



# The Stand

Compiled by God and Recorded by  
“The Phoenix” – “The White Horseman” – “The Lion King” – “The Man”.

[www.phoenixseven.org/archive5/](http://www.phoenixseven.org/archive5/)

**Who *is* as the wise *man* ? and who knoweth the interpretation of a thing? a man's wisdom maketh his face to shine, and the boldness of his face shall be changed. - Ecclesiastes 8:1**

**And the teachers {and} those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament,**

**and those who turn many to righteousness (to uprightness and right standing with God) [shall give forth light] like the stars forever and ever.**

**But you, O Daniel, shut up the words and seal the Book until the time of the end.**

**[Then] many shall run to and fro {and} search anxiously [through the Book], and knowledge [of God's purposes as revealed by His prophets] shall be increased {and} become great. - Daniel 12:3-4 (Amplified)**

**Fight the good fight of faith,**

**lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses. - 1 Timothy 6:12**

**Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.**

**For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away *their* ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.**

**But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry. - 2 Timothy 4:2-5**

**And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove *them* . For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret.**

**But all things that are reproved are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light. - Ephesians 5:11-13**

***“And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them” .***

**And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer. - Revelation 6:2.**

***“the unfruitful works of darkness”***

***“he went forth conquering, and to conquer”.***

From JFB Revelation 6:2:

**2. Evidently Christ, whether in person, or by His angel, preparatory to His coming again, as appears from #Re 19:11, 12|. **bow--** (#Ps 45:4, 5|).**

**crow**n--Greek, "*stephanos*," the garland or wreath of a conqueror, which is also implied by His *white horse*, white being the emblem of victory.

(end of excerpt)

Now the precept of "the messenger", "the angel of God"... "APOSTLE". Of which my ordination given to me by Jesus Christ.

**And my temptation which was in my flesh ye despised not, nor rejected; but received me as an angel of God, even as Christ Jesus.** - Galatians 4:14

aggelos ang'-el-os from aggello (probably derived from 71; compare 34) (to bring tidings); a messenger; especially an "angel"; by implication, a pastor:--angel, messenger.

**“Aggelos”**

**“Apostolos”**

**“Eliakim”**

**“A Shepherd”**

**“The Lion King”.**

**“The Phoenix”.**

**“The White Horseman”.**

apostolos ap-os'-tol-os from 649; a delegate; specially, an ambassador of the Gospel; officially a commissioner of Christ ("apostle") --apostle, messenger, he that is sent.

And Now From Clarke:

Verse 2. *A white horse*] Supposed to represent the *Gospel system*, and pointing out its excellence, swiftness, and purity.

*He that sat on him*] Supposed to represent *Jesus Christ*. *A bow*] The *preaching of the Gospel*, darting *conviction* into the hearts of sinners.

*A crown*] The emblem of the *kingdom* which Christ is to establish on earth.

*Conquering, and to conquer.*] Overcoming and confounding the *Jews* first, and then the *Gentiles*; spreading more and more the doctrine and influence of the cross over the face of the earth.

**And that, knowing the time, that now *it is* high time to awake out of sleep: for now *is* our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. - Romans 13:11-12**

**Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. - Ephesians 5:14**

It is now 4:07 am, the fourth watch, the 18th day of January in the year of Our Lord Jesus Christ 2007. Blessed is the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. For there is no name under the Heavens or on Earth that one might be saved.

To the Glory of God and My Lord Jesus Christ, The Messiah, The Holy One, and the advancement of the Kingdom of God.

Amen.

Read this message in it's entirety.

This is not exactly what I thought we would be covering this morning. But once again, it never is... now as God so guides, let us continue.

Glory to God. Him alone, and MY LORD Jesus Christ.

***It is the glory of God to conceal a thing:***

but the honour of kings *is* to search out a matter. The heaven for height, and the earth for depth, and the heart of kings *is* unsearchable.

Take away the dross from the silver, and there shall come forth a vessel for the finer. Take away the wicked *from* before the king, and his throne shall be established in righteousness. - Proverbs 25:2-5

An excerpt from the Elijah's Mantle Series "The Four Faces", of many months ago:

***God will not always give you what you want, But He Always Gives You What You Need".***

***"The Four Faces".***

***As God has had me write to you, previously, these four faces "are all a reflection of me". And the Guardians of the Gate. Follow along as to what He has revealed to me this very morning:***

***(For additional reading see Elijah's Mantle, "The Tabernacle of God")***

***The Lion. The Standard for the Tribe of Judah. A Lion.***

***From Hitchcock Bible Names<sup>JUDAH</sup> the praise of the Lord***

***The Man. The Standard for the Tribe of Reuben.***

***From Hitchcock Bible Names: <sup>REUBEN</sup> who sees the son; the vision of the son.)***

***Or "The Man Who Sees The Son". "The Vision of the Son".***

***The Ox. The Standard for the Tribe of Ephraim.***

***From Hitchcock Bible Names: <sup>EPHRAIM</sup> fruitful; increasing***

***The Eagle. The Standard of Dan.***

***From Hitchcock Bible Names: <sup>DAN</sup> judgment; he that judges***

***“The Four Faces”.***

***“It is the Glory of God to Conceal a Thing”.***

(end of excerpt)

As God so prompts this very morning...“The Four Faces of Me”.

“The Lion King”.

“The Man”

“The White Horseman”.

“The Phoenix”

It is why, as God now so prompts, all these in scripture are related one to another.

It is the Glory of God to Conceal a Thing.

Glory to God. Him alone, and MY LORD Jesus Christ. And to the Advancement of the Kingdom of God.

Glory to God. Him alone, and MY LORD Jesus Christ. And to the Advancement of the Kingdom of God.

“The Stand”.

**“The Lion King”. - The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it. - Daniel 7:4**

**“The Man” - The hand of the LORD was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones, And caused me to pass by them round about: and, behold, *there were* very many in the open valley; and, lo, *they were* very dry.**

**And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord GOD, thou knowest. Again he said unto me, Prophecy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus saith the Lord GOD unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live: <sup>6</sup>And I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I *am* the LORD.**

**So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone. And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above: but *there was* no breath in them.**

**Then said he unto me, Prophecy unto the wind, prophecy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.**

**So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army. - Ezekiel 37:1-10**

**“The White Horseman”. - **But all things that are reprov'd are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light.** - Ephesians 5:11-13**

**And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer. - Revelation 6:2.**

***“the unfruitful works of darkness”***

**“he went forth conquering, and to conquer”.**

**“The Phoenix” - Then I said, I shall die in my nest, and [as the Phoenix] I shall multiply *my* days as the sand.**

**My root was spread out by the waters, and the dew lay all night upon my branch. My glory was fresh in me, and my bow was renewed in my hand. Unto me *men* gave ear, and waited, and kept silence at my counsel. After my words they spake not again; and my speech dropped upon them. And they waited for me as for the rain;**

**and they opened their mouth wide as for the latter rain.**

***If* I laughed on them, they believed *it* not; and the light of my countenance they cast not down.**

**I chose out their way, and sat chief, and dwelt as a king in the army, as one *that* comforteth the mourners. - Job 29:18-25**

All of this relates to what you call “The Time of the End”, “The End Times”, the “Time of the Harvest”.

But most of all of this a “Shepherd”, “A Servant” to you, to stand for you...to protect the flock from the “wolves”, and as Special Messenger to My Lord Jesus Christ. As God so prompted so many many months ago in a writing here at Phoenix Seven: To Restore: The Lost, To Teach, and To Bind those that will not hear.

It is why, as God now so prompts once again, all these in scripture are related one to another.

**I chose out their way, and sat chief, and dwelt as a king in the army, as one *that* comforteth the mourners.**

**But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give**

**his life a ransom for many.** - The Gospel According to Matthew 20:26-27

**I chose out their way, and sat chief, and dwelt as a king in the army, as one that comforteth the mourners.**

The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it. - Daniel 7:4

**I chose out their way, and sat chief, and dwelt as a king in the army, as one that comforteth the mourners.**

So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, **an exceeding great army.** - Ezekiel 37:10

Then I said, I shall die in my nest, and [as the Phoenix] I shall multiply *my* days as the sand.

My root was spread out by the waters, and the dew lay all night upon my branch. My glory was fresh in me, **and my bow** was renewed in my hand.

And I saw, and behold a white horse: **and he that sat on him had a bow;** and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer. - Revelation 6:2.

As to the Phoenix:

Then I said, I shall die in my nest, and [as the Phoenix] I shall multiply *my* days as the sand.

**sand** — (Gen 22:17; Hab 1:9). But the *Septuagint* and *Vulgate*, and Jewish interpreters, favor the translation, “the phoenix bird.” “Nest” in the parallel clause supports the reference to a bird.

All of this relates to what you call “The Time of the End”, “The End Times”, the “Time of the Harvest”.

As to Apostle “Angel” and as My Lord so first told me **“A Reaper”**:

**Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.** - The Gospel According to Matthew 13:30

**As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.** - The Gospel According to Matthew 13:40-42

The furnace of fire... “Tribulation”.

*“But most of all of this a “Shepherd”, “A Servant” to you, to stand for you...to protect the flock from the “wolves”, and as Special Messenger to My Lord Jesus Christ. As God so prompted so many many months ago in a writing here at Phoenix Seven: **To Restore: The Lost, To Teach, and To Bind those that will not hear.**”*

All of this relates to what you call “The Time of the End”, “The End Times”, the “Time of the Harvest”.

**To Restore: The Lost,**

And the teachers {and} those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament,

**and those who turn many to righteousness (to uprightness and right standing with God) [shall give forth light] like the stars forever and ever.**

**But you, O Daniel, shut up the words and seal the Book until the time of the end.**

**[Then] many shall run to and fro {and} search anxiously [through the Book], and knowledge [of God's purposes as revealed by His prophets] shall be increased {and} become great. - Daniel 12:3-4 (Amplified)**

Now as God now so prompts. He has given you free will. The ability of Choice.

**To Restore: The Lost, or To Bind those that will not hear.**

You have free will. The ability of choice. "The Choice is yours. He now says, "Which Will It Be".

He says, what you choose will determine the teaching part? ...Ok... Glory to God He sure don't miss a lick!

**"Wild Horses Take Rein"**

"Wild Horses", which will it be.

Now as to this next God says follow along very closely:

All of this relates to what you call "The Time of the End", "The End Times", the "Time of the Harvest".

**Ask ye of Jehovah rain in the time of the latter rain, *even of* Jehovah that maketh lightnings; and he will give them showers of rain, to every one grass in the field. For the teraphim have spoken vanity, and the diviners have seen a lie; and they have told false dreams, they comfort in vain: therefore they go their way like sheep, they are afflicted, because there is no shepherd.**

**Mine anger is kindled against the shepherds, and I will punish the he-goats;**

for Jehovah of hosts hath visited his flock, the house of Judah, and will make them as his goodly horse in the battle. From him shall come forth the corner-stone, from him the nail, from him the battle bow, from him every ruler together.

And they shall be as mighty men, treading down *their enemies* in the mire of the streets in the battle; and they shall fight, because Jehovah is with them; and the riders on horses shall be confounded. And I will strengthen the house of Judah, and I will save the house of Joseph, and I will bring them back; for I have mercy upon them; and they shall be as though I had not cast them off: for I am Jehovah their God, and I will hear them. - Zechariah 10:1-6

As He has had me tell you in past writings, he rebuilding of the Church, "The Tabernacle of David". The relaying of that "firm foundation", that you have so messed up with your doctrines and traditions of men. You "idols" of understanding. Relaying once more "The Tried Stone".

**"From him shall come forth the corner-stone",**

Wherefore hear the word of the LORD, ye scornful men, that rule this people which *is* in Jerusalem. Because ye have said, We have made a covenant with death, and with hell are we at agreement; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, it shall not come unto us: for we have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood have we hid ourselves:

Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, **Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone , a sure foundation:** he that believeth shall not make haste.

[The relaying of that "firm foundation", that you have so messed up with your doctrines and traditions of men. You "idols" of understanding. Relaying once more "The Tried Stone". The first clue to you should have been, this all speaks of the times of the harvest.

The End Times. And that scripture before, never called Jesus Christ a tried stone. The Chief Cornerstone yes, but not the tried stone. A stone the Builders rejected, yes, and a stone of stumbling for some and a rock of offense, but not a tried stone. One that has been tried before, and as tried by fire. Only in this passage does it call Jesus Christ a tried stone. The Apostles and teachers of the Early Church did not. But then again, one more clue...it was never a "consumption" UPON THE WHOLE EARTH BEFORE.]

**Judgment also will I lay to the line, and righteousness to the plummet: and the hail shall sweep away the refuge of lies, and the waters shall overflow the hiding place. And your covenant with death shall be disannulled, and your agreement with hell shall not stand; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, then ye shall be trodden down by it. From the time that it goeth forth it shall take you: for morning by morning shall it pass over, by day and by night: and it shall be a vexation only to understand the report. For the bed is shorter than that *a man* can stretch himself *on it*: and the covering narrower than that he can wrap himself *in it*. For the LORD shall rise up as *in* mount Perazim, he shall be wroth as *in* the valley of Gibeon, that he may do his work, his strange work; and bring to pass his act, his strange act.**

**Now therefore be ye not mockers, lest your bands be made strong: for I have heard from the Lord GOD of hosts a consumption, even determined upon the whole earth.**

**Give ye ear, and hear my voice; hearken, and hear my speech.**

**Doth the plowman plow all day to sow? doth he open and break the clods of his ground? When he hath made plain the face thereof, doth he not cast abroad the fitches, and scatter the cummin, and cast in the principal wheat and the appointed barley and the rie in their place?**

**For his God doth instruct him to discretion, *and* doth teach him.**

**For the fitches are not threshed with a threshing instrument, neither is a cart wheel turned about upon the cummin; but the fitches are beaten out with a staff, and the cummin with a rod. Bread *corn* is bruised; because he will not ever be threshing it, nor break *it with* the wheel of his cart, nor bruise it *with* his horsemen.**

**This also cometh forth from the LORD of hosts, *which is wonderful in counsel, and excellent in working.* - Isaiah 28:14-29**

All of this relates to what you call "The Time of the End", "The End Times", the "Time of the Harvest".

But you don't have eyes to see... nor ears to hear.

***To Restore: The Lost, or To Bind those that will not hear.***

You have free will. The ability of choice. "The Choice is yours. He now says, "Which Will It Be".

He says, what you choose will determine the teaching part? ...Ok... Glory to God He sure don't miss a lick!

**"Wild Horses Take Rein"**

"Wild Horses", which will it be.

But you don't have eyes to see... nor ears to hear.

But you don't have eyes to see... nor ears to hear.

"This is all Grace".

Something with your doctrines and traditions and your division, have trod upon and didn't deserve in the first place.

But you don't have eyes to see... nor ears to hear.

“This is all Grace”.

Until you make that choice. To stand or to fall.

You have to choose. God so asks:

Prophecy.... Prophecy...

**“I AM The Lord Thy God. YHVH. This is No Deception. Choose This Day, Which Will It Be”.**

For many of you in the first time of your life, your going to be TRULLY “Christian”. By “The Book” and not your false doctrines and traditions. This is what this all means.

You have been given a choice.

As Apostle and Special Messenger To my Lord Jesus Christ, I suggest you make the most of it.

**To Restore: The Lost, or To Bind those that will not hear.”**

You have free will. The ability of choice. “The Choice is yours. He now says,

**“Which Will It Be”.**

For many of you in the first time of your life, your going to be TRULLY “Christian”. By “The Book” and not your false doctrines and traditions. Nor Complacency. This is what this all means.

Prophecy... Prophecy...

## **“I AM The Lord Thy God. YHVH. This is No Deception. Choose This Day, Which Will It Be”.**

God now so prompts... I will be waiting... “In The Wings”. Setting my Watch, waiting your answer, to determine... “If I Teach”.

Free from denomination false doctrine and traditions of mere men.

“True Christianity”. As He has taught, and teaches me.

For many of you in the first time of your life, your going to be TRULLY “Christian”. By “The Book” and not your false doctrines and traditions. Nor Complacency. This is what this all means.

Prophecy... Prophecy...

## **“I AM The Lord Thy God. YHVH. This is No Deception. Choose This Day, Which Will It Be”.**

What else can I say?

Which Will It Be?

This is not exactly what I thought we would be covering this morning. But once again, it never is...

Glory to God. Him alone, and MY LORD Jesus Christ.

And the Advancement of the Kingdom of God.

Sometimes... you just have to take

“The Stand”.

**For I will be unto Ephraim as a lion, and as a young lion to the house of Judah: I, even I, will tear and**

**go away; I will take away, and none shall rescue *him* . I will go and return to my place, till they acknowledge their offence, and seek my face:**

**in their affliction they will seek me early.** - Hosea 5:14-15

**The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it. - Daniel 7:4**

The Messenger. Of the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, My Lord Jesus Christ. Whom I serve.

**Open thy doors, O Lebanon, that the fire may devour thy cedars. Howl, fir tree; for the cedar is fallen; because the mighty are spoiled: howl, O ye oaks of Bashan; for the forest of the vintage is come down.**

***There is* a voice of the howling of the shepherds; for their glory is spoiled: a voice of the roaring of young lions; for the pride of Jordan is spoiled.**

**Thus saith the LORD my God; Feed the flock of the slaughter; Whose possessors slay them, and hold themselves not guilty: and they that sell them say, Blessed be the LORD; for I am rich: and their own shepherds pity them not** - Zechariah 11:1-5

**Therefore is the anger of the LORD kindled against his people, and he hath stretched forth his hand against them, and hath smitten them: and the hills did tremble, and their carcasses were torn in the midst of the streets. For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand *is* stretched out still.**

**And he will lift up an ensign to the nations from far, and will hiss unto them from the end of the earth: and, behold, they shall come with speed swiftly:**

**None shall be weary nor stumble among them; none shall slumber nor sleep; neither shall the girdle of their loins be loosed, nor the latchet of their shoes be broken:**

**Whose arrows *are* sharp, and all their bows bent, their horses' hoofs shall be counted like flint, and their wheels like a whirlwind:**

**Their roaring *shall be like a lion, they shall roar like young lions:* yea, they shall roar, and lay hold of the prey, and shall carry *it* away safe, and none shall deliver *it* .**

**And in that day they shall roar against them like the roaring of the sea: and if *one* look unto the land, behold darkness *and* sorrow, and the light is darkened in the heavens thereof. - Isaiah 5:25-30**

Sometimes... you just have to take

“The Stand”.

**“The Phoenix”**

**“The White Horseman”.**

**“The Man”**

**“The Lion King”.**

**“My Servant”**

**“I Give Him The Morning Star”.**

**“Eliakim Stands”.**

My Lord,... My Lord Jesus Christ, and God the Father...

“I Your Servant, Take That Stand”.

**“Feed the flock of the slaughter; Whose possessors slay them, and hold themselves not guilty: and they that sell them say, Blessed be the LORD; for I am rich: and their own shepherds pity them not”**

Now in closing...as God so prompts...

**Let brotherly love continue.**

**Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares** - Hebrews 13:1-2

“And The Greatest of All Is Love”.

**Rescue those who are being taken away to death; hold back those who are stumbling to the slaughter.**

If you say, "Behold, we did not know this," does not he who weighs the heart perceive it? Does not he who keeps watch over your soul know it, and will he not requite man according to his work? - Proverbs 24:11-12

***“It is the glory of God to conceal a thing:***

**but the honour of kings *is* to search out a matter. The heaven for height, and the earth for depth, and the heart of kings *is* unsearchable. “**

“And The Greatest of All Is Love”.

Confused yet?

Hint: This is not the separation of the sheep and the goats, as in on the right and on the left. That occurs at the “End of the World”, or as you might say the END OF THAT AGE. After Satan has been loosed for a season. After the Millennial Reign.

What this is, is a chance for you to take a stand.

A great opportunity of grace. Before the Season's of Refreshing, get into full swing.

What then does this make me...?

An Evangelist. A Shepherd. An Apostle.

Raised by God.

"The Phoenix"

"The Lion King"

"The White Horseman"

"The Man"

"Sent, raised by God to clean up, fix **your mess...**"

False Doctrine. Division. Traditions of Men. Uncleaness.

As my Lord now so prompts... Prophecy... Prophecy...

**"THE REPAIRER OF THE BREACH".**

For many of you in the first time of your life, your going to be TRULLY "Christian". By "The Book" and not your false doctrines and traditions. Nor Complacency. This is what this all means.

Prophecy... Prophecy...

**"I AM The Lord Thy God. YHVH. This is No Deception. Choose This Day, Which Will It Be".**

What else can I say?

Which Will It Be?

It is now 3:44 pm, the 18th day of January in the year of Our Lord Jesus Christ 2007. Blessed is the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. For there is no name under the Heavens or on Earth that one might be saved.

To the Glory of God and My Lord Jesus Christ, The Messiah, The Holy One, and the advancement of the Kingdom of God.

Amen.

The following article just arrived in my email box this afternoon. Perhaps it may shed a bit more insight, but it is still far far worse than most of you can see, or most of you think:

CHRISTIAN VISION PROJECT

## An Upside-Down World

*Distinguishing between home and mission field no longer makes sense.*

Christopher J. H. Wright | posted 1/18/2007 08:45AM

*In 2007, CT and our sister magazines will be tackling a new "big question" with the Christian Vision Project, our ongoing series exploring major issues facing the church in the 21st century. In 2006, we focused on the church and culture. Now we turn our attention to mission and to the question, **What must we learn, and unlearn, to be agents of God's mission in the world?** Chris Wright is the international director of Langham Partnership, known in the U.S. as John Stott Ministries. Founded to equip and train pastors and leaders in the majority world, the organization provides Wright with a front-row seat to the extraordinary changes taking place in global Christianity. His most recent book, *The Mission of God: Unlocking the Bible's Grand Narrative* (InterVarsity, 2006), is a tour de force of biblical scholarship and mission theology. Here he argues that much of our learning, and unlearning, will be a rediscovery of Christianity's beginnings.*

**The map of global christianity that our grandparents knew has been turned upside down. At the start of the 20th century, only ten percent of the world's Christians lived in the continents of the south and east. Ninety percent lived in North America and Europe, along with Australia and New Zealand. But at the start of the 21st century, at least 70**

percent of the world's Christians live in the non-Western world—more appropriately called the majority world.

More Christians worship in Anglican churches in Nigeria each week than in all the Episcopal and Anglican churches of Britain, Europe, and North America combined. There are more Baptists in Congo than in Britain. More people in church every Sunday in communist China than in all of Western Europe. Ten times more Assemblies of God members in Latin America than in the U.S.

The old peripheries are now the center. The old centers are now on the periphery. Philip Jenkins brought this shift to popular attention in *The Next Christendom*. Yet many Christian leaders of the global South resent the implication in Jenkins's title. They have no desire to be another "Christendom"—wielding monolithic territorial and political power. Nor do they wish to be any kind of threat to the West, but rather to help Western Christians in the struggle to shift from survival mode to mission mode—in their own lands.

Can the West be re-evangelized? Only if we unlearn our default ethnocentric assumptions about "real" Christianity (our own) and unlearn our blindness to the ways Western Christianity is infected by cultural idolatry. It may be more blessed to give than to receive, but it is often harder to receive than to give. That reverses the polarity of patron and client and makes us uncomfortably aware that what Jesus said to the Laodicean church might apply to us in the West: "You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked" (Rev. 3:17).

### **Normal Christianity**

Most of the learning and unlearning we must do in this new era is no more than relearning the original nature of biblical Christianity, which very quickly became polycentric. Acts 1:8 can give the impression that the early church spread out in ripples, from Jerusalem to Judea to Samaria to the ends of the earth. But in fact, Acts tells a more complicated story. Antioch was where followers of Jesus were first called Christians, and it became the center of westward-oriented missionary work. Paul saw Thessalonica as a radiating center for the message in Macedonia and Achaia. Ephesus clearly became a key metropolis for Christian witness in Asia Minor. Paul was eager to make Rome a base for planned work further to the west in Spain. Jerusalem was simply one center among many.

Christianity has never had a territorial center. Our center is the person of Christ, and wherever he is known, there is another potential center of faith and witness. So, as mission historian Andrew Walls has said, the emergence of genuine world Christianity and the ending of Western assumptions of heartland hegemony simply marks a return to normal Christianity, which looks much more like the New Testament than Christendom ever did.

### **Multidirectional Mission**

With the growth of the multinational church, mission is becoming multidirectional. The U.S. remains the largest single contributor of Protestant cross-cultural missionaries. But which country is the second largest? Not a Western nation, but India. And it is possible

that India has overtaken the States in the number of those involved in truly cross-cultural mission—both within and beyond India. There are many more Korean missionaries than British, and some Nigerian evangelical mission organizations are larger in personnel than most Western ones (while operating on budgets that are a fraction of their Western counterparts). Already, 50 percent of all Protestant missionaries in the world come from non-Western countries, and the proportion is increasing annually. So you are as likely to meet a Brazilian missionary in North Africa as a British missionary in Brazil. Indeed, the ratio of Indian missionaries to Western missionaries in India today is probably 100 to 1. Mission today is from everywhere, to everywhere.

So another piece of unlearning we must do is breaking the habit of using the term *mission field* to refer to everywhere else in the world except our home country in the West. The language of *home* and *mission field* is still used by many churches and agencies, but it fundamentally misrepresents reality. Not only does it perpetuate a patronizing view of the rest of the world as always being on the receiving end of our missionary largesse, but it also fails to recognize the maturity of churches in many other lands.

Christianity probably reached India before it reached Britain. There was a flourishing church in Ethiopia a century before Patrick evangelized Ireland. There were churches in Eastern Europe centuries before Europeans reached the shores of North America. There have been large Christian communities in the Middle East for 2,000 years.

So it is discourteous (at best) and damaging (at worst) when Western mission activity ignores all such ancient expressions of the Christian tradition and lumps all lands abroad as the "mission field," in comfortable neglect of the fact that the rest of the world church sees the West as one of the toughest mission fields in the world today.

This is not, of course, to suggest that countries of ancient Christian churches need no evangelism, any more than we would exclude nominal Western Christians from the need to hear the true gospel. But the real mission boundary is not between "Christian countries" and "the mission field," but between faith and unbelief, and that is a boundary that runs through every land and, indeed, through every local street.

### **Normal Mission**

In this, too, we will be relearning the multidirectional nature of mission in the Book of Acts. Our preoccupation with concentric circles has obscured the more complex pattern of mission and movement that Luke shows us in Acts

Perhaps, Perhaps...you may begin to see just a small amount of what I "See".

"Where There Is No Vision, The People Perish".

"Upside Down"?. You don't even know the half of it.

***But the real mission boundary is not between "Christian countries" and "the mission field," but between faith and unbelief, and that is a boundary that runs through every land and, indeed, through every local street".***

***"What must we learn, and unlearn, to be agents of God's mission in the world?"***

In all fairness, I applaud and praise the author of the article. May God continue to grant Him even more insight in the days to come.

"This article first appeared in (1/18/07) issue of **Christianity Today**. Used by permission of Christianity Today International, Carol Stream, IL 60188."

**For many of you in the first time of your life, your going to be TRULLY "Christian". By "The Book" and not your false doctrines and traditions. Nor Complacency. This is what this all means.**

Now something, a quotation for you to reflect upon DEEPLY:

**There is a line, by us unseen,  
That crosses every path;  
The hidden boundary between  
God's patience and His Wrath.**

**-Joseph Addison Alexander –**

Step Out of Your Idolistic Comfort Zone.

**"Come Out And Be Ye Separate"**

**Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? 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 Corinthians 6:14-18**

**Turn you to the strong hold, ye prisoners of hope:**

**even to day do I declare *that* I will render double unto thee;  
When I have bent Judah for me, filled the bow with Ephraim, and raised up thy sons, O Zion, against thy sons, O Greece, and made thee as the sword of a mighty man.**

**And the LORD shall be seen over them, and his arrow shall go forth as the lightning: and the Lord GOD shall blow the trumpet, and shall go with whirlwinds of the south. - Zechariah 9:12-14**