

“Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.”
(Heb 13:8)

Circular Letter

April 2018

**Anniversary Edition
1948 – 2018: 70 Years of Israel
1958 – 2018: 60 Years of
Free People’s Mission Krefeld**

Heartfelt greetings to all of you worldwide in the precious Name of our LORD and Savior Jesus Christ with the Scripture from Jn 8:31:

“If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed ...”

The Prophet Micaiah came up against the four hundred prophets, who prophesied under false inspiration, and said, *“As the LORD liveth, what the LORD saith unto me, that will I speak.”* (1 Kgs 22:14).

That has also been my decision from the beginning. At the end of his message, the man of God could proclaim, *“Hearken, O people, every one of you.”* (1 Kgs 22:28).

A true voice is calling out loudly even now: *“Hearken, O people, every one of you!”*:

“... even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.” (Ps 90:2).

“Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.” (Lk 21:33).

“But the word of the LORD endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.” (1 Pt 1:25).

Only that which is written in the “Word of God” – in the Bible – shall be valid for us. Whether it concerns the biblical account of creation or the Plan of Redemption or all of the doctrines, we let God Himself speak to us through His Word. We leave interpretations and theories to those who do not believe God. We already see the first difference between the reality of creation and the theory of evolution. Whoever does not believe what is written in the first verse, namely, *“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth,”* will have difficulty to do so up until the last verse of the Bible. That which was in eternity and will be in eternity we leave unto the eternal God. We go back to the beginning of time and primarily to the

beginning of the time of grace.

Our main concern in this exposition is to briefly highlight the following epochs:

The transition from the Old to the New Covenant, to the New Testament.

The founding of the Church of Jesus Christ and the time of the apostles.

The period of the first three hundred years until the Council of Nicaea.

The one thousand years of the dark Middle Ages up to the 14th century.

The Reformation and the following five hundred years and what actually happened.

The last message before the Return of Christ that is now going forth.

First of all, it is very important to know and to believe **that God is doing everything in accordance with the promises** He has given in His Word. *“... and ye know in all your hearts and in all your souls, **that not one thing hath failed of all the good things which the LORD your God spake concerning you; all are come to pass unto you, and not one thing hath failed thereof.**”* (Jos 23:14). What the prophets in the Old Testament proclaimed under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit is shown to us by the apostles in its fulfillment, from the first verse of the New Testament. *“For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.”* (2 Cor 1:20).

The Transition from the Old to the New Testament

“The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it.” (Lk 16:16).

“The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.” (Isa 40:3). This prophecy was fulfilled by the ministry of John the Baptist; that is how it is confirmed in Mt 3:3; Mk 1:3; Lk 3:4; Jn 1:23. The Angel of the LORD, who announced the birth of John the Baptist to Zacharias, said, *“... and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother’s womb. And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the LORD their God. And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the LORD.”* (Lk 1:15-17). Amen.

After his birth, his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the prophetic words regarding the ministry of John the Baptist: *“To*

perform the mercy promised to our fathers, and to remember his holy covenant ...” (Lk 1:72).

“To give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins ...” (Lk 1:77).

The second promise in the Old Testament in regard to the ministry of John the Baptist, which is written in Mal 3:1, was confirmed by the LORD Himself in Mt 11:10 and Lk 7:27: *“This is he, of whom it is written, **Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.**”*

When John was asked, *“Art thou Christ?”*, he said, *“No.”* *“Art thou Elijah?”* *“No.”* *“Are you that prophet?”* He answered, *“No.”* (Jn 1:19-21). In verse 23, we read his testimony based on the Holy Scripture about who he was: *“He said, **I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the LORD, as said the prophet Esaias.**”* (Isa 40:3).

John could call out to his audience of believers, *“I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: **he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire** ...”* (Mt 3:11).

Through the ministry of the promised forerunner, the hearts of the Old Testament fathers were turned **to the faith** of the New Testament children, in order *“to make ready a people prepared for the LORD.”* (Lk 1:17). It was absolutely essential to hear the message of the promised prophet, to believe, and to be baptized.

Jesus rebuked the scribes and Pharisees, who rejected the ministry of John the Baptist, before the people with these words: *“**But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the counsel of God against themselves, being not baptized of him.**”* (Lk 7:30).

A voice is calling out loudly: It was possible to kiss the Torah, read the Holy Scriptures, talk about the divine Plan of Salvation, preach the coming of the Messiah and His forerunner Elijah (Mt 17:10), sing the Psalms, keep the Sabbath, offer sacrifices, **but then reject both the forerunner and the Messiah and not recognize the day of the gracious visitation** (Lk 19:42-44). The great lesson to be learned is: Only those who believed the message of the forerunner and were baptized were able to then recognize and receive the Messiah.

“Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world: But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the

adoption of sons. And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father." (Gal 4:3-6).

When the promise of Zec 9:9 was fulfilled and the LORD entered into Jerusalem riding upon the foal of a donkey (Lk 19:28-44), the believers rejoiced and shouted, ***"Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the LORD!"*** The spiritually blind scribes wanted the people to stop the praise and worship (v. 39), but the Redeemer responded, ***"I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out."*** Then He looked over Jerusalem and wept because of His grief: ***"And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it, Saying, If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes."*** This was followed by the announcement of the coming judgment: ***"For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side, And shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation."*** (vv. 41-44). In AD 70, the Roman general Titus destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple with his army. Even now, it is of utmost importance to partake in what God has promised for this time period.

A voice is calling out loudly: Since Adam and Eve, four thousand years had passed, during which they waited for the promised Savior Who was to come as the seed of God (Gen 3:15). When the time of fulfillment had come, the spiritual leaders and the people who believed them did not recognize **the day of God's gracious visitation**. The religious leaders were blind leaders leading the blind; they misled the people through their own interpretations of the Scriptures. The following is said about those who did not believe in the Messiah: ***"He came unto his own, and his own received him not."*** However, it is written about the believers: ***"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name ..."*** (Jn 1:11-12). Amen. That is how it was in the beginning. That is how it was in every church age. That is how it is today.

The Founding of the Church of Jesus Christ in Jerusalem

The founding of the Church took place in a supernatural way through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In Acts 1, we are told that the resurrected Redeemer spent forty days with His disciples and spoke to them about the kingdom of God (v. 3). While doing so, He repeated the promise:

“For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.” (v. 5).

In Lk 24:36-51, the risen LORD had shown His disciples which Old Testament Scriptures had been fulfilled. HE opened their spiritual understanding so that they recognized all of the prophecies relating to His suffering, His death, and the resurrection. HE said, *“Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: **And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.**”* (vv. 46-47), and concluded with the words: *“And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, **until ye be endued with power from on high.**”* (v. 49). After that, He was lifted up to heaven before their eyes (Lk 24:51; Acts 1:9).

After the outpouring of the Spirit, the Apostle Peter could testify on the day of Pentecost: *“But **this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams ...**”* (Acts 2:16-17).

Peter preached the first sermon under the direct inspiration of the Holy Spirit. From verse 37 to 41, we are told what happened when the crowd was touched by the sermon: *“Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? **Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the LORD our God shall call.**”* First the sermon, followed by the faith of the audience and the obedience through baptism. *“**Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.**”* (Acts 2:41).

A voice is calling out loudly: Hearken, O people, every one of you: On the day of Pentecost, the fundamental sermon was preached that was valid everywhere during the apostolic age and is still valid today in the Church of Jesus Christ! From the first hour, from the first day of the New Testament, everything that belongs to the Plan of Salvation has come to pass as predicted in the Old Testament. Paul bore witness to this fact in his first Epistle: *“**Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God, Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures ...**”* (Rom 1:1-2). Amen.

The evangelist Philip preached in Samaria. *“But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, **they were baptized, both men and women.**”* (Acts 8:12). Upon hearing this, the apostles came from Jerusalem and *“prayed for them, **that they might receive the Holy Ghost:** For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: **only they were baptized in the name of the LORD Jesus.**”* (vv. 15-16).

In Acts 10, Peter preached the message of salvation of Jesus Christ in the house of the Roman centurion named Cornelius: *“**And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead. To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.** ... Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? And he commanded them **to be baptized in the name of the LORD.**”* (Acts 10:42-48).

When Paul preached to the disciples of John in Ephesus, we read in Acts 19:5-6+11: *“**When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the LORD Jesus.** And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, **the Holy Ghost came on them;** and they spake with tongues, and prophesied. ... And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul ...”* (v. 11).

As long as the Church of the LORD Jesus Christ is on earth, that which Peter proclaimed on the day of Pentecost remains valid for all believers worldwide: *“**For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the LORD our God shall call.**”* (Acts 2:39).

A voice is calling out loudly: In the Church of Jesus Christ, the first and the last sermon as well as the first and the last baptism must be exactly the same. This is the everlasting pattern for the proclamation: faith, baptism, baptism by the Holy Spirit. That which was taught and experienced on the founding day of the Church of the living God is the guideline until the end of the New Testament.

The Apostle Paul testified about the Church that it is *“**built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone ...**”* (Eph 2:20). *“And he gave some, **apostles;** and some, **prophets;** and some, **evangelists;** and some, **pastors and teachers;** For the perfecting of the saints, **for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ ...**”* (Eph 4:11-12).

The apostle wrote to Timothy: *“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.” (1 Tim 3:15).

The Early Church was the body of the LORD, the place of the manifestation of God, endowed with the power of God, with spiritual gifts and various ministries (1 Cor 12:4-31) – unified into one body through faith, baptism, and baptism by the Holy Spirit (vv. 12-26). Only where that is the case, the following still holds true today: **one LORD, one faith, one baptism** (Eph 4:3-5).

At the Return of Jesus Christ, this Scripture will have been fulfilled with the Church: ***“That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.”*** (Eph 5:26-27). When we hear the preaching of the grace of God, believe it, and then experience salvation, justification, and reconciliation with God, it means: ***“Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.”*** (Rom 5:9). In the Word of God, we must – and all Bible believers do – accept everything as it was ordained in the beginning.

The Period Until the Council of Nicaea

In the first church age message in Rev 2:2, the LORD praised His Church: ***“I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars ...”***

In many of his letters, and especially in the admonitions addressed to the Thessalonians and to Timothy, Paul expressed concern that there would be apostasy from the true faith. The apostle had to reprimand the church of Corinth: ***“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. For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.”*** (2 Cor 11:3-4).

In Gal 1:6-8, the apostle proclaimed a curse over all those **who preach another gospel**: ***“But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.”*** This is a very, very serious matter.

Just as the serpent at the beginning of the natural creation in the Garden of Eden sowed the seeds of doubt in regard to the Word that the



LORD God had spoken to Adam with the argument, “**Did God actually say ...?**”, thus giving rise to unbelief and, in fact, leading to the seduction of Eve, it likewise happened at the end of the apostolic era and thereafter, even until today: doubts concerning the Word, unbelief, disobedience, the falling away of the Church: apostasy from the Word.

The Word of God was called into question; personal interpretations and teachings were introduced. Wherever that happened, any worship was in vain, as the LORD had to tell the Jews back then: “*Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, **This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.***” (Mk 7:6-7). And also what Jesus said to the scribes who had their own teachings still applies today: “*... because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not. ... He that is of God heareth God’s words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God.*” (Jn 8:45+47). There are still two different spiritual seeds in existence: “*He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man; The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one ...*” (Mt 13:37-38).

True worship of God can only come from a renewed, pure heart. Our LORD said, “*But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.*” (Jn 4:23-24). Whoever

does not worship as guided by the Holy Spirit according to the Word of God is praying past God, not to Him.

In 2 Ths 2, Paul already predicted the final apostasy and the man of sin who represents it: *“Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God (v. 4). ... And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; **because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.** And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie ...”* (vv. 10-11). **Those who do not respect and believe the Word of God as the only valid truth for themselves and for the Church are doomed to believe religious lies.**

It is incomprehensible, what happened in the post-apostolic era: Men who are now revered as church fathers presented their paganism-infused doctrines and found followers. The so-called church fathers were Christian personalities, but not apostles of Jesus Christ. None of them had a true divine calling. The best known are Athanasius, Augustine, and Hieronymus. They were men who came from Hellenistic paganism and often had not even experienced a true conversion to Christ; they were still bound by superstition and introduced their own ideas into Christianity.

Since the year AD 313, when Emperor Constantine officially declared the now secularized Christianity to be the state religion, a tragic development took place. From May 20 to July 25, 325, he invited the bishops of various faiths to the Council in Nicaea. At that time, there were already 127 Christian movements in the countries that belonged to the Roman Empire. After fierce disputes and discussions, an entirely unbiblical Trinitarian creed was formulated under the chairmanship of Athanasius, although not all of them agreed to it. In reference to the Son of God, it states therein: **“... in one LORD, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, one in Being with the Father.”** (Väter der Christenheit [Fathers of Christianity], p. 40).

To date, God never has begotten, let alone born, an eternal son. There never was an eternal son. In the four thousand years of the Old Testament, no prophet spoke of a Father in heaven, let alone a Son, but the LORD God – YAHWEH-Elohim – is mentioned over four thousand times. In the Epistles, beginning with Rom 1:7, we repeatedly find the salutation: **“Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the LORD Jesus Christ.”** But not a single time does it say: “... from God the Son” or “... from God the Holy Spirit.” As certain as the eternal God Elohim revealed Himself as LORD/YAHWEH and walked in visible form in the Garden of Eden and created

Adam in His image, the same God certainly revealed Himself as Father in heaven in His only begotten Son on earth. Therefore, the LORD Jesus could say, “... *he that hath seen me hath seen the Father* ...” (Jn 14:9). In order to redeem us, God revealed Himself in the flesh (1 Tim 3:16).

The promise of the birth of the Son as the Redeemer is found in many passages of the Old Testament. Some of them are:

“I will be his father, and he shall be my son.” (2 Sam 7:14).

“I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.” (Ps 2:7).

“I was cast upon thee from the womb ...” (Ps 22:10-11).

“He shall cry unto me, Thou art my father, my God, and the rock of my salvation. Also I will make him my firstborn, higher than the kings of the earth.” (Ps 89:26-27).

“Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.” (Isa 7:14).

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.” (Isa 9:6) – but never: “The everlasting Son”!

“But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little ..., yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel ...” (Micah 5:2).

When the time was fulfilled, it happened. Thus, Matthew wrote right in the first chapter: *“Now all this was done, **that it might be fulfilled** which was spoken of the LORD by the prophet, saying (Isa 7:14), **Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.**”* (Mt 1:22-23).

In Luke 1 and 2, everything related to the birth of the Son of God is described to us in detail: *“And the angel said unto her, **Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS** (Hebrew: Yahshua). ... **The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.** ... And Mary said, **Behold the handmaid of the LORD; be it unto me according to thy word.**”* (Lk 1:30-31, 35, 38).

A voice is calling out loudly: “Hearken, O people, every one of you!” This is the moment of truth! Whoever has ears, let them hear

what the Spirit saith unto the Church: Only that which is written in the Bible is biblical, and only what was taught and practiced by the apostles is apostolic.

The construction of the Trinitarian Creed, which is wrongly referred to as the Apostles' Creed and was established at the Council of Nicaea in AD 325 and at the Council of Constantinople in AD 381, has nothing in common with **the biblical, truly apostolic profession of faith of the Early Church**. At the Council of Nicaea, the Son was declared to be the second person of the deity, and at the Council of Constantinople, the Holy Spirit was announced as the third person. Shortly thereafter, in the year 385, Hieronymus included a corresponding addition to the 7th verse of 1 Jn 5 in his Latin Vulgate translation of the Bible, namely: *"For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one."* Three hundred years after the apostles, there was not much left of the teaching of the apostles.

In the Hebrew and Greek originals, in 1 Jn 5, verse 7, it only states: ***"And there are three that bear witness:"*** Then follows: ***"the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one. If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son."*** (vv. 8+9; Mt 3:17; Mt 17:5). The Apostle Peter could testify: ***"And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount."*** (2 Pt 1:18).

Martin Luther rejected the Vulgate translation. John Wycliffe, on the other hand, translated from the Vulgate into the English language, and therefore the added text is still found in the King James Bible today. Although it is recorded in a footnote that this text about the *three in heaven* is not in the original, the addition can still be read in all of the translations that stem from the Vulgate. In the German editions, whether it is the Zurich Bible of 1535, for instance, or the Luther Bible of 1543 or their current version, we find the correct reproduction of the original text, for which we thank God.

The Bible consists of two testaments, the Old and the New Testament. Nothing may be added to a last will and testament; nothing in it may be changed. The Apostle Paul wrote: ***"Brethren, I speak after the manner of men; Though it be but a man's covenant, yet if it be confirmed, no man disannulleth, or addeth thereto."*** (Gal 3:15).

At the end of the New Testament in Rev 22:18-19, there is a twofold warning: ***"For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall***

take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.”

Since the establishment of the Christian churches in the fourth century, every biblical doctrine has been annulled, and Jesus Christ, the Redeemer, has been made irrelevant. Not one of the Council decrees or the dogmas proclaimed during the course of church history is biblical. Furthermore, the Bible never mentions a **representative of Christ or successor of Peter**. The Catholic Church misinterpreted the words of Jesus in Mt 16:18 and wrongly applied them to the papacy. But there the LORD Jesus did not say to Peter, “I will build My Church upon you,” but instead **“upon this rock I will build my church” – and the rock is Jesus Christ.**

A voice is calling out loudly: Harken, O people, every one of you: No state church or denomination is the Church built by Christ, the Redeemer, neither the Catholic nor the Orthodox, neither the Coptic nor the Chaldean, neither the Syrian nor the Egyptian. These are all Christian churches, **but not the Church of Jesus Christ**. The Church of Jesus Christ consists only of people who believe according to the Holy Scripture. The tragic part is that every church, including the Anglican and Lutheran one, gives its members the impression that their salvation is guaranteed. To this day, however, no church has saved anyone. But all of the people in all of the churches and religions can be saved by faith in Jesus Christ through a personal experience of salvation and conversion (Acts 3:19).

Emperors, kings, and rulers determined the religion of their country. And so the world was divided into religions: here Buddhism, there Hinduism, Shintoism; here Sunnis, there Shiites, there Alevis and Alawites; here Catholics, there Protestants. In Asia and Africa, tribal leaders established the religion. But God is not in any religion; God has revealed Himself only in Jesus Christ, and only in the Redeemer can we meet God (2 Cor 5:19).

In the Christian churches, sacraments have replaced the saving faith in Jesus Christ, the Redeemer, although the Bible clearly testifies of a personal faith: **“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”** (Mk 16:16). According to church doctrine, the sprinkling or pouring of water on the forehead of babies or adults is supposed to be the rebirth of water and Spirit (Jn 3:5), but in reality that is not the case. The sprinkling goes back to Constantine, who was lying on his deathbed in July 337 when he was sprinkled three times on his forehead by Bishop Eusebius, the first one to use the Trinitarian formula “in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” That is how Constantine is said to have become a Christian, but he called upon the sun god Sol until his very end.

The LORD's Supper has also been completely misinterpreted, even though it is clearly described in 1 Cor 10:14-22: ***"The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? For we being many are one bread, and one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread."***

There is absolutely nothing written in the Word of God about a transformation of the bread or wafer into the body of Christ or about the wine being transformed into the blood of Christ. On the contrary, our LORD said, *"But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."* (Mt 26:29). 1 Cor 11: 23-34 also states: *"For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the LORD's death till he come."* The Swiss reformer Huldrych Zwingli rejected the doctrine of transubstantiation in the missal sacrifice and clearly represented the biblical standpoint: **"... the Mass is basically nothing but a denial of the one sacrifice and suffering of Jesus Christ and a condemnable idolatry."** (Heidelberg Catechism, Question 80).

After all, Christ does not have to be sacrificed anew each day by the priest, but has sacrificed Himself once and for all and accomplished the everlasting redemption. That is how it is written in the Word of God: ***"Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us."*** (Heb 9:12). Amen.

"How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?" (Heb 9:14).

"By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." (Heb 10:10). Amen.

The Bible also knows no beatification or canonization of the dead. In the Sermon on the Mount (Mt 5), the LORD Jesus gave nine beatitudes to the living believers; one of them is: ***"Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God!"***, etc. Until today, this still applies to His true followers: ***"But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear."*** (Mt 13:16).

"And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be saved." (Acts 2:21).

"Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years." (Rev 20:6).

Thus, the virgin Mary, who had found favor with God, was blessed because of her faith: ***“And blessed is she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the LORD.”*** (Lk 1:45). Although chosen to be the mother of the Redeemer, she also had to experience the baptism of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. She is mentioned for the last time in Acts 1:14, along with the 120 that were gathered for prayer in the upper room: ***“These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.”*** The term “Mother of God” does not exist in the Bible. Elizabeth said, ***“And whence is this to me, that the mother of my LORD should come to me?”*** (Lk 1:43).

No teaching, no practice, nothing in the imperial church is still in agreement with God and God’s Word. Every doctrine has been modified and merely decorated with biblical quotations. Any attempt at an explanation or rationalization is futile, such as: “Only those who have the church as their mother can have God as their father.” The Bible neither knows anything of a bodily ascension of Mary, nor of Marian apparitions; on the contrary, it testifies: ***“And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven.”*** (Jn 3:13). The Bible also never mentions anything about Mary being a mediator. Therein it states: ***“For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus ...”*** (1 Tim 2:5). Likewise, there is no mention of Mary being an advocate, but instead: ***“My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.”*** (1 Jn 2:1-2). Amen.

The tragic development has taken its course since the recognition of Christianity as a state church. With the introduction of the doctrine of the Trinity, the words of the Great Commission in Mt 28:19 were turned into a formula, namely, “in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,” which is entirely foreign to the Bible. In fact, that Scripture is about the New Testament covenant name in which God revealed Himself as our Father in the Son and through the Holy Spirit and into which one was to be baptized. For the Church of Jesus Christ, the following remains valid until today: ***“And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the LORD Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.”*** (Col 3:17).

Then it was made a requirement for the Jews to also recognize the **“Trinity.”** However, they could not possibly accept a God made up of three persons because the very first commandment from the mouth of God was:



“I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing ...” (Ex 20:2-4). ***“Know therefore this day, and consider it in thine heart, that the LORD he is God in heaven above, and upon the earth beneath: there is none else.”*** (Deut 4:39).

The introduction of the Trinitarian confession then also led to the persecution of the Jews. They were cursed and branded as murderers of Christ and of God. “Atone the death of the Crucified One on them!” was loudly proclaimed. In the year 321, they were forbidden to keep the Sabbath, and they were required to observe Sunday instead; synagogues were converted into cattle stables.

The stark difference between the Church of Jesus Christ and the established imperial church is also demonstrated by the following explanation as recorded in church history: **“Pope and emperor as bearers of a Christian world order”** (Große illustrierte Kirchengeschichte [Great Illustrated History of the Church], p. 74). **“In its (the pope’s) power are two swords, namely, the spiritual and the secular – as the Gospel teaches (Lk 22:38). Thus both swords belong to the authority of the church, the spiritual and the secular. However, the former is to be wielded by the church and the latter to be directed by the church: the former in the hands of the priest, the latter by the hands of kings and soldiers, but at the mandate and sufferance of the priest.”** (Große illustrierte Kirchengeschichte, p. 94).

Just imagine the utter delusion: The two swords that a man carried with him (Lk 22:36-38), mentioned in connection with the suffering of Christ, were misappropriated as a justification for the exercise of power. How was it possible that it was therefore concluded that the church had been given two swords, namely the spiritual and the earthly? After all, in that context the Savior Himself made the statement that He would be executed as an outlaw: ***“For I say unto you, that this that is written must yet be accomplished in me, And he was reckoned among the transgressors: for the things concerning me have an end.”*** (v. 37).

The Church of Jesus Christ has been given only “the sword of the Spirit,” as a symbol of the Word of God: “*And take the helmet of salvation, **and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God** ...*” (Eph 6:17), but never the earthly sword! Never did the Church of Jesus Christ persecute others, but instead was persecuted herself; history proves this.

To the apostles, the LORD said, “*Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. **If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep your’s also.***” (Jn 15:20). Our Savior added one more commandment to the Ten Commandments: “***A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.***” (Jn 13:34).

The church’s doctrine of the “two swords” overruled the commandment “***Thou shalt not kill***” and **made killing a commandment**. The popes used the secular sword, and those who did not submit were put to death. Whoever wants to get an impression of it need only read the speech that Pope Urban II gave in Clermont on November 27, 1095, in which he called on the crusaders to kill all enemies. The crusaders were guaranteed the forgiveness of their sins and absolved of any punishment for their actions. When their legions captured Jerusalem in 1099, tens of thousands of Jews and Muslims and others were murdered. In the seven crusades between 1095 and 1272, millions of people were slaughtered. Involuntary Christianization, Inquisition, persecution of people of different faith, burning of witches, even the assassination of thousands of Huguenots in France in a single night, namely on August 23/24, 1572, everything happened “for the honor of the holy Trinity,” “in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”

A voice is calling out loudly: At all times, there were also spiritual revivals. The ones who truly believe according to the Holy Scripture have always been in danger of persecution by the church and often enough were surrendered unto death, whether it was the Albigensian church, the Waldenses movement, the Cathars, the Bohemian brothers, and others. Thus, Jan Hus, to whom the Word of God had become very precious, was burned at the stake in the city of Constance on June 6, 1415, amid the laughter of the Council Fathers. The soil was soaked with the blood of the martyrs. The magnitude of the guilt that the Roman popes have brought upon themselves is unparalleled on earth. “*And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.*” (Rev 18:24). At the Last Judgment, they shall be sentenced in front of those whom they have murdered in great numbers.

Breakthrough of the Reformation

After a thousand years of unrestricted exercise of power by the church, there was a spiritual renewal and return to the Bible. Martin Luther, Huldrych Zwingli, Jean Calvin, Schwenkfeld, Erasmus, Thomas Müntzer, Melchior Hoffman, and others who protested against the pope and the church helped facilitate the breakthrough of the Reformation. The nailing of the 95 theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg on October 31, 1517, is a well-known historical event, as is the appearance of Luther before the Emperor and princes in Worms on April 17, 1521. His statement is well documented: **“Unless I am convinced by the testimony of the Scriptures or by clear reason (for I do not trust either in the pope or in councils alone, since it is well known that they have often erred and contradicted themselves), I am bound by the Scriptures I have quoted and my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and will not recant anything, since it is neither safe nor right to go against conscience. May God help me. Amen.”** (Große illustrierte Kirchengeschichte, p. 136).

Unfortunately, the newly formed churches – the Lutheran, the Reformed, the Anglican – also adopted the Nicene Creed and, until today, have continued to practice their infant baptism and have remained in the doctrine of the Trinity. Parallel to this, there were further revivals, particularly in Protestant areas, such as the Anabaptist movement.

In the spiritual renewal, the preachers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ increasingly emphasized the biblical truths. Above all, salvation and forgiveness through the sacrificial blood of Christ were being preached; many conversions took place everywhere. John Smith, the founder of the Baptists; John Wesley, who inspired the Methodists; Menno Simons, whose proclamation encouraged the establishment of the Mennonite church; William Booth, the founder of the Salvation Army; Dwight Moody; George Müller; and many others preached the Gospel by emphasizing repentance and conversion to Christ as a personal experience of salvation. The Scripture from Rom 5:9 was not only important to Luther but to all preachers of the Gospel: ***“Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.”*** – **Justification before God** is not obtained through one’s own works, but **by faith in the completed work of Redemption through Jesus Christ.**

It can be said that the five hundred years since the Reformation, with the help of the various revivalist preachers, have been used to lead the believers deeper into the Word of God and into a consecrated life. True faith always comes from the preaching of the Word of God (Rom 10:17). The following was already written of Abraham, who is considered to be

the father of faith: ***“Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.”*** (Rom 4:3; Heb 11:8-10). God alone is true, and every man a liar (Rom 3:4).

Thousands of articles have been written on the occasion of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017; hundreds of events were held. But upon closer examination, all of the churches and free churches have stayed with the creed they established at their foundation. Now, despite all of their differences, the daughter churches are returning to the bosom of the mother church. This is “unity in diversity.” However, Jesus, the Redeemer, referred to a very different unity, namely the unity with God in accordance with the Word and the Will of God. ***“I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.”*** (Jn 17:23).

The Last Message Before the Return of Christ, Which Is Now Going Forth

A voice is calling out loudly: “Hearken, O people, every one of you!” Through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, the Pentecostal revival broke out at the beginning of the 20th century. Not only in 1906 on Azusa Street in Los Angeles, but believers on all continents experienced the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit in special prayer meetings.

During the First and Second World Wars, the words of the LORD in Mt 24 took on special significance. There, Jesus spoke of wars and rumors of wars as well as famines and pestilences in view of the signs of the times. Therefore, the belief in the imminent Return of Christ grew stronger in the revival meetings during the first half of the 20th century. In Lk 21, the LORD also spoke about the times of the end and said, ***“So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand.”*** (v. 31);

“Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.” (v. 36).

The Second World War, with 60 million victims of war and 6 million murdered Jews, fundamentally changed the world. Germany and Europe were in ruins. The effects of the war were felt all over the world, even in the Pacific, where it was brought to an end by the horrific atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. All Bible believers had the impression that the end of the time of grace was close at hand. But our LORD clearly

stated what must happen before the end comes: ***“And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.”*** (Mt 24:14).

Shortly after the Second World War, on May 7, 1946, the American Baptist preacher William Branham, like Paul (Acts 9:1-9), received a heavenly calling. The unassuming preacher had already been told on June 11, 1933, at a baptism in the Ohio River from the supernatural cloud of light, which was visible to about three thousand people who were present: **“As John the Baptist was sent to forerun the first coming of Christ, so you are sent with a message that will forerun the Second Coming of Christ.”** This was reported in the newspapers, especially by United Press International. The healing revival began through him, especially within the Pentecostal churches, and soon spread over the whole earth. **He was a man sent from God with the message of the Word of God, which foreruns the Second Coming of Christ.** Endowed with divine authority and the gift of healing, he preached in evangelizations to thousands of people, called sinners to repentance, and asked them to accept Jesus Christ as their Savior. Through his preaching, thousands accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior. During the prayer for the sick after the sermon, even the blind received their sight, the lame could walk, and many were healed of all kinds of diseases.

I experienced his extraordinary ministry from 1955 to 1965 as an eye-and ear-witness and carry a great responsibility to bear witness all over the world to what God has done in our time. In 1949, as a young man, I first heard about William Branham and the extraordinary things that happened in his ministry. I had the desire to hear this man of God in person. In August 1955, this wish was fulfilled: I witnessed the blessed meetings of Brother Branham in Karlsruhe and got to know him personally. When we first met, he told me, “You are a preacher of the Gospel.” From then on, I wanted to know what this man of God believed and taught. At the great Voice of Healing Conference in Dallas, Texas, USA, in June 1958, I was once again convinced of the divine confirmation of his ministry and had the opportunity to speak with him again. He said to me, “Brother Frank, you will return to Germany with this message.” From then on, I received all of his tape-recorded sermons by mail. At our third meeting on December 3, 1962, Brother Branham confirmed the calling I had received on April 2, 1962, and said, “... the food you are to store in is the promised Word for this time ...”

As the LORD said in the Great Commission, the salvation of the soul and the healing of the body belong to the proclamation of the full Gospel: ***“And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name ... they shall***

lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.” (Mk 16:17-18). When praying for the sick, the man of God also referred to the words of our LORD in Jn 14:12: ***“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do ...”***

Today we hear about wars, nuclear threats, the Middle East conflict, global warming, climate change, and natural disasters around the world. Everything is spinning out of control. At the same time, we also remember the words of the Prophet Isaiah, who predicted: ***“... the earth is moved exceedingly. The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, and shall be removed like a cottage; and the transgression thereof shall be heavy upon it; and it shall fall, and not rise again.”*** (Isa 24:19b-20). We see the signs of the times: The end time is here; His coming is near! But no one knows the day or the hour.

The promised Return of Christ is described to us in many Bible passages. The Savior himself gave the main promise in Jn 14:3: ***“And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.”*** All sons and daughters of God can rely on God’s promises. ***“So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.”*** (Heb 9:28).

A voice is calling out loudly: Harken, O people, every one of you: At the first coming of Christ, more than a hundred prophecies from the Old Testament were fulfilled. Great wonders took place. The LORD Jesus preached, taught, and healed all of the sick who came to Him: ***“... and great multitudes followed him, and he healed them all ...”*** (Mt 12:15b). In order for us to truly experience our preparation, we must respect and believe the promise for our time: ***“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD ...”*** (Mal 4:5). Our LORD repeated this in Mt 17:11 and Mk 9:12 and confirmed it: ***“Elias truly shall first come, and restore all things.”*** This is the most important promise that finds its fulfillment before the Return of Christ. Just as Elijah called upon the people of Israel on Mount Carmel to make the decision, now all of those who belong to the Church of God are being urged to make their decision.

Before the Second Coming of Christ, everything in the Church of the LORD must be restored to its original state, as it was in the beginning (Acts 3:18-21). Whether it concerns the personal life, marriage, family, or the spiritual life of the Church, everything is brought back to the divine order as set forth in the Bible. In order to accomplish this, every believer must place himself or herself on the side of God without inner resistance (1 Kgs

18:21-40). All believers who belong to the Church of the living God return with absolute certainty to God, to the Word and Will of God, to the teaching and practice of the original Church in the beginning.

Those who found favor with God always believed every Word of God. In the past five hundred years, there have also always been people who believed the message that was proclaimed in their time. That is how it was during the Pentecostal revival. Even now, all those who find favor with God believe the original biblical message.

Now it is no longer about reforming something within Christianity as a whole, not about correcting something in the Pentecostal movement, now the important matter is for all of the Bible believers to experience the total restoration and to be renewed upon the original foundation. The redeemed who now truly believe God's Word do not remain in the Babylonian confusion, but are sanctified in the Word of Truth: ***"Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth."*** (Jn 17:17).

We have arrived at the most important time period of the Plan of Salvation: The promised Return of Christ is close at hand. Therefore, we urgently need to take more seriously what our LORD said: ***"Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."*** (Jn 3:3). This much should be clear to everybody: At the Rapture, only the redeemed who have personally experienced forgiveness through the blood of the New Covenant and have received the new, divine life through the new birth shall be there. The Apostle Peter described the salvation experience of the new birth as ***"Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever."*** (1 Pt 1:23; Lk 8:11).

The Return of the Redeemer was one of the main subjects in the time of the apostles. There are many Scriptures in the Bible that address this topic. In 1 Ths 4:13-18, Paul described exactly what and how it will happen. At the end of the 5th chapter, he wrote: ***"And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our LORD Jesus Christ."*** (v. 23).

Our LORD and Savior referred to Himself also as the Bridegroom and spoke of the wedding supper many times. Those who belong to the Bride Church accept the promised Word for this time, hear the cry: ***"The Bridegroom cometh!"*** (Mt 25), and can be made ready for the glorious day. It is predicted in Mt 25:10: ***"... and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut."*** In Rev 19:7, we read: ***"Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready."***

The LORD has prepared a place for the redeemed: ***“And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb’s book of life.”*** (Rev 21:27).

A voice is calling out loudly: Hearken, O people, every one of you: The divine message is now going forth as the last call before the Return of Christ. ***“And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the LORD, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the LORD Almighty.”*** (2 Cor 6:16-18).

Now is the time of the calling-out from all error, from all unbiblical traditions. Now is the time of preparation, the time to believe only what the Scripture says. Now, all Bible believers must be baptized by immersion in the Name of the LORD Jesus Christ, just as in the beginning. No believer should reject God’s Plan of Salvation as the scribes did back then (Lk 7:30).

With a view to the ministry of John the Baptist, our LORD asked the crowd, *“What went ye out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken with the wind?”* He asked once again, *“But what went ye out for to see? A man clothed in soft raiment? ... A prophet?”* Jesus answered, *“... yea, I say unto you, and more than a prophet. For this is he, of whom it is written, **Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.**”* (Mt 11:7-10). All prophets had prophesied until John (v. 13); from then on, the kingdom of God was proclaimed.

What did we go out to see? Did we want to hear a preacher of prosperity, a charismatic television personality? No, and no again. We have recognized that, after two thousand years, the whole Counsel of God was once again preached through the man sent from God, William Branham (Acts 20:27). We went out to hear the original message brought forth by a vessel commissioned by God, to hear a man who, on February 28, 1963, in the Sunset Mountains, forty miles from Tucson, Arizona, USA, had received the direct instruction from the supernatural cloud of light to speak in his home church in Jeffersonville about the seven seals in the Book of Revelation. He did that from March 17 to 24, 1963. Science Magazine published the photograph of the cloud on April 19 and Life Magazine on May 17, 1963. And not just the seven seals, but all hidden secrets, every teaching – about Godhead, baptism, the LORD’s Supper, etc. – everything has been proclaimed to us in its original, as the Bible teaches. Even though the

prophet was taken home in December 1965, the message has remained with us and has been carried into all the world.

The Church of God is once again the pillar and the foundation of the truth, not a religious building of lies. In the Church of Jesus Christ, there is no interpretation, no false doctrine. Through the last message, which is one hundred percent in accordance with the message as it was in the beginning, the Church has been built on the original foundation. The true Bible believers are promised the seal of God as the confirmation: ***“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 ...”*** (Eph 1:13). Before this can happen, they all must come out of the confusion of the manifold interpretations, for God will place His seal only on the pure Word-Bride.

Ever since my direct calling on April 2, 1962, I have preached the Word of God, the full Gospel, the pure message for this time all over the world and distributed the spiritual food (Mt 24:45-47). After being able to preach in Kuwait and Bahrain in November 2017, there are now exactly 165 countries that I have visited on my monthly missionary journeys over the past 55 years. I have preached in all of the capitals, such as Moscow and Beijing, Damascus and Cairo, as well as many other cities all over the world.

Millions of people around the world have been reached through our 30-minute television programs, which have been broadcast in English by 56 television stations, allowing them to hear about the whole Counsel of God. In various different countries, my sermons are broadcast by local TV stations. Our meetings on the first weekend of each month at the Mission Center in Krefeld are heard and watched by thousands of people all over the world, be it live over the Internet or on CD or DVD, which we send out free of charge. God has ensured that the sermons preached on the first weekend of every month here at the Mission Center are translated simultaneously into 15 languages and that the message that foreruns the Second Coming of Christ is further translated into all the languages of the earth.

What God is presently doing is unparalleled on earth. Thus, the everlasting Gospel is being proclaimed to all peoples and tongues as the last message (Rev 14:6; Mt 24:14). All true Bible believers know: The end time is here; His coming is near. They hear what the Spirit says unto the churches through the revealed Word and prepare themselves for the glorious day of the Rapture.

I can testify before God, as Micaiah said in our introduction, that I have passed on only what the LORD has left unto us in His Word.

The LORD says, ***“Surely, I come quickly!”*** and all of the truly redeemed call out loudly, ***“Even so, come, LORD Jesus!”*** (Rev 22).

Jerusalem – the Burdensome Stone Israel 1948 - 2018

A voice is calling out loudly: Hearken, O people, every one of you: *“And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it.”* (Zec 12:3).

With the official recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and the promise to move the American Embassy there, US President Donald Trump touched on a major bone of contention on December 6, 2017. Just a few days later, the United Nations General Assembly issued a resolution urging the United States to rescind its recognition of Jerusalem as the capital city of Israel. The petition had been tabled by Turkey and Yemen. Among the 128 states that voted in favor of this resolution are Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Kuwait as well as Germany, France, and Great Britain.

All politicians and leaders should take a look at history:

Already in their time, Abraham and Isaac went to Mount Moriah to offer unto God a personal sacrifice (Gen 22). That is the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. Jerusalem is mentioned in the Bible 780 times.

David bought the threshing floor, a site that was located on Mount Moriah, from Ornan the Jebusite and paid him six hundred shekels of gold by weight (1 Chr 21:25). Then he declared, ***“This is the house of the LORD God, and this is the altar of the burnt-offering for Israel.”*** (1 Chr 22:1).

Three thousand years ago, David reigned for thirty-three years in Jerusalem; his son Solomon ruled in Jerusalem for forty years. Solomon built the Temple there, upon the direct order of God. The principal focus was the Ark of the Covenant, wherein was the Word of God: ***“And I have set there a place for the ark, wherein is the covenant of the LORD, which he made with our fathers, when he brought them out of the land of Egypt.”*** (1 Kgs 8:21). According to 1 Kgs 8, the supernatural glory visibly filled the completed Temple. It was God’s decision to make Jerusalem the capital city of Israel. There is no other capital city in the world still in existence today that is as old as Jerusalem.

Since Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the Israelites have been a special people, the inheritance of the LORD God. For this time, He has given them the following promises: ***“For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land.”*** (Eze 36:24).

“For the LORD will have mercy on Jacob, and will yet choose Israel, and set them in their own land: and the strangers shall be joined with them, and they shall cleave to the house of Jacob.” (Isa 14:1).

“Therefore thus saith the LORD God; Now will I bring again the captivity of Jacob, and have mercy upon the whole house of Israel, ... When I have brought them again from the people, and gathered them out of their enemies’ lands, and am sanctified in them in the sight of many nations ...” (Eze 39:25+27).

In Lk 21:24, the LORD said, ***“... and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.”*** The time is at hand; everything is coming to fulfillment.

Isaiah had prophesied: ***“And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD’s house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.”*** (Isa 2:2-3).

“And the LORD shall inherit Judah his portion in the holy land, and shall choose Jerusalem again.” (Zec 2:12). Amen.

“Rejoice ye with Jerusalem, and be glad with her, all ye that love her: rejoice for joy with her, all ye that mourn for her ...” (Isa 66:10).

In the consummation of the Millennial Reign, the LORD God will set His feet upon the Mount of Olives: ***“And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east ...”*** (Zec 14:4). Then the twenty-four elders will worship God with the words: ***“We give thee thanks, O LORD God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned.”*** (Rev 11:17).

Toward the end of the First World War, the British commander Allenby occupied the city of Jerusalem in December 1917, which had been under Ottoman rule for four hundred years. Since then, the entire area – known

as Transjordan – was under British administration until 1948. There never was a Palestinian state.

On May 14, 1948, Ben-Gurion proclaimed the State of Israel. Until 1979, all ethnic groups lived together peacefully there. Only when the Ayatollah Khomeini overthrew the Shah of Persia, who was a friend of Israel, did the new ruler then declare Iran's hostility toward Israel. Until the outbreak of the Second Intifada in the year 2000, we could even travel to the Gaza Strip with our tour group. Unfortunately, this is no longer possible today.

With the “Basic Law on Jerusalem as Capital,” the Israeli parliament declared Jerusalem to be the eternal and indivisible capital of Israel in 1980.

On January 2, 2018, the Knesset amended the old agreement from 1980 and passed the United Jerusalem Bill. It states that any decision on the status of Jerusalem can only be made by a two-thirds majority of the Knesset.

A new era has begun: **Jerusalem has now clearly become a burdensome stone.** After the declaration by Donald Trump, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu visited the European Union in Brussels on December 11, 2017. There he made a brief statement and was met with contempt and humiliated. On behalf of the European Union, the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Federica Mogherini, is calling for a withdrawal of the Trump Declaration. Apparently, the world power “United States of America” is to be replaced by the “United States of Europe.” There are aspirations within the EU, whose birth certificate is the “Treaty of Rome,” to achieve this by 2025. According to biblical prophecy, it will be the fourth great empire, the last world power, as foreseen by the Prophet Daniel.

As of May 2018, seventy years will have passed since the founding of the State of Israel. At the time it gained statehood, Israel had 850,000 inhabitants, and only ten years later that number had doubled. In 1990, the population was 4,500,000. Today it is about 8.7 million.

The peace process will take its course so that the following is fulfilled: *“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.”* (1 Ths 5:3).

But what the Prophet Joel prophesied shall also happen: ***“For, behold, in those days, and in that time, when I shall bring again the captivity of Judah and Jerusalem, I will also gather all nations, and will***

bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat, and will plead with them there for my people and for my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted my land.” (Joel 3:1-2).

We live in the midst of the fulfillment of biblical end-time prophecy. It is unfortunate that the EU foreign ministers and many heads of state do not respect the decision of God.

Since the beginning of the year 2018, we have great expectations and anticipate that the faithful LORD will complete His work of Redemption with the Church of the nations and take us up in the Rapture, as it is written: *“Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the LORD in the air: and so shall we ever be with the LORD.”* (1 Ths 4:17). Nobody knows exactly when this will happen, so we have to be ready. After that, He will complete His work with Israel through the ministry of the two prophets (Rev 11), and His Millennial Reign will begin. Amen.

“And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our LORD, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.” (Rev 11:15).

By His Commission,

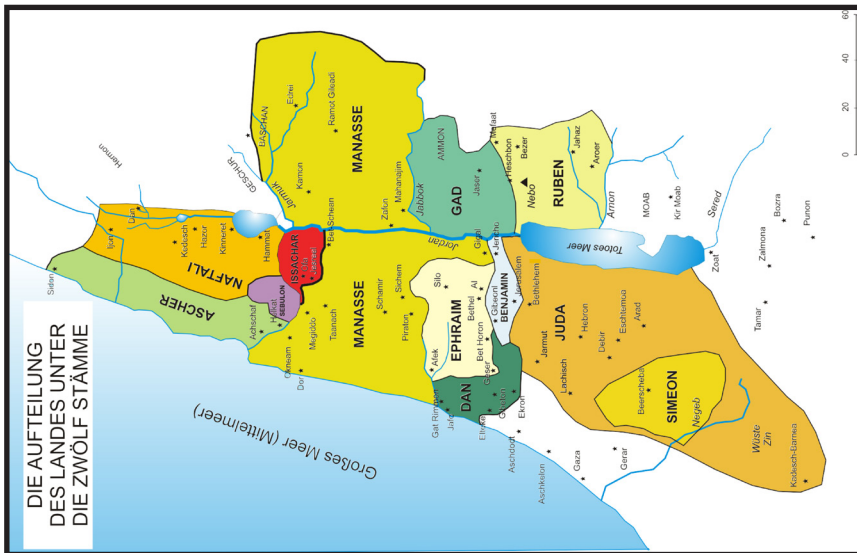
Bro. Frank



The photo shows the special meeting on Saturday, September 16, 2017, in Constanta, Romania, by the Black Sea.

Not only believers were in attendance there, but also people who were hearing a sermon for the first time. Among the more than a hundred people who came to the front for prayer were an Islamic newspaper reporter and a man from the Orthodox Church. Both accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior and were biblically baptized in the Black Sea two weeks later, together with all the other new converts. We thank our faithful LORD for this.

DIE AUFTEILUNG DES LANDES UNTER DIE ZWÖLF STÄMME

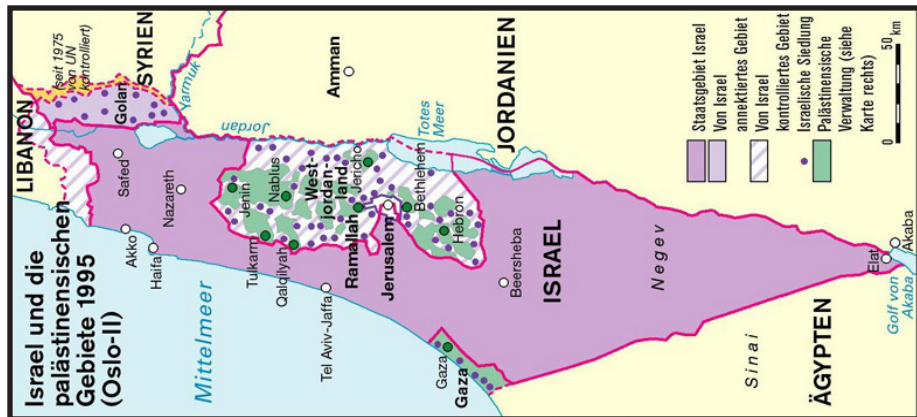


As shown on the left map, Joshua distributed the Promised Land among the twelve tribes in accordance with chapters 13-20; two and a half tribes were on the east side of the River Jordan.

That is how Ezekiel saw it again in the Millennial Kingdom in chapters 47-48.

In chapter 47, he already saw the Temple that will be built. In chapter 48, we find the twelve tribes in their inheritance.

On the right map, we can see what politicians have done with the Holy Land. They refer to Israel as the occupying power and the heartland of Israel as occupied territories. That is not going to stay that way. In the Millennium, the divine order shall be restored in the Holy Land.



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