

Is America A Christian Nation? Summary (Part Two)

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As we begin today, I am going to put in 1, 2, 3 order points that makes obvious to any fairly serious and honest student of the Bible, that America (despite all the media noise by conservatively-inclined people), was not begun as a Christian nation, and never has been one right to this time. It never began that way, and it never became one right up until this time. There is no doubt that has been an intention by some, that is, to make this nation appear to be Christian, or become Christian, but it was never, ever accomplished.

While I was giving those seven sermons, I gave you quite a load of historical and biblical information. Let me first state that there is no doubt in my mind about the sincerity of a fairly large number of the Founders' personal beliefs regarding God and religion. One way that I can say honestly is that they were all for Him. That would indicate that they were on His side.

There is also no doubt that they drew upon the Bible and its principles for many of the laws in our founding documents, like the Constitution, and those people who were Founders were generally fairly moral as a whole. Here is an important and determining factor: the major source of concepts that they drew from were not purely God's Christianity but a syncretic corruption of true biblical Christianity. They may have believed that they were getting information from truly Christian sources, but they were not.

They were drawing upon a religion that was called Christian, but that source was one in the process of evolving from the Protestant Reformation that had already been underway for almost two hundred years by that time.

It was certainly far better than what was taught in the Western world under the popes, but it was not the religion of Jesus Christ. One very obvious example is this (and I know those of you who are listening to my voice will grasp this right away), did they ever keep God's Sabbath and holy days as

Jesus and the apostles clearly did? The answer is so obvious that it shouts out a warning to us not to accept the assumption that the nation began as a Christian nation. This warning is a clear clue that should trigger the truth. The founders were not following in the steps of Jesus Christ.

Here begins a listing of seven truths. You will see as we go through these seven that many of God's patterns, the patterns by which He operates, are clearly missing. Point number one is taken from Genesis 12.

Genesis 12:1-3 Now the Lord had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

1. Those "I will" promises are so important to Christianity to continue in our life.

I believe that my rejection of the concept that America began as a Christian nation has its roots in the Founders' failure to accept these "I will" promises. They are an absolutely necessary portion on what every real Christian should found his religion, his obedience to God on. These are promises that God gave to Abraham. Abraham is the father of the faithful, and he was the generator of what became the Israelitish people.

Their failure to accept that covenant that God made with Abraham doomed their seeking to found this nation as a Christian nation from the very beginning. You cannot be a Christian without abiding by what God says here. Accepting His promises to bless them in that way.

Many calling themselves Christians do not grasp this, because it takes a fairly high level of familiarity with the Bible, especially with biblical promises, to grasp it and to believe it. Though a new nation indeed formed here in the 1700s, it was in reality not new. It was simply re-forming again.

That form, here in this nation, was in reality a continuation of what already occurred in Europe, and before that in the Promised Land, to the same family

of people, that is, that a number of descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob formed as a separate nation. God was continuing to fulfill what He promised to do in relation to Abram and his descendants, to do in behalf of the descendants of Abraham.

The United States of America indeed formed in a new location, but it was in reality, simply another portion of God's promises to Abram being fulfilled as God readied His next step toward the return of Jesus Christ. He was putting the Israelitish people where He wanted them for the end time.

What happened at America's beginning had already happened a multitude of times in France, England, Netherlands, Germany, Scandinavian countries, Scotland, Ireland, and Denmark, as the descendants of Abram established themselves as nations of Israelitish people in the Western world.

2. Not near as important as point number 1, but none of the ceremonial trappings of Israel's coming out of a captivity from Egypt and officially forming as a nation, or crossing of the Jordan River in order to take possession of the Promised Land, occurred. There was no repetition of a pattern that God clearly establishes as a way in which He operated.

God follows patterns. There is a reason for that: so that His converted children can identify Him with His operations by their faith in Him. God did not come down, as He did on Mount Sinai. He did not come down on Boston, New York City, or Philadelphia, as He did on Mt. Sinai. This is not unimportant, because God identifies what He does, by what He does. He is the one that is operating.

Malachi 3:6 "For I am the Lord, I do not change; therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob."

In this situation God had the goods on the Jews. They were sinning left and right and complaining about His treatment of them. He did not throw up His hands in disgust and desperation. He is, here in Malachi 3:6, declaring in this location and time, that He was continuing to work to bring salvation to the Jews because it is not in His character to change.

The principle is that God follows patterns that people of true faith will recognize, perceive His involvement, and be encouraged by what they are witnessing, what He is doing. God can be counted on.

3. There was no singular leader of the stature of a Moses or a Joshua who can even be mentioned in the same breath among the Founders of this nation. No formal covenant was made with God working through a singular Moses-like personality. When God begins something of this magnitude, He puts somebody in there and they carry on somewhat after the pattern of Moses.
4. No already existing package of laws were given by a voice from on high that the settlers had to agree to observe.

Exodus 24:1-7 [notice what God did when He established Israel as a nation, through the covenant] Now He said to Moses, “Come up to the Lord, you and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, and worship from afar. And Moses alone shall come near the Lord, but they shall not come near, nor shall the people go up with him.” So Moses came and told the people all the words of the Lord and all the judgments And all the people answered with one voice and said, “All the words which the Lord has said we will do.” And Moses wrote all the words of the Lord. And he rose early in the morning, and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and twelve pillars according to the twelve tribes of Israel. Then he sent young men of the children of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the Lord. And Moses took half the blood and put it in the basins, and half the blood he sprinkled on the altar. Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read in the hearing of the people. And they said, “All that the Lord has said we will do, and be obedient.”

At the founding of this nation, God did not present these people with a package of already existing laws, they formed their own constitution.

5. No single religion was established through which they were commanded—the founders of this nation and the colonists—were commanded to worship. This becomes exceedingly important.

Exodus 23:14-17 “Three times you shall keep a feast to Me in the year. You shall keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread (you shall eat unleavened bread seven days, as I commanded you, at the time appointed in the month of Abib, for in it you come out of Egypt; none shall appear before Me empty): “and the Feast of Harvest, the firstfruits of your labors which you have sown in the field; and the Feast of Ingathering, which is at the end of the year, when you have gathered in the fruit of your labors from the field. Three times in the year all your males shall appear before the Lord God.”

Why choose these verses? I use this command as an example of the unity required, by God, in the worship of Himself by a nation. That is an absolute, and it absolutely was not done at the founding of the United States of America.

In America, the reality at the founding of this nation was diametrically opposite. I read those things from the Founders own statements, and they clearly established that they did not want a singular national religion. They clearly knew the historical effects of such an arrangement, so they purposely avoided it, making sure it did not happen. Does that sound to you like God is involved here? Not in the least.

6. Is Christ divided? Paul asked that question in I Corinthians 1. We will make this clear. When people enter into and sign a covenant, a contract, they know before signing their name to the dotted line what their major responsibilities are, to meet for the contract to be legal. That never happened with the United States of America in relation to God.

Luke 14:25-34 [this is the covenant we make with Jesus Christ]
And great multitudes went with Him. And He turned and said to them, “If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. [He is saying, I come first.] And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it—lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it,

all who see it begin to mock him, saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish’? [Are we willing to pay the price in your life to meet them?] Or what king, going to make war against another king, does not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? Or else, while the other is still a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks conditions of peace. So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple. Salt is good, but if the salt has lost its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? it is neither fit for the land nor for the dunghill, but men throw it out. He who has ears to hear let him hear!”

That is pretty clear. Nothing like that occurred at the founding of the United States of America.

I have already stated that no covenant was made between God and the United States of America. I want you to consider how detailed the religious instruction, given by God to Israel is in Exodus, especially in Leviticus. The whole book is detailed of exactly how He wants to be worshipped. Then He goes on to Numbers and Deuteronomy. All those things are added to remind the Israelites of their requirements if they make the covenant with Him. Notice how precise God is regarding the way He wanted Israel to worship Him.

The founders of this nation detailed nothing in regard to religion. Basically, what they said is that you are free to do what you want to do. Look at the way it has become.

I Corinthians 1:10-13 Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing [we shifted gears from the Old Testament, to the New Testament under Jesus Christ, and Paul was appealing to them, commanding them, that they all speak the same things], and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe’s household, that there are contentions among you. Now I say this, that each of you says, “I am of Paul,” or “I am of Apollos,” or “I am of

Cephas,” or “I am of Christ.” Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

We are washing away all the detritus surrounding the founding of the United States and comparing it to the truth of God. This nation was never founded as a Christian nation, it was anything but. It makes one wonder where these conservative Evangelicals are getting their information that makes them think that some how or another God approved of the founding of this nation and their religious system. It never happened.

History shows that doctrinally the American people were almost in total disarray with each citizen constitutionally free to believe as he pleased regarding even the Christian religion. Under such an arrangement unity of belief and practice would be impossible. We can learn something here.

Jude 1-4 Jude, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to those who are called, sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ: Mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you. Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints. For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.

I want to go through this a little bit because Jude verse 3, especially, does not quite say what many people unwittingly think it says. It has Greek and Hebrew terms that express a thought concisely and carefully in those languages but translates rather awkwardly into English, and may require many words to express correctly.

Look at the word or term faith in verse 3. This will give us direction. “Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.” Faith is not being used here by Jude to indicate one’s trust and confidence in either Jesus or the Father. Specifically and personally, it is being used by Jude to

indicate an entire body of beliefs that constitute what Christians believe and practice.

Jude wrote this letter in order to deal with a problem the congregation was having. It was under attack from persuasive false ministers. The members needed to be strengthened so that there could be unity, because their package of belief's was being destroyed, and Jude feared that it might cause them to lose salvation.

Turn to Acts where we will see another term. Not faith, but another term that is being used in exactly the same way that faith is being used in the book of Jude.

Acts 9:1-2 Then Saul [Paul], still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way [definite article here, just like it appears before faith, this time it appears before Way. Way, by itself, could be a path. It is a specifically designated Way, road, or path], whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

Acts 18:25-26 This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord [It is the way that Jesus conducted Himself, the way He obeyed the Father]; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord, though he knew only the baptism of John. So he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.

Way, in these verses, are use in the same collective sense as the faith is used in Jude 3. Therefore faith is being used to indicate the entire body of beliefs that can figure what Christianity consists of. What does this mean in regard to what Jude has written? It does not say what most people thinks it says.

Jude 3 (KJV) Beloved, while I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, and exhort you that you should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

Jude 3 (NKJV) Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.

The New King James is a little bit clearer, sharper. It takes a paraphrase because it is one of those terms that sometimes takes a sentence or two just to explain the one term and make it clear.

Jude 3 (TLB) Dearly loved friends [Jude writes], I had been planning to write you some thoughts about the salvation God has given us, but now I find I must write of something else instead, urging you to stoutly defend the truth that God gave once for all to his people without change through the years.

Who established the doctrines of the Christian church? Jesus Christ did, and He did it one time for all time. The Christian doctrines never change. To change them is to taunt Jesus Christ, their King and their Ruler. I do not think that a Christian wants to do that.

Therefore Jude is saying that Christ gave that body of beliefs, that faith pertaining to salvation, once for all time.

Matthew 16:20 Then He commanded His disciples that they should tell no one that He was Jesus the Christ.

He asked Peter, “Who do you say that I am?” Peter said, “You are the Christ, the Messiah, the Appointed one of God.” I turned here because we can show when this occurred. It was right at this time that Jesus also said, “I will build My church.” The building of the church was still future when Matthew 16 was taking place. It was forming but it was not yet formed.

How do we know when that formation was complete? Acts 2 tell us when it occurred. It was the upon receipt of the Holy Spirit that the church as an institution actually began. It did not begin, even though it was announced, in Matthew 16. It did not actually begin until the Holy Spirit was given, forming it. Thus, by this time the package of doctrines of the church of God

was set in stone, as it were, never to be changed. Jesus said, “I will build My church.” That includes doctrinally as well as with people.

We can know for sure then that the faith of Jesus Christ, upon which our faith is built, is not a living document, as people claim the American Constitution is, so that it needs adjustments to meet the changing times. There is no secret way by which the door of salvation is open, which is what false teachers often claim in order to get converts. When Christ began the church He set the doctrines and they remain the same today and forever as He set them.

Hebrews 1:1-2 God, who at various times and in different ways spoke in the time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds.

Do you know what that is announcing? As far as the church is concerned there is no more authoritative voice than Jesus Christ. He set the doctrine and they were set in stone, as it were, when the Holy Spirit came and the church became an institution.

7. The American citizens, from the time this nation began, did not practice Christianity. It is that simple, that clear. Instead, what did they practice? They followed the dictates of Judges.

Judges 21:25 In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

This is in regard to religion; every man did what was right in their own eyes. This is what America did and America was established simply as a nation of this world and has remained that way ever since. From beginning to right now, we have never ever been Christian, regardless of what the conservatives like to say before the political world and before the citizens of the United States. We do not add up to what God lays down as reasons for founding a church, because we did not practice what Jesus Christ established.

I Samuel 8:9-18 [it is a statement made by God through Samuel, at the time when Israel wanted a change of government] “Now therefore, heed their voice. However, you shall solemnly forewarn them, and show them the behavior of the king who will reign over them.” So Samuel told all the words of the Lord to the people who asked him for a king. And he said, “This will be the behavior of the king who will reign over you: He will take your sons and appoint them for their own chariots and to be his horsemen, and some will run before his chariots. He will appoint captains over his thousands and captains over his fifties, will set some to plow his ground and reap his harvest, and some to make his weapons of war and equipment for his chariots. He will take your daughters to be perfumers, cooks, and bakers. And he will take the best of your fields, your vineyards, and your olive grove, and give them to his servants. He will take a tenth of your grain and your vintage, and give it to his officers and servants. And he will take your male servants, your female servants, and your finest young men, and your donkeys, and put them to his work. He will take a tenth of your sheep. And you will be his servants. And you will cry out in that day because of your king whom you have chosen for yourselves, and the Lord will not hear you in that day.”

I am returning to this passage in order to refresh your memories of what it says. This is God’s warning to the Israelitish people. I am convinced that God preserved this in His Word so that those God calls in future times (Samuel lived a couple thousand years ago but God recorded it for future times), that includes us, we would have a prompting from Him revealing what could surely test us in our lives, and it is happening all over again.

In other words, it was an action the Israelitish people took that created a very certain definite and decidedly negative reaction from God. The action they took was from Him governing them through the judges, like Samuel, to a totally worldly government.

I used verses 1-7, in the first of that series of sermons that I gave in that series, because I wanted to show you that Israel has a biblical history of

desiring governmental change in order to be like the rest of the world. That is the very movement that we are experiencing now in our time. The world has always been appealing to carnal nature.

Despite the historical records of what men's governments overwhelmingly produce, a worldly government is more appealing to the carnal mind than having the unchanging faithful but invisible God ruling over them. This directly points to Israel's problem. The reason having God as king is unappealing is because human nature's carnality has almost no faith in Him.

Mark this in your memory. Faith in God is absolutely critical to a Christian's fulfilling the responsibilities of his calling by God into the church. This is why I began where I began in Genesis 12:1-3, and I made to you clear statements that this is absolutely critical for every Christian to understand. That this is the foundation of our relationship with God, because eventually what those things did was lead to Jesus Christ, who again, established the doctrines of the Christian church. He did it and they were all set before the Holy Spirit was given that institutionalized the church, and it will never change its doctrine. Christ was the one who set them, and there is nobody that knows better what mankind needs in order to be well governed. Human nature has a problem. Human carnality has no faith in God whatsoever.

A bit later I want to give you a precise overview of what Samuel instructs the Israelites as to what would result from this change. Understand that this is not what I would call a normal violent rebellion, when I say this. I am talking about what happened here in I Samuel 8. It was not what I would call a normal violent rebellion.

The Israelites were not truly rebelling against Samuel. He was their visible leader, they actually trusted him personally, but they were very definitely uncomfortable with him being their governor because of his clear connection to God. God Himself makes that clear when He stated, "They have not rejected you, they have rejected Me that I should not rule over them." What that tells us is, the Israelites were not really looking beyond Samuel to God, because if they understood, if they really had the faith, they would understand that God was the one guiding and directing Samuel.

Israel's appeal for change was motivated by their lack of faith. If they really had faith in God they would not have done what they did. That is almost exactly what is taking place in our day. The liberals in the United States of America are openly rejecting the God connection. Even though there is a loose form of a Christian religion in the United States of America, they are openly rejecting any God connection.

In Samuel's day they ask themselves, and each other, who would God replace the great but elderly Samuel with? This is why they were doing what they were doing. That is why God said what He said, "They are not rejecting you, they are rejecting Me." Samuel did not see that at first. He did not grasp it, he took it as personal affront to him. In a way, he was correct, but it took God to straighten Samuel out that it was God they did not trust.

God was looking ahead to Samuel's death. Who would then Samuel be replaced by? If the normal course of events would have occurred and Samuel died, Samuel's sons would have taken over Samuel's office. They were the ones that the people did not trust, they were afraid that God would let them rule. They did not trust God that He would replace Samuel with somebody who would at least be his equal, maybe better. In a sense, He never got the chance because they rejected God, and Samuel died in office.

Again, we have an example here of Israelites rejecting faith in God. The lack of faith dilemma was worked out in the manner that is shown in these chapters though Samuel clearly saw this as a rejection of both God and himself. God Himself registered no solid objections against the change, but at the same time He had Samuel give the protestation contained in verses 10-18 against them, thus making clear what they were bringing on themselves and on their children. The change was not good at all compared to what they were rejecting, but their lack of faith blinded them to this reality.

Moses, as a result of his wisdom, had the foresight to perceive what would happen down the road of time after he was dead. Indeed it happened.

A short explanation of what is happening in this nation. This nation worshipped according to a very weak, incipient form of Christianity, but at least they had that. What has happened over the past seventy-five to a

hundred years, and it is increasing stronger and stronger, is that the secularists—liberals—rejected God outright. We are almost totally governed now by secularists. So criminality is running wild. God foresaw through Moses that this was going to occur.

Deuteronomy 17:14-20 [While Moses was still alive writing the book of Deuteronomy during the last month of his life, God inspired him to write down rules for kings] “When you come to the land which the Lord your God is giving you, and possess it and dwell in it, and say, ‘I will set a king over me like all the nations that are around me,’ [God knew this would come, that Israel was going to want a king that they could look at and say, this is my king. They wanted to tell others so they could see their king. They did not have any faith. They wanted to be like everybody else, they do not admire the people who have godly character.] You shall surely set a king over you whom the Lord your God chooses; one from among your brethren you shall set as king over you; you may not set a foreigner over you who is not your brother. [Obama was not a real American, not an Israelite. He spent most of his years outside the United States, and that did not work out.]

But he shall not multiply horses for himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt to multiply horses, for the Lord has said to you, ‘You shall not return that way again.’ Neither shall he multiply wives for himself, lest his heart turn away; nor shall he greatly multiply silver and gold for himself. Also it shall be, when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write for himself a copy of this law in a book, from the one before the priests, the Levites. And it shall be with him, and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the Lord his God and be careful to observe all the words of this law and these statutes, that his heart may not be lifted above his brethren, that he may not turn aside from the commandment to the right and or to the left, and that he may prolong his days in his kingdom, he and his children in the midst of Israel.”

The Israelitish people are to be ruled by an Israelite. There are cautions here about not being a foreigner, not multiplying horses. What were horses used

for in those days? They were an offensive weapon; they were part and parcel of a standing army. He is telling them not to have a standing army. Why? Because of the carnal nature of the president. If the president is going to have an agenda and if he has a standing army, it is something that he can lean upon to get his way through threats. I am not saying that he is going to do that, I am saying that the possibility is there. To make sure that they really get it, he said you shall not go back to Egypt and get horses. In other words, learn from them the use of a horse. Or learn from them by loaning your people out as mercenaries.

He is not to get rich in office, or because of his office. Look how rich the Clintons are right now. They are worth hundreds of millions of dollars because after they left office. They began to cash in on the influence they had in the Obama term.

You have to learn to fear God. A person does not do that by nature because the carnal nature does not fear God of and by itself. Just to give you an idea about how far the carnal nature is from fearing God, my prime example here are Adam and Eve. When they were created, when God breathed into them the breath of life, He became their teacher, He became their example, so they had a relationship with God all to themselves, in which He gave them the best instructions that any people on earth had ever had.

He was the best relationship those people ever had on earth. They were intimate with Him in terms of not having the influence of others to wean them away from their relationship with God, and what do we find out? Apparently the first time they were in a position where they could sin, they did. Even though He was giving them good vibrations the entire time, the carnal nature did not respond by nature to His goodness.

To me, they are my prime example of carnal nature not fearing God. Every good influence was given to them and they rejected it when they had a desire within them that was more powerful and they could not fight it back.

As I began preparing this sermon I really needed to put what is happening here in the United States of America during our lifetime, in fact, in all Israelitish nations and pretty much at the same time, into a much larger picture, especially timewise. I do not want you to forget this principle that

appears in Deuteronomy 32. It is just a principle that is there about how far ahead God thinks.

Deuteronomy 32:7-9 [Moses told the people] “Remember the days of old, Consider the years of many generations. Ask your father, and he will show you; your elders, and they will tell you: When the Most High divided their inheritance to the nations, when He separated the sons of Adam, He set the boundaries of the peoples according to the number of the children of Israel. For the Lord’s portion is His people; Jacob is the place of His inheritance.”

I do not want us to forget the vital principle that Moses is teaching here. It is that events, as vital to the quality of life as the Israelites were involved in then, just does not happen in a vacuum. What Moses is saying here is, what you are doing right now, in Moses’ day, was triggered by what God did a thousand or more years ago. It has led up to what occurred in the last sixty-five or seventy years in the United States of America.

What Moses said here is indeed true, and therefore what I built the remainder of this sermon on. In like manner, with what Moses says here, we are dealing with a reality that has been in progress here in the entire Western world, for centuries of time. What happened at the founding of the United States had already been preceded by what occurred in Europe, and what happened in the United States in the founding of this country was just another step in what had begun hundreds of years before.

What I am going to do is, reexamine an overview of what we are living through right now, so that we can grasp that what Moses said is indeed true, and we are going to go through that in another sermon, because it is important that we understand that what we are living through right now actually began probably pretty close to a thousand years before. That we entered into the preparations for what we are now living through.