



THE EXHORTER'S CALL

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A MEANINGFUL RESOLUTION

Another year has come and gone and we now find ourselves in 2007. Growing up in the 1970's and 1980's, the 2000's seemed like the far distant future! Yet, here it is...

Looking over the years that have come and gone, I have also looked over the New Year's resolutions that have come and gone. Ha. Contemporary humor recognizes that by Jan 31st, most of these are out the window! However, there is a lasting change you can make this year that will provide you with far more health benefits than diet and exercise. What? A steady spiritual diet of daily reading in the Word of God.

I was recently reminded of all that men have been through to bring the Word of God to the common man. Names like Wycliffe and Tyndale who, despite any human faults they may have had, gave their very lives to bring the Holy Bible to English speaking people. These and others like them were burned at the stake for unveiling the mysteries of God to "common peasants."

Wycliffe's defiant vision was to provide the "plowboy" with the means to acquire greater knowledge of scripture than the Pope himself...by making the Word of God available to him in the English language. Not only was Wycliffe put to death for this "arrogance," but his body was exhumed some forty years later, his bones burned, and the ashes poured into the river! Tyndale fared no better. After smuggling thousands of English translations of the Holy Bible into Britain concealed in bags of flour, he was betrayed to the authorities and burned at the stake. His famous dying prayer was: "Lord, open the eyes of the King of England." Amazingly, within the next year the King's eyes were opened! Tyndale's English translation was submitted to the King for approval, reviewed, and within three years the King James Version of the English translation of Tyndale swept the land! Not only was this version authorized, but the king decreed that every church would have one, anyone could read it, and those that could not read would be appointed someone to read it to him! From 1611 to 2007, it remains the Standard English translation of the Bible.

The Holy Bible has since been translated into nearly all languages of the earth; often in the face of similar persecution. Men and woman around the world have staked their very lives to bring the Word of God to common people in common languages. Aren't you the least bit curious as to what could drive such sacrifices?

I encourage you to discover the mysteries of God for yourself with a dedicated daily reading plan in the Holy Bible. Many Bible reading plans can be found on the internet dividing the text into daily portions. At a minimum, one could read one chapter of the Book of Proverbs, 31 in all, for each day of the month and complete the book once per month. Or, five chapters of Psalms, 150 in all, and complete it monthly as well. Whatever reading plan you undertake, I can assure you that you will be blessed! Won't you take the opportunity to avail yourself of the wonderful gift of God's Holy Word in your own language during 2007?



שְׁאֵלוֹ שְׁלוֹם יְרוּשָׁלַיִם

Yē-rū-sha-lī'im ←--- Shalom ←--- Sha-alū



GATHERED TOGETHER

The Islamic Republic of Iran broadcasting (IRIB) website said in a program called 'The World Towards Illumination,' that the Mahdi (Islamic Messiah) will reappear in Mecca and form an army to defeat Islam's enemies in a series of apocalyptic battles, in which the Mahdi will overcome his archvillain in Jerusalem. After his uprising from Mecca all of Arabia will be submit to him and then other parts of the world as he marches upon Iraq and established his seat of global government in the city of Kufa.¹

The Iranian President Ahmadinejad has repeatedly called for Israel to be “wiped off the map” and has declared that the United States and Britain, as supporters of Israel, shall “disappear like the Pharoahs.”²

World events are quickly aligning with scripture and the pace continues to quicken for those trying to stay abreast of Bible prophecy in the news. The alliance of Russia and Iran is continuing to set as President Putin adroitly maneuvers in the political landscape of the Former Soviet Union with all his skill as a former KGB agent. Students of Bible prophecy see all the signs of the coming invasion of Israel.

In speaking of the prophesied End Time attack launched against Jerusalem and the nation of Israel, the Prophet Isaiah tells us in Isaiah 54:15 *“Behold, they shall surely gather together, **but not by me: whosoever shall gather together against thee shall fall for thy sake.**” (Bold emphasis mine)*

It is instructive that God clearly differentiates Himself from the Islamic god Allah when predicting the gathering storm of hostile nations. There is no doubt that the attack will come, and even be initiated in the name of “God” according to Muslim leaders. However the One True God, Jehovah, remains committed to the Jewish people and remembers His everlasting Covenant Promise toward them regarding their land.

Islamic prophecies of the “Mahdi” have an outstanding parallel to the coming Anti-Christ figure of the Book of Daniel and Revelation in the Holy Bible; which records that the whole world will be deceived by his appearance.

In the article listed at the beginning of this section, Shi'ite Muslims jubilantly predict that their Mahdi may appear as early as the Spring Equinox of 2007. While I'm not sure of the accuracy of their prediction, I am sure that the coming Rapture of the Believing Church is rapidly approaching.

After all these centuries, could 2007 be the year that our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ catches away the Christian believer? Are you ready to meet Him in the clouds? Or will you remain...to be deceived?

1. December 31, 2006 at <http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-3346589,00.html>

2. December 12, 2006 at <http://www.breitbart.com/news/2006/12/20/061220094102.ixs3bo81.html>



Revelation 19:1

“And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God:”

ONE MORE YEAR, ONE MORE CHANCE

Do you know the LORD Jesus Christ as your personal Savior? Don't go another moment without the *certainty* that you are going to heaven to forever be with the Lord. There is only one alternative...Hell.

Do you look at world events and apocalyptic predictions from both secular and religious sources with horror, fear, and uncertainty? Jesus assures us that as we see these events approaching, we are not to let our hearts be troubled; but rather to lift up our heads, for our redemption draws near. Redemption that is...for those that are His. Are you His? Do you believe upon the Only Begotten Son?

Do you want to know the reason for the hope that is within me? His Name is Jesus Christ. He bore all my grief, all my sorrow, and all my sin. He did it all because He loves me...and He loves you too.

Do you have this hope? It is easy to obtain...after all, it is a gift. Eternal Salvation, freely given.

Why not start the New Year in the family of God; born of His Spirit, and washed in His sacrificial Blood of forgiveness? If you want to ensure that you have eternal life in Him you can simply ask Him into your heart today. That's all it takes. If you are sincere in your desire to know God, just pray this prayer with all your heart: *“Father, I believe that Jesus Christ is your Son and that you love me. I believe that Jesus came to die for my sins, in my place, and arose again so that I may have eternal life in Him; to be with you forever in the glory of heaven. Lord, I ask you to wash away all my sin, and I invite you into my heart as my only Lord and Savior. Thank you for your unspeakable gift of forgiveness. Amen”*

Rick Wagon is a born-again Spirit-filled believer that was saved eternally and securely by the grace of God, through faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ. His father was a full-time pastor that raised Rick with a solid foundation of faith, knowledge, and hunger for God's Word. Rick's professional background has been in law enforcement, protective security, and anti-terrorism; serving as a supervisor and trainer in these fields. Recently he transitioned to the field of public health preparedness to coordinate disaster response training. He also performs additional duties related to intelligence, security, planning, and logistics. Rick is married to a beautiful, loving wife of faith and blessed with two fine sons that love the Lord. He has served as a church trustee, usher, children's church teacher, and itinerate guest speaker. Rick believes in living as a bold witness for Christ, loves to worship the Lord, and is available for special speaking engagements in your area.

