

# THE SABBATH SCOOP

VOLUME 24

JULY 2011

NUMBER 4

## What Does the Future Hold for the CHURCH OF GOD?

*What is prophesied about the Church of God at the end of this age?*

By Gregory Dullum

What does the future hold for God's church? Will it continue to fracture and split? Will the church continue to do a work until Christ returns? Will church members be taken to a place of safety, be protected no matter where they are, or be left unprotected? Will the church even exist when Christ returns?

We can know the answers to these questions. They are in the Bible!

### Church Will Never Die Out

The Church of God will NEVER die! Jesus Christ promised. He said, "I will build My church, and the gates of Hades [the grave] shall not prevail against it" (Mat. 16:18).

Christ said He would be with the church *unto the end of the age*: "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Mat. 28:20).

For the sake of the elect—which includes the Church of God—the Great Tribulation will be cut short and humanity will survive (Mat. 24:21-22). So yes, the church will exist when Christ comes back! But what will happen between now and then?

### The Gospel Will Be Preached

The church will continue to preach the gospel of the kingdom of God as long as possible by whatever means it can.

Christ told the apostles in the first century, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). The end of this age CANNOT come and Christ CANNOT return *until this task has been completed*:



Photo by Chris Finlay

Petra may be the place of safety to which part of the Church of God will flee before the Great Tribulation.

"And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, AND THEN the end will come" (Mat. 24:14, emphasis added).

When Christ comes back, He expects to find the church doing the work He gave it to do! He said, "Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing" (Mat. 24:46).

There is a two-fold work the church must do. It is 1) preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and 2) making disciples of all men, i.e., preparing a people—the bride—for Christ's return (Eph. 5:25-27, 32; Rev. 19:7).

### The Preaching Will Stop

Prior to Christ's return, the preaching of the Gospel using mass communications will end. God will close the doors He had previously opened to make the preaching possible. People in the world will no longer be able to tune into radio broadcasts, TV telecasts, or read magazines and booklets published by the Church of God. Web sites proclaiming the true gospel will be shut down.

Jesus, who is the head of his church, said, "I must work the works of Him who

sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work" (John 9:4). A time is coming when NO ONE will be able to do God's work!

It will be a time of spiritual famine: "Behold the days are coming," says the LORD GOD, "that I will send a famine on the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD. They shall wander from sea to sea, and from north to east; they shall run to and fro, seeking the word of the LORD, but they shall not find it" (Amos 8:11-12).

What will cause the church to stop preaching the gospel? Three things may cause this: 1) If the church keeps splitting, no group will be big enough to do a major work. 2) A major persecution may shut down most formal preaching. 3) Part of the church will flee into a place of safety, where it may be unable to preach to the world. Let's look at each of these more closely.

### Church Will Be Scattered

At the time of the end, when all things are finished, the power of the church will be shattered and the people scattered. Daniel saw this time: "...And when the power of the holy people has been completely shattered, all these things shall be finished" (Dan. 12:7). The *King James Version* says: "and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished."

Zechariah recorded this prophecy from God: "Strike the Shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered" (Zech. 13:7). Jesus Christ applied this prophecy to his crucifixion and the scattering of his disciples (Mat. 26:31). Perhaps

**FUTURE OF THE CHURCH**

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## Future of the Church

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there is a dual fulfillment. In these last days, as church leaders die or are discredited in the eyes of their followers, brethren scatter and form new, smaller organizations. As these groups shrink in size, their ability to preach the gospel shrivels.

### Church Will Be Persecuted

In his Olivet prophecy about the end of this age, Christ foretold, "But watch out for yourselves, for they will deliver you up to councils, and you will be beaten in the synagogues. And you will be brought before rulers and kings for My sake, for a testimony to them.... And you will be hated by all men for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end shall be saved" (Mark 13:9, 13).

Christians have suffered from these things throughout the history of the church. But it will happen at the end time *with greater intensity!* Why? Because in the end time, Satan will be cast out of heaven. He'll know he has but a short time, so he'll attack the church with a vengeance (Rev. 12:7-12)!

"Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child. But the woman [the Church of God] was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time [year] and times [two years] and half a time [1/2 year], from the presence of the serpent" (vv. 13-14).

Part of the church will be protected from Satan for 3-1/2 years. Some of the church will not be: "And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ" (v. 17).

How will Satan make war with the remainder of the church? He'll organize persecution under a great false prophet who is united with 10 European "kings."

"The ten horns are ten kings who will arise from this kingdom [a revived Roman Empire]. And another shall arise after them; he shall be different from the first ones.... He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, shall persecute the saints of the Most High, and shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand for a time, and times, and half a time" (Dan. 7:24-25). While one group of Christians is protected for 3-1/2 years, another group will be persecuted during that time.

What will this false prophet do? He will "cause as many as would not worship the

image of the beast to be killed. And he causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name" (Rev. 13:15-17).

A "great multitude which no one could number" will be martyred at this time (Rev. 7:9). This time is called the Great Tribulation (v. 14).

How long will this tribulation last? Three and one-half years! "And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time.... And one said to the man clothed in linen... 'How long shall the fulfillment of these wonders be?' Then I heard the man clothed in linen... when he held up his right hand and his left hand to heaven, and swore by Him who lives forever, that it shall be for a time, times and half a time" (Dan. 12:1, 6-7).

### Some Will Be Protected

Not all true Christians will suffer during this time. One group will be protected—those whom God calls the Philadelphians.

In Revelation 2-3, seven churches are described. They represent characteristics of Christians present at any time in the church; including the end-time splinter groups—but they also represent the overall attitude of seven historical eras of the church from A.D. 31 until Christ's return.

One group—the Philadelphians—is promised protection from the Great Tribulation: "Because you have kept my command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth" (Rev. 3:10).

They will be taken from their homes and protected in one place—"her place"—not "places" (Rev. 12:14). It will be in the wilderness. What will the church do there? It "is nourished"—fed both physically and spiritually. It is a time of final preparation.

With part of the church protected in a place of safety, and the rest hiding, being hunted down, tortured and martyred, who will preach the gospel to the world?

### The Two Witnesses

God will bring onto the world scene two witnesses who will preach for 3-1/2 years from Jerusalem. He tells us, "And I will give power to My two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sack-cloth" (Rev. 11:3).

When their 3-1/2 years of preaching ends, they will be killed by the Beast—the resurrected Roman Empire—and false prophet. Their dead bodies will be

telecast and webcast around the world for all to see (vv. 7-10).

After 3-1/2 days of lying dead in the streets of Jerusalem, the two witnesses will come back to life and will rise to meet the returning Jesus Christ in the clouds (vv. 11-12).

The two witnesses will not be the only two rising! All those who died in the faith will rise from their graves as spirit beings to meet Christ in the air (1 Thes. 4:13-16).

And all true Christians who are alive—in the place of safety, in prison camps, or hiding anywhere on the earth—they will all be instantly changed into spirit beings and will join the others in the air to meet the returning Christ (v. 17; Mat. 24:31).

There are some very difficult days ahead for some in God's church. But there also is an opportunity to escape the worst times! We must not give up; we must not grow weary in well doing; we must not allow ourselves to slip into worldliness and sin. We must watch world events as they unfold, being aware of the times; and watch our spiritual condition so that we will be a bride for Christ without spot or wrinkle.

Jesus Christ warns us, "But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come upon you unexpectedly. For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man" (Luke 21:34-36).

Whether we die before Christ comes, or we live to see Him coming, our future is the same: we will rise to meet our Savior in the air as He returns to this earth. From then on, we'll enjoy eternal life in the family of God!

## The SABBATH SCOOP

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PRINT CIRCULATION: 79 • COST PER ISSUE: FREE  
[www.thesabbathcoop.org](http://www.thesabbathcoop.org)

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# GOD'S GOVERNMENT

## PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE

*Israel's form of government changed from monarchy to oligarchy to democracy and back to monarchy.*

By Gregory Dullum  
Part 4

Under Moses, God used a monarchy form of government—one man rule. God talked with Moses and Moses passed the information on to the nation. This, however, was quite a burden—both for Moses and for the people who sought advice from him.

### Moses Sits Atop a Hierarchy

“And so it was, on the next day, that Moses sat to judge the people; and the people stood before Moses from morning until evening. So when Moses’ father-in-law saw all he did for the people, he said, ‘What is this thing that you are doing for the people? Why do you alone sit, and all the people stand before you from morning until evening?’ And Moses said to his father-in-law, ‘Because the people come to me to inquire of God. When they have a difficulty, they come to me, and I judge between one and another; and I make known the statutes of God and His laws.’

“So Moses’ father-in-law said to him, ‘The thing that you do is not good. Both you and these people who are with you will surely wear yourselves out. For this thing is too much for you: you are not able to perform it by yourself. Listen now to my voice; I will surely give you counsel, and God will be with you: stand before God for the people, so that you may bring difficulties to God. And you shall teach them the statutes and the laws, and show them the way in which they must walk and the work they must do. Moreover, you shall select from all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them to be rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens. And let them judge the people at all times. Then if it be that every great matter they shall bring to you, but every small matter they themselves shall judge. So it will be easier for you, for they will bear the burden with you.’... So Moses heeded the voice of his father-in-law and did all that he had said” (Ex. 18:13-22, 24).

This hierarchal form of government—using captains over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens—was used during much of Israel’s history. King David appointed captains of thousands and hundreds (2 Sam. 18:1). Later, under King Jehoiada, captains of hundreds still existed (2 Chron. 23:1).

After Moses died, Joshua stepped into his shoes and led the Israelites into the Promised Land. God continued to lead the Israelites through one man—until Joshua died. Then who led Israel?

### Israel Ruled by Oligarchy of Elders

After Joshua, there was NOT *just one leader!* Israel was led by an oligarchy—a small group of elders. They were good leaders. “So the people served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great works of the LORD which He had done for Israel” (Judges 2:7).

When this generation of elders died, the people fell into sin: “When all that generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation arose after them who did not know the LORD nor the work which He had done for Israel” (v. 9).

### Democracy in Israel

The central leadership over Israel dissolved. “In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes” (Judges 21:25).

This was a time of pure democracy (rule by the people) or perhaps anarchy. Everyone made up their own rules.

How did the Israelites choose to live under this type of government (or lack of it)? Did they choose to live God’s way? “Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served the Baals” (Judges 2:11). God became angry at Israel, and delivered his people into the hands of their enemies. When the people groaned because of their oppression, God sent judges to deliver them (vv. 15-16, 18).

One author says government under the judges had a “suggestion of democracy”:

“In the period when Israel was settling down in the land, a historical phenomenon occurred which was peculiar to these early days—that of the ‘charismatic’ leaders, called ‘judges’ in the Bible.... The charismatic leaders represented a special form of the exercise of authority, midway between the patriarchal form of the tribal leaders and that of the permanent kingship which was to go with the new state structure. This intermediate form of authority, with its suggestion almost of democracy, could last only a short time. It was inadequate in face of the massive threats from the enemies of

later years. But it goes to show none the less that there was a period lasting for some generations in the history of Israel when political power could be wielded without its being stabilized in an institution. It was an exercise of power which went hand in hand with the greatest possible degree of liberty.

“From time to time a tribe or group of tribes were hard pressed by an enemy—one of the city-states of Palestine or one of the peoples on the border. Then a young man would come forward in one of the tribes and muster his clansmen and some neighboring clans—or perhaps even whole tribes—to take common action. Such a man did not have the authority of an institution behind him. He acted simply as a man with a call....

“In each case the call was different. The charismatic leader could come from any section of the people. In the changing circumstances, the task was always a new one. But one thing remained the same for all charismatic leaders. When they had succeeded in mustering volunteers and in sweeping them along with them to shake off the enemy yoke, they retired from the scene and returned to their private tasks. The power given them was only on loan, as it were. They gave it back to the source from which it came” (*The Bible: A Pictorial History* by Claus Westermann, 1977, pp. 26-27). What was that source?

### Judges Ruled as Monarchs

There was no MAN-MADE institution behind these judges; they were neither descendants of Moses, nor any type of royalty—they had no man-made right to rule. They were, however, backed by the authority of God! It is God who raised up the judges and ruled through them (Judges 2:18). God used a monarchy-type of government (one-man rule) under the judges. And while each judge lived, the people obeyed God.

What happened when he or she died? “And it came to pass, when the judge was dead, that they reverted and behaved more corruptly than their fathers, by following other gods, to serve them and bow down to them. They did not cease from their own doings nor from their stubborn way” (v. 19).

This cycle repeated itself over and over. (*To be continued!*)



# College Letters:

## Lessons of Life Learned at Ambassador College

*A few people can misbehave and spoil things for everyone. Desert heat doesn't feel as hot.*

### Postmarked June 7, 1976

Dear Bruddah,

How's it all happenin' man? I mean, like wow, man! I've been just groovin' here, making the scene, you know, and well I figured that I just haven't rapped a piece of paper in your general direction, and like man, I almost flipped my gourd!!!! Man, this is some powerful bubble gum I'm laying my jaws on!

School's out and I accidentally got a week off from work, so I figured I'd write you. Today was Pentecost and it was cool. Actually it was hot! It is still 80° and it's 10:00 p.m. Anyways, yesterday was kind of a slow Saturday night, if you know what I mean. I spent the afternoon at Bauers and played a little basketball against Phil after the sun went down. It was kind of fun. Then, today, Pat Lindquist was here and she sat with Loren and [me] for the morning service. At lunch, the gang and I went out for lunch, and found a McDonald's. Everything was cool.

Now for a quick summary of what's been happening the past few weeks.

I had been writing a book for English extra credit for the past month or so, and I discovered I have no talent in the field of writing. I can't word things well. However, I have some great ideas for stories. You, on-the-other-hand, can word things good, but your stories have only interest to people that like flying or something like that. If we got together I think we could sell a book. Anyways, I ended up with 112 pages, but I had to cut the ending short. I should have gone another 100 pages or more. I ran out of time. When you come home you should read it.

The last three days of school were strange. All the seniors were gone and we had nothing left to do. I still don't know what my grades are though.

The pipes on the bottom of my car broke, so I had no muffler, and likewise no car. Last Friday I went to K-Mart and had new pipes and muffler put on. It cost me \$85! At least it was payday. After offering today, though, I have about \$8 left for the next two weeks and I have 1/2 a tank of gas. I won a buck at Red Owl [a supermarket] a few weeks ago playing Bingo. That really didn't help much. I still want to get an antenna for my car.

That'll set me back another \$6.

Rod Matthews (Ruth Bauer's husband) has been here the past few weeks; I guess he goes home [to Australia] tomorrow, but he is a cool guy.

Loren is getting a new car. A '65 Chevy, two-door, hardtop, fastback, Impala, in a black color. He's trying to sell his Plymouth for \$800 but will go as low as \$700. You want it?

I don't recall if you've ever answered my letter about whether or not you wanted us to keep your [homemade] pool table. I don't know if you got the letter at all.

I have to practice my softball again, and maybe I'll be on the church or work team. Our work team won their first game today; it was their first attempt too. The church team has won 1 out of 4. They need me. Loren and I should get together and play catch. You should be here.

So you think you're gonna get married in a few years, huh? Well you better hold off, because I've got to get married first, since I'm the youngest. Oh well, maybe I better just speed up myself.

Tomorrow, Mom has bridge here, so I've got to go out with someone. I hope to have a blast.

In drafting, I've completely designed "my house" now, and even built a model out of wood. It looks really sharp.

The past two weekdays I've been gleening up our yard. On Thursday I soaked myself with the hose, and then worked on the patio. I ended up with a nice start to a tan, after being out for only a few hours.

We got a willow tree/branch to grow out in the backyard now. I hope it'll live through the summer, and next winter. Matsons (Sr.) want to have a branch or two sprouted also.

I've gotten my slides back, from the trip to Chicago through a few weeks back when I saw a deer in the back. They turned out neat.

I also have pictures at a birthday party that we gave my physics teacher on Senior Skip Day. The 3 juniors that were in the class (actually there are 5, but one never comes to school and one didn't come to the party) consisted of my friend: the munitions maker, Tim Madsen, Dan Berks, and myself. We got a hostess cup-

cake and put 55 candles on it, 12 of which were the kind that you can't blow out. Then we got two presents, a white plastic shark bank, and an inflatable plastic sword. We also got a retirement card for him. He is only about 39 years old though, and his birthday's in August, but we had to do something.

Then we got a string of balloons, but we didn't blow any of them up. We also got some crepe paper and taped that to the floor. The three of us united with two other friends, Mike Gensmoe, and Mark Harvell, both of which would normally be in Spanish during that hour. We got some party favorites and I brought my New Year's hat and your green derby. In school, we found another physics student at a different hour, Pat Lien, who incidentally also had Spanish that hour and we went to work that day.

However, I forgot to tell you that Mark, Mike, Dan, Tim and myself got together and recorded "Happy Birthday" three different ways, to 3 different songs. One was "Happy Birthday" then one was "Go Johnny Go" and I forget the 3rd but we sang Happy Birthday to them all. Mike played the electric guitar, and Tim the drums. The rest of us just made noise and sang. It turned out good.

Now—second hour came and we charged into the room. Mr. Sir, Sir George, George, or George Drier, my physics teacher, wasn't in the room, so we began to set up. It looked really neat. We lit the 55 candles and it was a big fire. The 12 that weren't supposed to blow out were spitting sparks. George wouldn't come over to blow it out right away, so all the candles melted, and the cake absorbed all the wax. Then the cake became a wick and was just a ball of fire. Finally, Mr. Sir tried to blow it out, but it didn't work, so the kids helped out by blowing the party favorites into the fire, and beating the fire out.

The cake was hard as a rock and smelled perfectly horrid, so no one would eat it. Oh well, 12-1/2¢ down the drain, right? The whole party cost \$6 but we divided the cost among us.

That's about all that's happened lately; I'll see you in 5 months.

Love,  
Brad

## June 8, 1976

Dear Greg,

I've been trying to finish this P.C.S. form but have to have the following from you—

Savings from Summer Earnings Estimated 1976-1977

Savings (if you have any)

Tuition — for year

Board & Room for year

There really is a bunch of stuff they want to know but guess I'll be able to complete it if you can get the above information to me.

It has been hot—almost 95 degrees the past few days and everything is so dry. The grass is so brown even though I'm sprinkling.

I had bridge here last night and the women almost died in the heat. The fan didn't help much. Hope it gets cooler next week when I have a wedding cake to do.

Bradley wasn't on the schedule this week but they called him to come to work tonight so he'll have at least one night. His car has problems again. He can drive it but it leaks oil, and the plugs need cleaning.

We got to hear Ruth Bauer's husband at Pentecost services. He is a great speaker and it was interesting hearing about people in Burma & Australia. It is hard to realize the problems other people are going through.

A robin just flew into the picture window. Bet it will have a headache.

I took food for an army on Pentecost thinking Brad would invite a bunch of kids but they all wanted to eat out so I shared with Mr. & Mrs. Bauer and Ruth & her husband. Was glad for their company.

Still haven't heard anything from Gary. Sure wish he would write so I'd know if he is working or not.

Loren doesn't come over so much any more. Brad said he is getting another car; one that doesn't use so much gas. He has been going with one of Peggy's sisters. Wouldn't it be funny if he married into that family too?

Roma (Indian Mounds [my elementary school] cook) was in to work today. She has retired from her job that she has been on since leaving Indian Mounds. She always asks about you kids. She is such a nice person.

There is a show starting on TV I want to watch, "Prudence and the Pill," so will quit for this time. Write & give me answers to the questions so I get this form sent in.

Love,  
Mom

## June 28, 1976

Dear Greg,

Almost called you tonight but decided to write instead because I wanted to send you a check. I also have to send the papers for the license plates on Brad's car. Sign it and return it right away so you don't forget. Also let me know what the year's tuition is and year's board & room so I can get this form filled out & mailed in.

There has been so much going on the past week. A couple weeks ago I had to make [my cousin] Joni's wedding cake. Their wedding was 5 p.m. Friday night so had to deliver the cake up N.E. Mpls. [Minneapolis] that Friday afternoon after I got home from work. Then we had to be back in Bloomington at 5 p.m. at the church for the wedding. Then we hurried home and Carol [another cousin of mine] came here and we both got in long dresses and went back up N.E. for the reception. They had a dance there too with the best music. Brad got out and danced a little but I just sat and visited.

That Sunday the Church had a buffet supper and dance at Medina Ballroom. Mr. G.T.A. [Garner Ted Armstrong] was there with his band and played for the dance. His voice was bothering him so much but he still sang. The people all stood around the band stand and watched more than they danced. It was fun though.

Last week I had another wedding cake for Mrs. Hicks' boss. Tuesday night was Women's Club which was at Calhoun Beach Club at John Powers Modeling School. Was good & a lot of women signed up for a mini-course. If I had been younger I may have been more interested.

The teens had their annual canoe trip. Brad drove and took a bunch of kids. They only stayed one night. He didn't have any problem finding it. He got sunburned but not as bad as last year. Guess some dumb kids had to get liquor and drink so they were sent home. Suppose they will spoil it so they won't have it anymore.

Bernie Nickolai was in the [Twin] Cities last week. He was at the airport & had 1/2 hour before his flight out so he called me at work. Sure thought that was nice of him.

Guess that's about all the news from here. Sign that license thing right away and get it back in the mail.

Love,  
Mom

## COLLEGE LETTERS

Continued on Page 6

## Fun Fact



*Drawing and Fun Fact are courtesy of NAPS*  
Dew is said to form better on dark objects.

## Witerature

*Wit and wisdom to complement the truths of the Holy Bible can be found in secular writings.*

*Jonathan Livingston Seagull by*

*Richard Bach, 1970, p. 83.*

## Law Leads to Freedom

"By sunrise there were nearly a thousand birds standing outside the circle of students, looking curiously at Maynard. They didn't care whether they were seen or not, and they listened, trying to understand Jonathan Seagull.

"He spoke of very simple things—that it is right for a gull to fly, that freedom is the very nature of his being, that whatever stands against that freedom must be set aside, be it ritual or superstition or limitation in any form.

" 'Set aside,' came a voice over the multitude, 'even if it be the Law of the Flock?'

" 'The only true law is the law which leads to freedom,' Jonathan said. 'There is no other.' "

**James 1:25, Rom. 8:2, John 8:32**

## Quotable Quote

"The supreme quality for leadership is integrity. Without it, no real success is possible, no matter whether it is on a section gang, a football field, in an army, or in an office."

—Dwight D. Eisenhower

## Memory Scripture

"And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

—John 8:32

## College Letters

Continued from Page 5

### July 7, '76 Midnight

Dear Mom,

Sorry it took so long but I've been gone for a week. I took a vacation in the desert mountains with Marie, her boss, and about 7 other students. It was so great to get away from the city.

I wanted to send off a tape before I left last Wednesday night. But I was too busy getting ready for our trip. I worked 10 hrs./day Sun.-Wed., and will work 10 hrs./day tomorrow, Friday, Sunday and Monday so I will get my entire 7 day vacation off without missing any hours of work. (Except Monday, July 5, which I would have taken off anyways.)

Marie [Backfisch] and I have been seeing each other just about every day since spring break. Although we're not officially engaged, it looks definite. We'll probably get married in 3 years. We already bought a 5-piece stainless steel cutlery set we saw at a store on the vacation. We couldn't pass up the deal—only \$16. It looks beautiful!

Well, I guess I ought to hit the sack. I have to get up at 6. I'll tell you more about the trip on the tape. Boy, was it refreshing!

Really looking forward to the Feast! Marie's transfer to the [Wisconsin] Dells went thru OK. I never got a festival application, so I'm just coming home [to go to the Wisconsin Dells too].

Sorry to hear about the canoe trip being cut short. But you should have seen the booze on our trip! I even was able to buy some Colt 45 Malt Liquor and Southern Comfort when we went to Arizona [which had a lower legal drinking age than California] one day.

The temps on the desert were hot. The radio station in Palm Springs said it was 121° today. But since we're 4,000 feet above Palm Springs, it was cooler at the cabin. Today it was only 103°. In the shade. But it didn't feel hot, because it's so dry.

Full year tuition next year: est.	\$1,400
” ” room:	\$500
” ” meal plan:	<u>\$840</u>
[Total for year; divide by 2:]	2)\$2,780
[Total per semester:]	\$1,390

Anything else? Hope you'll *hear* from me soon. Love y'all bunches. Thanks for the letters, even tho. I haven't had time to write.

Love y'all  
Greg



## Qaddafi Threatens to Attack Europe

“In a defiant speech broadcast to an unusually large gathering of his supporters on Friday [July 1], Col. Muammar el-Qaddafi threatened attacks on Europe if NATO did not halt its bombing....

“In the speech, delivered by telephone to thousands of people marching in Green Square in Tripoli, Colonel Qaddafi warned that Libyans would be able to take the battle ‘to Europe, to target your homes, offices, families, which have become legitimate military targets, like you have targeted our homes.’ The Associated Press reported.

“He also said he would welcome negotiations if Europe and the United States were willing, but he said if they were not, ‘we’ll finish the battle’ ” (“Qaddafi Threatens Europe With Attacks” by Kareem Fahim, *The New York Times* reprints, July 1, 2011, p. 1).

One of Qaddafi's sons stated during a television interview, “One of our biggest mistakes was that we delayed buying new weapons from Russia, and delayed building a strong army. We thought Europeans were our friends; our mistake was to be tolerant with our enemies” (Fahim, p. 2).

A the time of the end, there will be a king of the South and a king of the North, according to Dan. 11:40.

We believe the king of the North will be the union of 10 kings that will rule in Europe prior to Christ's return. These are the 10 toes on the statue of a man, consisting of iron and clay, extended from the two iron legs that represent the Holy Roman Empire (Dan. 2:31-45).

If the king of the North is a union of 10 European kings from north of Jerusalem, then the king of the South may be a union of Arab or Muslim nations from south of Jerusalem. This union could stretch from North Africa to Iran.

“At the time of the end the king of the South shall attack him; and the king of the North shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter the countries, overwhelm them, and pass through. He shall also enter the

Glorious Land [the Holy Land], and many countries shall be overthrown [the Arab or Muslim countries near Israel]; but these shall escape from his hand: Edom [Turkey], Moab [Jordan] and the prominent people of Ammon [Capital of Jordan]. He shall stretch out his hand against the countries, and the land of Egypt shall not escape. He shall have power over the treasures of gold and silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt; also the Libyans and Ethiopians shall follow at his heels. But news from the east and the north shall trouble him; therefore he shall go out with a great fury to destroy and annihilate many” (Dan. 11:40-44).

Why will Jordan be spared? It's possible that part of the Church of God will be protected there during the final 3-1/2 years in a place of safety. Some have long thought Petra, in Jordan, could be that place of safety.

On the other hand, a number of Arab or Muslim lands will be conquered by European armies after Europe is attacked by them, including Egypt, Libya and Ethiopia.

What news from the northeast will trouble the European power after it has conquered the king of the South? It could be a huge attacking army from “kings of the east”—a union of Russia, China, and other Oriental countries, who will cross a dried-up Euphrates River and head for Jerusalem (Rev. 16:12-16, 9:13-19).

Having eliminated the Muslim or Arab power bloc, the European Union and the Oriental power bloc will prepare to battle each other for world domination in the Valley of Jehoshaphat outside of Jerusalem (Joel 3:9-15). They would destroy life from this planet if Christ did not return in time (Mat. 24:22).

Christ will return from heaven just in time and defeat the armies of men (Rev. 19:11-21). He will then establish his government of peace over all the earth (Dan. 2:44-45).

Qaddafi's threat may be nothing more than idle words for now. But a time is coming when the king of the South will indeed attack the king of the North. At that time, we will know the end is near.