

Copyrighted — All rights reserved.



THE COVER: Over nineteen centuries ago the star of Bethlehem led wise men of the east to the site of Jesus Christ's birth. They found Him who became the Bright and Morning Star (Revelation 22:16) the brightest star of all! At this season, let us reflect on that wonderful event of history momentarily, and then turn all our thoughts quickly to a more important future advent - His return! God's Saints must commemorate Christmas soberly and consistent with preparation for Christ's return as the Holy Ghost exhorts: "Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober." I Thess. 5:6.

THE BEGINNING OF SORROWS

The last days of Jesus Christ's earthly ministry were basically comprised of warnings (prophecies) to those who would become the leaders of His church, the 12 apostles, foretelling what would befall in the last days, His church of the end-time. These prophecies with alarming accuracy are being fulfilled NOW, but those prophecies that have been fulfilled to a lesser degree will be magnified in their greater intensification very soon, until our generation is ushered into a period of unprecedented troubles, as Jesus expressed it: "all these are the beginning of sorrows." Matthew 24:8. The painful signs or events that lead into "greater sorrows" are listed by Jesus as wars and rumors of wars, commotions, nation against nation, famines, epidemics, and earthquakes in many areas of the earth. Matthew 24:6-7; Luke 21:9-11. These signs of the end of the age and of the return of Jesus Christ will also be accompanied by great signs from the heavens before the great tribulation. Luke 21:11-12.

These bellwether signs of which Jesus foretold are preceding the rising Gathering Storm of "great sorrows" to alert the end-time church to a consciousness of where we now are in relationship to the great tribulation and to His return — and, they do not suggest to the saint of God that the road ahead will get smoother, but rougher. So, Saint of God, fasten your seat belt securely; the road ahead for the church, Yes, the Church, is going to be a rough one — and, somebody is going to get hurt, some of God's best people!

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

Where do we now stand, in measurement of months, in relationship to the spiritual darkness and judgments of God we call the "Gathering Storm?" (Jesus called this approaching time of sorrows "the sea and waves roaring" — Luke 21:25). Answer: In the words of Jesus Christ himself, the great prophet of Nazareth, we are now entering the time of great sorrows. By revelation of the Holy Ghost: "the corridor that leads into this spiritually dark and violent period arising will begin **approximately five years** from the time this is being written in late **1977.**" Listen to me, beloved friend in Christ, the church of Jesus Christ is headed into a dark time of persecution, severe trials of our faith, amid world-wide terrorism and shameful moral corruption mingled with natural disasters which are the judgments of God.

I have published and taught the following revelation from the Holy Ghost many times, but I discern that I have not clarified it to the satisfaction of many who hear our Radio Broadcasts and read this magazine: "From **1973** through **1977**, mankind turned the last corner or curve in their history of this age — now we are heading straight into the Gathering Storm of unprecedented violence, moral corruption, terror, natural disasters, and persecution of God's saints.

the causes and effects of the great sorrows of which Christ foretold will be so vividly manifested that even the most foolish among God's people will see that the whole true church of Jesus Christ is going through the fire for purging and chastening." The Holy Ghost hasn't revealed the **exact** time element in this next prediction, but from what I viewed in God's great prophetic picture window, I saw the church in great sorrows of the Tribulation. I have seen a nightmare for the saints of God in that prophetic picture window — **it is enough to modify all the beautiful dreams I used to have about an "easy" rapture of the church!**

Here's a parenthetical view of the church, caught up out of the great tribulation (in the book of the Revelation of Jesus Christ, Rev. 1:1-2) — these are saints, or the church, for there is only one catching away: "And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for **in them is filled up the wrath of God. (This happens before God's wrath is poured out, but not before His judgments).** And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and **them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name,** stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God." Rev. 15:1-2. The caught-away or raptured **144,000** Israelites are revealed in Rev. 14:1, and the caught-away Bride of Christ in Revelation 15 — this occurs after at least 3 1/2 years into the great tribulation period of seven years.

A LUKEWARM CHURCH

As God's saints are being ushered into a period of great sorrows for chastening and purging (Daniel 12:9-10), most of today's church is Laodicean — lukewarm. Where are we right now, the church and body of Jesus Christ? Answer: In the words of Jesus himself: "So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, **I will spue thee out of my mouth.**" Revelation 3:16. This is just where we are right now — most of the members of Christ's church are **spewed out of His mouth** — they make Him sick! Jesus is on the outside

of most churches and of most hearts pleading, "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." Revelation 3:20. Also verse 19: "As many as I love, **I rebuke and chasten**: be zealous therefore, and **repent**." The church is not going to repent and let Christ become Lord again until it is chastened in the fiery trials of the Gathering Storm. Isaiah 48:10; Acts 14:22; Revelation 7:14.

FAMINE ARISING

The church of today is not as lily white **as they profess!** Where are we now? We are entering a terrible famine for hearing the true and complete message from God's Word, more terrible than the famine for food. The prophet of God cried out about this terrifying situation over 25 centuries ago: "And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Lord God, that I will cause the sun to go down at noon, and I will darken the earth in the clear day: And **I will turn your feasts into mourning, and all your songs into lamentation**; and I will bring up sackcloth upon all loins, and baldness upon every head; and I will make it as the mourning of an only son, and the end thereof as a bitter day. Behold, the days come (**that's NOW**), saith the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord: And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, **they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the Lord; and shall not find it.**" Amos 8:9-12. This is the effect — now for the cause: "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; **reprove, rebuke, exhort** with all longsuffering and doctrine (**Preachers won't do this**). For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables (stories and testimonies)." II Timothy 4:2-4. That's where we are at this very moment as we enter the swiftly arising "beginning of sorrows." These are causes and effects. The effects are quite obvious to real saints, but the less devious, painful causes that underlie the miserable lukewarmness of God's people are not so readily discerned except by the most spiritual.

"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come (**that's right now** — this is the effect). For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy (even most of today's church is unholy); Without natural affection . . . lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away . . . Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth (these are the causes of the dangerous times we're entering)." II Timothy 3:1-7. Let's run that last verse (a major cause of lukewarmness and rejection by Christ) back by again: "**Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.**"

THE CHURCH'S SORROW

This sick society is getting sicker because today's church is living in the supper room and not in the upper room — feasting instead of fasting — laughing and not lamenting! Jesus' prognostication for His end-time saints was: "Verily, verily, I say unto you, That ye shall weep and lament, but the world

shall rejoice: and ye shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy (this is to be at Christ's return). A woman when she is in travail hath sorrow, because her hour is come: but as soon as she is delivered of the child, she remembereth no more the anguish, for joy that a man is born into the world. **And ye now therefore have sorrow (not FUN): but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice,** and your joy no man taketh from you (at His return)." John 16:20-22. The church of today doesn't believe this nor preach it! Anyone with one eye and average spiritual sensitivity knows that this end-time church is lukewarm and only severe persecution and tribulation can cure its ills. Lukewarmness is characterized by: "Because thou sayest (the Laodicean church), **I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.**" Revelation 3:17. Read that again, NOW! **A blind church** — it cannot see afar off (II Peter 1:9). Well, it is still going into the Gathering Storm of persecution, the judgments of God, and at least 3½ years of the great tribulation!

Back to the prophetic warnings of Jesus: "All these are the beginning of sorrows," i.e., wars, commotions, famines, pestilences, earthquakes and signs from heaven. The prophecy continues with the introductory word "Then" as Jesus predicts greater troubles and sorrows for the church: "**Then** shall they deliver **you** up to be **afflicted**, and shall **kill you**: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. **And then** shall many be offended (fall away from the faith of the Bible), and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another." Matthew 24:9-10. In Mark's gospel account of Jesus' prophecy for this end-time is revealed a great sorrow not recorded in Matthew's Olivet account: "Now the brother shall betray the brother to death, and the father the son; and children shall rise up against their parents, (Christian parents, i.e.) and shall cause them to be put to death." Mark 13:12. Jesus added another warning to His church concerning this rising barbarism and harassment: "And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that shall endure unto the end (of the persecution arising), the same shall be saved." Mark 13:13. Are you listening?

There is not a scripture in the Bible that says that the church, God's saints, will be caught away or raptured before the tribulation — the Bible says the very opposite. Jesus warned, "But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father. Take ye heed, watch and pray: **for ye know not when the time is . . .** Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at **even**, or at **midnight**, or at **the cockcrowing**, or in **the morning**; Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. And what I say unto you (i.e.*, the 12 apostles) I say unto all (the church), Watch." Mark 13:32-37. Jesus is speaking of a terrible spiritual night, not a 12-hour natural night, and warns of spiritual sleepiness, not natural sleep. We don't know when Jesus will come, He warns! All prophetic revelations of Daniel, of Jesus, of the Apostle Paul in II Thessalonians, and in the Revelation, reveal that the church will face the antichrist for at least 3½ years: "And it was given unto him (antichrist) **to make war with the saints; and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds; and tongues, and nations.**" Revelation 13:7; Daniel 7:21; Revelation 13:5. These are the Church — there is only one catching away — as the saints (church) are revealed in heaven, Revelation 15:1-4, just before God's wrath is poured out without mercy in Revelation 16. The revelation of the end of God's harvest of souls is shown in Revelation 14:14-16 — worldliness is finally purged out of the

church; the church is then ready to be taken from the world, and not until then!

POINT OF NO RETURN

This generation will be cut short by divine judgment because of excessive homosexuality, immorality, apostasy, and violence (Romans 9:28) — we have reached the point of no return to human decency, natural affection, and respect for human life. Jesus somberly forecasted our end: "And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened." Matthew 24:22. God shortened the days of Sodom and Gomorrah as a thriving metropolis of sadistic perverses by divine intervention of fiery destruction. II Peter 2:6. The whole social structure, religious and secular, of this last generation is characterized by the Lord: "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 (the cause). Therefore shall the land mourn, and every one that dwelleth therein shall languish, with the beasts of the field (cattle, etc.), and with the fowls of heaven; Yea, the fishes of the sea also shall be taken away" (the effect). Hosea 4:1-3. The Lord will take away, very soon, our steaks, our fat chickens, and our seafood delights — these will be some of our sorrows arising upon us! Ichabod could be written across the doors of most churches NOW, because "the glory of the Lord has departed." I Samuel 4:21. Also, "From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment." Isaiah 1:6.

There is more perversion and other causes of divine judgments upon this nation than was prevalent in Sodom and Gomorrah at their end. "But the men of Sodom (homosexuals) were wicked and sinners before the Lord **exceedingly**." Genesis 13:13. This was the cause of divine judgment. The effect: "The Lord rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the Lord out of heaven", Genesis 19:24. Our nation and our whole sick society are going into great sorrows as divine judgments will fall upon us very soon. The effect — "When **thy judgments** are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will **learn righteousness** . . . Lord, in trouble have they visited thee, they poured out a prayer when **thy chastening** was upon them." Isaiah 26:9, 16. There is no way back to the good old days of respect for law and order, love for neighbor, the fear of God, old-fashioned Bible preachers and churches, strong family ties, and common decency in morals — we passed the point of no return long ago to these honored mores and spiritual values that enable many individual lives to make the nation, family, and church strong.

BUFFER ZONE

Perhaps the greatest cause of the rising sorrows to God's saints is the emerging World Church — an effect of worldwide ecumenicism — unity of all religions and faiths through compromise of the Holy Scriptures. Like a giant octopus, its mighty tentacles, in a massive pincer movement, are sweeping almost all religions, even most Protestant denominations into the World Ecumenical System — the rising World Council of Churches, confederated with the Roman Catholic church, whose leadership will be usurped by the coming False Prophet and Antichrist. God's true saints have been shielded by a great buffer zone since Martin Luther's day from the guillotine, banishment, and torture, generally, by the myriad of Protestant church groups. These have been tolerated by the political systems of nations freed from Papal dominion

since the 1500's until this time of the end — but now there are mighty satanic forces at work to reunite Protestantism and Catholicism. Where will that leave God's true, blood-washed saints? Answer — to the persecution of the rising Roman system — world church and world government. The Roman Empire is rising again with its seven slashing, terror-inflicting heads! Revelation 13:1-8; Daniel 7:7-8. The terrible beast in these prophecies symbolizing the reviving of the pagan, brutal Roman Empire with its god-emperor, is characteristic of past history when that empire suppressed true Christianity, and banished, tortured, or killed God's saints. Great economic, political, and religious changes in today's classless, faceless, and Godless society are bringing Christians to the brink — of greater sorrows than we've ever dreamed of.

PEACE OFFENSIVE

Today's judicial, political, and religious systems will soon yield to mob rule as worldwide violence and terrorism increases. Northern Ireland, Lebanon, Israel, Argentina, and South Africa are focal points presently of a worldwide peace offensive led by women of these troubled nations, of different religions. This is a strife-torn and war-weary world, but the quest for peace is ill advised and directed. Matthew 10:34; John 16:33. This offensive is helping to bring world religions together to create a one-church, one-religion society. The antichrist and false prophet lurk in the shadows, the devil's masterpieces, to lead the world to Armageddon and to destruction through peace. The antichrist "through peace shall destroy many." Daniel 8:25. This insidious plot of satan is to promise peace without Christ as the deity, and without the true Word of God. Daniel 11:36-37.

The nations of the world have used military force in the quest of peace since 1914. President Wilson took our nation into World War I saying it was a war to end wars — the League of Nations and World Court was then created to keep the peace. Both failed! Military might was employed as men and nations pursued peace futilely until our Viet Nam debacle. Detente has replaced military action since, peace through compromise, for fear of a nuclear holocaust. This won't work, as it is not working now, and world statesmen are alarmed and scared — peace prospects are not good!

A PROPHECY! Here's a look into the near future by Holy Ghost revelation: The next peace offensive conducted by world statesmen and world leaders will be a call to the world's religious leaders, especially the Pope, to effect a solution by peaceful means, to global conditions of strife, terrorism, hunger, racial intolerance, and religious divisions — to bring forth peace and stability out of anarchy and revolution. This will call forth the apostate doctrine of the fatherhood of God, and the brotherhood of man to be imposed upon all people, of all nations, colors, or creeds, carrying a severe penalty to dissenters: deprivation of civil and religious liberties, with economic reprisals upon the father and mother who reject this professed world religion — including your family! This will culminate in a greater sorrow as this Roman type of world-government and world-church arises: "And he (antichrist) causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name." Revelation 13:16-17. we will all be numbered, computerized, and systemized into a world monetary and economic master classification plan, thus implementing the rise of the beast out of hell, the

antichrist. Revelation 17:9. A giant computer, already constructed and operating from Brussels, Belgium — called "The Beast" — will be furnished data from fact-gathering UN organizations about you and me, trivia and consequential, until every person on this planet will be forced to take the mark of the beast to buy or sell. Will the church be here? The answer is a big YES. We've talked about our abundant grace and great faith — soon, we'll all be able to put these to the test — we'll need grace to be willing to die for Jesus, and faith to live without a ration card, without Social Security, without money or credit, few friends, no medicare or hospitalization — Just JESUS! Beloved, we'll soon find out who is real and who is phony — who are God's true prophets, and who are false.

In the rising sorrows, there will be martyrs for Jesus: "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." Revelation 20:4. These are holy saints who are in the first resurrection — Verses 5 and 6! Here's a prophetic preview of our final test: "And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and **they loved not their lives unto the death.**" Revelation 12:10-11. These are saints of the church — not the Jewish brethren as blind theologians teach.

OUR FINEST HOUR

As the Gathering Storm descends, God says to you and me, "Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee." Isaiah 60:1-2. As spiritual darkness arises, and great sorrows come upon God's saints, they will become strong. God's prophecy to His troubled church of the end time says, "But the people that do know their God **shall be strong**, and do exploits." Daniel 11:32. God's true saints will "get the victory over **the beast**, and over **his image**, and over **his mark**, and over **the number of his name.**" Revelation 15:2.

God's saints must return to their first love, and be without spot or blemish from the world. Ephesians 5:25-27. A holy church, a glorious church is only possible through fasting and prayer, accompanied by severe persecution. Except very rarely, real fervent prayer and Bible directed fasting with any consistency has only come through persecution. Read Psalms 35:11-17; Esther 4:13-16. God is taking us through the fire of great sorrows to restore to the church its first love, unity, holiness, fear of God, and the power of the Holy Ghost as was manifested by the early church of the Book of Acts. The old Roman Empire maligned, harrassed, tormented, and even martyred many of those valiant ones among Christ's first disciples. These experiences purged them of worldliness and the flesh, driving them to their knees in prayer and fasting. God's prophetic Word warns that persecution will come to the Church of the end-time similarly and drive it to its knees to fasting: "For the day of the Lord is great and very terrible; and who can abide it? Therefore also now, saith the Lord, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and

with weeping, and with mourning . . . Blow the trumpet in Zion (i.e., wake up the church), sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly: Gather the people . . . assemble the elders, gather the children . . . Let the priests (pastors), the ministers of the Lord, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy people, O Lord, and give not thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them . . ." Joel 2:11-17. Pastors and their whole churches, mothers, fathers, even the youth and children must be turned back to God's Word and His Holiness — to fasting and prayer with weeping and tears! Read Matthew 9:14-15 — This is Christ's directive for His disciples to fast!

THE CHURCH'S RESPONSE

The church of Jesus Christ in today's sick and pagan society has adjusted to worldly and heathen lifestyles and customs until it flatly rejects any prophetic warnings and revelations of the Holy Ghost that the Gathering Storm and judgments of God will envelope it. I'm contemptuously censured by many with this ignorant reply: "I don't care about what's going to happen in the rising Gathering Storm and Tribulation — I won't be here; Jesus is coming to take all Christians out of the earth before all that trouble comes." Another preacher says: "After the third chapter of Revelation the church is not mentioned, so the church will be gone." Another said to me, "Don't you know Jesus said in Luke 21:36 'Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye man be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.' Jesus is coming before the 7 years of tribulation begins and take Christians out of the world — we'll escape all the tribulation." Blindness is a terrible dangerous spiritual plight for the preacher and for those who follow him — into the ditch! Isaiah 56:10-11; John 15:14.

A worldly church, preacher, or Christian is blind and cannot see or understand the prophetic scriptures. Revelation 3:17. The Church will be here in tribulation to face the antichrist and a godless world system organized to brutally suppress the true Bible and true Christianity in the same manner as the old Roman Empire. Daniel 8:12; cf. Daniel 11:33-35. The Book of Revelation, by the way, does mention the church after chapter 3: "I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches." Revelation 22:16. Why testify these things to the church, not unbelievers, if the church will not be involved in the terrifying prophetic fulfillment? Saints are mentioned in prophetic involvement until the day of God's wrath. Saints are the church! Don't be foolish and say these saints are Jews, or tribulation saints

Now about Luke 21:36: Jesus is talking about being accounted worthy to escape His day of wrath. Proof — verse 23: "There shall be great distress and **wrath** upon this people" — i.e., the Jews of Jerusalem, and those who have rejected God's mercy. Also verses 24-27 reveal that this is at Armageddon and at the very end of the 7-year Tribulation period: "Until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled"; Also, "There shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars"; all these occur immediately preceding Christ's literal return — not in the first half of the tribulation period.

Beloved Christian friend, I am not a psychic nor a "prophet of doom" as many soothsayers and speakeasies dub me. These are not dreams or illusions — these messages and warnings are from the Holy Ghost to God's people with

love for you and your family. The peace symbols of the broken cross will arise with amazing popularity among earth's masses very soon, the insignia of the coming world system of the antichrist — but we know the only peace in this world is through the blood of the cross of Jesus Christ. The "man of peace" will soon appear, the devil's masterpiece, claiming to be Christ in the flesh, but the prophetic scriptures warn God's saints, "For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then **sudden destruction cometh upon them**, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief." **I Thessalonians 5:3-4.** Just get ready and stay ready, Jesus exhorts, for He will return **in such an hour as ye think not.** Matthew 24:44. AMEN.

As God's people are about to enter immediately into greater sorrows with this entire judgment bound generation, it has become a fad to sing and loudly proclaim, "Jesus is coming soon." **If** these people who profess publicly and confidently their alleged faith in Christ's soon return really believe Jesus is coming soon, their life style would be totally and completely holy, and free from world conformity. The Bible declares, "and every man that hath this hope in him **purifieth himself**, even as he (Christ) is pure." **I John 3:3.** The holy influence of our life-style on others will affect their character by our manifested (not professed) faith in Christ's return, knowing that we must be without spot or blemish. **II Peter 3:14.** "Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, **without spot**, and blameless."

The End.



Brother and Sister Pringle, Amber, Chris, and Noelle. (Two married sons, Ray, Jr., and Bill, are not present)

P.S. The above photograph of Brother Pringle and family is sent to each of our friends of this ministry with love. We pray that you and your families will have a very Joyous Christmas Season and 1978.

CHRISTMAS — 1977

How will you spend Christmas 1977? Your family? Will your commemoration of Christ's birth be Christian or pagan? These questions we must ponder and then come up with answers that are consistent with the life-style of a true saint of God. God still requires that in these and all social matters, "Be ye not conformed to this world." Romans 12:2.

We can successfully and honorably observe Christmas and not commit idolatry. Now we are very aware that the date of Christ's actual birth is not known. Christmas has been observed on December 25 as Christ's birthday by general universal consent for many centuries, and is now a well established tradition by most of the world. Can a true Christian observe Christmas in a manner pleasing to God?

Christmas should be observed as a Christian holiday if it is observed at all — but , it is not. However, it can be if we commemorate Christ's birth in a truly Christian manner by excluding the customs of the heathen. Some declare that we should not observe Christmas at all. It is not a Christ-mass to a real saint and his family, but a day off from his labor of a regular 5 or 6-day work week. It can be a day to sing carols or to hear them sung — to see beautiful decorations and lights — to witness happy children about the neighborhood with new toys and clothes — to hear greetings of Merry Christmas and to enjoy a juicy roast turkey dinner with all the trimmings!

Christmas is very often the only time of the year that families get together, sometimes traveling long distances, to share gifts, and most appropriately to share each other. We've always enjoyed that privilege afforded us at Christmas and New Years to visit our parents — and for our children to make their grandparents happy. I thank God for this privilege extending back many years! Even in the "have-not" nations, parents do their best to keep Christmas as a special day even though its cost may mean self-denial for the family in the New Year ahead.

What's wrong with the conservative, Christian type of the observance of Christmas — not a pagan celebration? The godless masses of our society have stolen about every holiday, even the Lord's day, that Christians observe, converting them into a day of revelling, drunkenness, idolatry and desecration of all that is holy. What can the saint of God do, and what should they teach their families about Christmas?

KEEPING HOLIDAYS

The Bible says, "**Let no man therefore judge you** in meat, or in drink, or **in respect of an holy day**, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days." Colossians 2:16. There is no sterile order in the New Testament about holidays (this word came from holy days) and their observance. The decision we, under grace, make concerning holy days is a liberty permitted by the Lord who is head of the church — providing we observe it in a godly manner. Further the Lord exhorts: "One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind. He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord; and **he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it.**" Romans 14:5-6.

It is not a sin to give your wife or husband, or children, or parents a gift at Christmas time if the gift is given in love and/or in honor. Be sure to remind them that the gift is from Dad, Mom, Bud, or Sis — not Santa Claus — with love and affection. It's not Santa Claus, but God who fills our stockings with good gifts: "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." James 1:17. Our children should be taught this truth, and not a fable! Beloved, our best gift should be to the work or cause that most nearly perpetuates the earthly work of our Lord Jesus, whose birth we are commemorating. We then are not celebrants but simple observers of the first or second most important event of past history to Christians. We will discuss the most important event in "history in the following pages.

OTHER NATIONAL HOLIDAYS

Christianity and paganism have made great accommodations to an unholy mixture of worldliness and godliness — truth and error! A gratifying friendship has developed between the church and the world where friendship has no right to exist. For decades now, the world has endorsed the Church, and the Church has retaliated by approving world conformity. But God has voiced His disapproval by crying: "Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God." James 4:4. Jesus warned, "For that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God." Luke 16:15. Do these scriptures tell us anything, or will we just ignore them like the rest of the warnings of God's Word?

Preachers — pantywaist, soothsaying preachers, have let the world and the devil in the church to co-exist with God's true saints, and have uttered "nary" a protest — or, the protest was so feeble that it was ignored. Come on devil — come on false teachers — come on in world, "For his watchmen are **blind**: they are **all ignorant**, they are all **dumb dogs, they cannot bark**; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber. Yea, they are greedy dogs which can never have enough, and they are **shepherds** (pastors) **that cannot understand** (and they don't understand the dangers to their flocks): **they all look to their own way, every one for his gain**, from his quarter." Isaiah 56:10-11. What a tragedy to thousands of God's people who have pastors that are blind, ignorant, sleepy, with no understanding, selfish and careless!

Halloween is a totally pagan observance! It is anti-Christian, hellish, devilish — it honors witches, the dead, demons, and all the occult. Even full-gospel churches, so-called, have fallen victim to the accursed celebration of this totally pagan holiday because of blind, ignorant, and pantywaist pastors. This is idolatry in its purest form, and we are warned by the Lord, "Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry . . . I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils." I Corinthians 10:14, 20. If keeping this holiday which honors evil spirits and witches is a Christian liberty (which I say, it is not!), then we need to consider this warning from the Lord: "But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours becomes a stumblingblock to them that are weak . . . But when ye sin so against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, **ye sin against Christ.**" I Corinthians 8:9-12. Astrology, black magic, and devil worship are all connected with the observance of halloween! Beware Christian! Don't attend nor support a church that has halloween parties — its taboo with the Holy Ghost!

New Year's Day is totally pagan — Thanksgiving Day is mostly a school holiday — used for union and government employees to get off from work for a long weekend. Both these holidays have become paganized, especially New Year's, until there is no semblance of God-honoring in evidence. Thanksgiving began as a national day of thanks to God for His blessings but has evolved into a 4-day weekend of revelling and pleasure seeking.

Easter as a so-called Christian observance has never been free from pagan influence. The use of rabbits, chickens, and eggs to symbolize the resurrection of Jesus Christ is pagan and out of touch with reality as being Christian. The first day of the week is the day of Christ's resurrection, and by scriptural observance will manifest the Christian's identity with his professed new life in Christ. John 20:19; Acts 20:7; I Corinthians 16:2.

JEWISH HOLIDAYS

All through history, God's people observed holy-days — these evolved into holidays! The Jews have always kept strict observance of many holy-days or holidays by God's order. The most important holy day for Israel has always been the passover. These two feast days of Passover also constituted the celebration of New Years, because it was observed on the 14th and 15th days of the first month of each year. All holidays or holy-days in Israel were instituted by the Lord for a divine commemoration as the Passover: "This day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to the Lord throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance for ever . . . And it shall come to pass, when your children shall say unto you, What mean ye by this service? That ye shall say, It is the sacrifice of the Lord's passover, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt, when he smote the Egyptians, and delivered our houses," (for God has promised), "When I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite Egypt." Exodus 12:13-14, 26-27. God has never frowned upon holidays (holy days), only upon the unholy manner in which they were observed.

WORLD'S GREATEST EVENT

The only holiday or holy-day to which the New Testament gives a strong exhortation for observance is the passover. "For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us: Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with . . . sincerity and truth." I Corinthians 5:7-8. As Israel perpetually observes the blood of the paschal lamb that God accepted as their atonement that protected them from His wrath, even so we should perpetually keep the passover by Christ's decree in remembrance of His blood and death by which we are covered from God's wrath to come. Luke 22:19-20.

The Christian passover is the Communion or Lord's supper as variously identified. The Apostle Paul declares, "For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, **ye do shew the Lord's death till he come**. Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, **unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.**" I Corinthians 11:26-27. My, what a sobering responsibility to commemorate this greatest event of history in a completely holy manner and setting commensurate with its

spiritual importance. The Apostle warns that it cannot be observed carelessly or in a pagan manner — with threat of divine judgment.

Little will be lost if we fail to observe Easter or Christmas — but much could be forfeited by refusal or neglect to keep the Lord's passover regularly.

THE FIRST CHRISTMAS

If there is an example to simplicity in the observance of Christmas, it is found in the Biblical account of Christ's birth as recorded in Matthew 2:1-11; Luke 2:1-20. Just think, there are only 31 verses in the Biblical account of the first Christmas if I may use this designation! Oh, for simplicity in the life-styles of the godly here at Christmas, 1977 years later! "But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ." II Corinthians 11:3.

The first Christmas was observed by wise men, seeking Christ, the Star of Bethlehem, by their bringing of gifts — gold for a King; frankincense for a Priest; and myrrh for a Saviour! "And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, frankincense, and myrrh." Matthew 2:11. Wise men in 1977 not only seek the Star, Jesus of Nazareth, they also seek to do His perfect will and to please Him in all things. To do this, wise men heed the scriptural admonition: "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, **do all to the glory of God.**" I Corinthians 10:31. AMEN and AMEN to that!

PROGNOSTICATION: 1978!

By the Department of Commerce's forecast — Americans will break all records for spending on Christmas 1977 — Americans will spend more on booze — Americans will spend more on travel, food, and luxuries than ever before during Christmas season, 1977! Well, that is no surprise — it is an annual statistic that escalates out of all proportion with need and population increase. True spiritually and godliness sharply decline annually in America while surfing, revelling, and wild spending on foolishness spirals upward. Only God's judgments will halt this reckless course of America leading us into moral and economic bankruptcy, and collapse.

DON'T FORGET

The national deity of America is no longer the God of the Bible — **our national deity is pleasure!** Religion is big business in the U.S.A. Churches, evangelistic associations, and so-called benevolent societies prosper because they are inextricably associated with the worldly system — not a voice crying out against sin, rebellion against God's Word, nor warning God's elect about the coming judgments of God upon our nation and a world-conforming church.

We must get on more radio stations with daily broadcasts, and we **must** publish thousands more magazines and books which carry the end-time message to God's elect everywhere. We are winning souls — we are turning many of God's people and preachers back to holiness! We have 5 more years of liberty to go freely, give freely, and to preach freely. Persecution will then

arise upon us and all of God's saints; then, we'll be sharply curtailed and even forbidden to publish this vital end-time message.

Don't forget this ministry — You can have a prophet's reward! Matthew 10:41. Remember, you are not a computerized statistic with us. Your letter is read, held by sanctified hands, answered, and holy saints pray for you here regularly.

Sister Pringle and I, our 3 children, and all the saints in this ministry here in Jacksonville pray that you, our friends, and partners will have a Wonderful, Happy Christmas with Jesus right in the middle of all you do in its observance.

The End.

RADI-O-GRAM!

If you appreciate the messages of this magazine and the uncompromising stand against sin and worldliness in the churches and among God's people, please stand with me with your prayers and financial support. We need to get thousands more of these magazines and other literature into the hands of God's people before the night falls upon us.

WRITE ME TODAY.



PLEASE CONSIDER THIS

Our liberty to go freely, to preach freely, and to give freely for the work of the Kingdom of God will soon be over — just a memory to haunt those who fail God in the few brief remaining months of opportunity left us — golden moments for God's true saints to use wisely as our religious liberty diminishes. The Gathering Storm is upon us — only 3 more years and the severe repression of the rising antichrist's system will begin to bring persecution and restrictions upon true saints and true men of God who preach and publish God's word. Soon, you will not hear a true man of God and the preaching of God's true Word at all on Radio or TV — it's next to impossible even now! Amos 8:9-13!

We must get these end-time revelations and warnings of the Holy Ghost to the church and God's elect everywhere before the storm and darkness falls upon us and the door closes. There is nothing more vital to God's people and their families than this ministry. We are winning souls — we are turning many to righteousness — many backslidders are coming back to God through these messages! Churches are being strengthened!

I don't mention healing or miracles but precious little — Jesus said to preach the Word, and the signs would follow the believers. They are — and God is healing, delivering from sinful habits and sickness, and doing the miraculous through the Word of God we preach. But we need help!

We get a few thousand dollars monthly while most Radio and TV preachers get hundreds of thousands and even millions to preach a compromising gospel.

This just isn't right! We need our friends to support this ministry quickly! Many of you could get a group of your friends together for Bible study and prayer — while together discuss this ministry and its needs — then together send an offering monthly or bi-monthly. Many of our friends should get the members of their families involved in this ministry, giving an offering together and sending it to us regularly. Others of you could do it together with your Sunday School Class — others must stand alone and individually share your support faithfully, at least monthly.

THE CHURCH

Here is a revelation from the Lord recently: "I will move mightily upon many of my people in churches across the nation, who will with the consent and cooperation of their pastors, receive an offering monthly to greatly increase the strength of this ministry. Time is short, but my Spirit shall direct many of my saints with honest hearts to stand with you, lifting up your arms to the Lord so that you will not faint nor fail to warn my elect with all my Word and Revelation that I command you to speak." AMEN! I have burned all bridges behind me! There's no retreat!

Saints, hear this and stir your pastor up to help support this ministry! Pastor, stir up your flock and join in this Radio Fellowship and Literature Crusade. This is the only Full-Gospel Holiness Fellowship like this, nationally, or in the world. This message and ministry (you and I together) will succeed in pulling many Christians out of the fire who are blind to these prophetic warnings! Jude 22-23. This is a Lighthouse ministry — help us man the Lighthouse as the twilight hour we are now living in will turn quickly into a terrifying spiritual darkness!

Please, if you don't receive this message in tinje to write us before Christmas, do so the day or the week after. A Christmas offering or a special gift to Christ from all our real friends would help us pay the deficit of several thousands of dollars we still owe from earlier expenditures this year — 1977, and hopefully, a little over to do more in publishing these magazines and preaching on daily Radio Broadcasts in 19*78. The night is soon coming upon us — in 3 to 5 years — when your giving to this great work will be over.

Please don't get offended or angry at this! I get rebuked very often by God's people for requesting support — who ought to be supporting this vital work. If you had the burdens on your shoulders and heart that I carry, you would cry out for help also! May the eyes of your understanding be enlightened, I pray.

Affectionately,

Bro. Ray Pringle

THE END.