

His Story ≈ History

Chapter 1: A Little Critique

For Yuri's Persuasive Writing Essay

"It was a night... like no other! You could barely see the moon; and if you stared really hard, it was like looking through a gunnysack at a blood-red object! That was because of the billowing smoke from the cannons that the Roman armies had brought to strike at Jerusalem's thick walls and also from the fires in the buildings, being suffocated by a lake of human blood—blood that had been pooling in the streets. ...And the stench! ...You just can-not imagine!

"But, a most amazing, riveting event took place that night; an event that stole the attention of literally everyone at Jerusalem and ubiquitously the whole world at the same moment in time!

"The year was C.E. seventy and Titus with his battalions had the city of Jerusalem surrounded by armies from literally every nation on earth! They were the Roman/Assyrian one-world-Empire!

"Emperor Vespasian had begun the Judean attacks while he was general for the former Emperor Nero in hopes of ending their often revolts, but suddenly changed his mind upon learning of Nero's death. Hearing the news and knowing he would likely be chosen to replace Nero; Vespasian dropped his plans for Judaea and hurried back to Rome! It was a tough toss-up; but Vespasian was finally crowned Emperor and his son Titus was then commissioned his General—who would continue the siege against the cities of Israel.

"Before the coming of Titus to Jerusalem, Hadassah—the glory of this great city and its surroundings was an awesome sight to behold! A city that had been so blessed—blessed by the God of the Hebrews: the one and only true God!

"She was a city set on a hill with her fertile fields and groves of trees for miles around! "exclaimed Yuri, raising his arms forward and waving them as if swimming, "and with the Temple of The Lord ominous in shining splendor—she was both the envy and the joy of all the earth! This city was surrounded by three walls, except in those places where it would be inaccessible because of steep drop-offs. On the inner wall there were sixty towers; the middle wall had fourteen; and built-into the outer wall there were ninety towers; and the outer towers were built of huge blocks of white marble, and gave a most majestic appearance to the city! One of those towers was built as a hexagon and was one hundred thirty-five feet high and commanded a most beautiful view that you could see—even to the Mediterranean on a clear day.

"And, there was an ancient prophecy, Hadassah... saying that as soon as this tower was destroyed... their temple would become foursquare... and when the temple became foursquare, the City and their Temple would be taken; and around that same time—one from their country would become governor of the habitable earth.

"Can you see what that would mean, Hadassah?" asked Yuri as he noticed her squint really hard as if trying to visualize something. "It would mean that it was only a short time after the destruction of that tower, that Jesus Christ became King of the earth, reigning in His First Dominion that Micah prophesied about.

"Oooh-kaay?" Responded Hadassah and insisted that Yuri hurry-on.

He talked about how Jerusalem's Feast Days and Sabbaths were held in such high regard that seekers came from one end of earth to the other to offer sacrifices to the Most-High God and enjoy the festivities along with a most affable people who inhabited that city!

"And now," exclaimed Yuri, talking with both hands, "it was the week of the Passover Feast; and gathered at Jerusalem there were Jews and proselytes by the hundreds of thousands... men and women from every nation on earth! The high-rise hotels were crammed full....."

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“Hold it, Yuri!” said Hadassah: “How do you know all this—not having taken any Ancient History?! And by the way, Yuri—you haven’t shared with me the title of your paper!”

“Oh—I’m sorry,” apologized Yuri, dropping his notes on the desk and looking directly at her. “At the beginning of my research, Hadassah, I wanted to call it ‘The Revelation of the Christ—Forty Years Following the Passion of The Christ;’ but then, I thought... that was just too long; so I’ve called it ‘His Story equals History’ and that’s because I’ve found that all conventional history has been made-up by every nation since the beginning of the Gentile Age; and true history of the Dark ages had been chopped-out and hidden by religious and governmental organizations of the early Medieval Ages! But by careful examination of the ancient prophecies, Hadassah... paired with archaeological finds and recent scientific discoveries—you can see clearly the true history of the world during that time.

“And, as far as my knowledge of those early Ages, Hadassah—it’s easy! In making research, I’ve read from the geographies of Strabo and Poseidonius, besides the histories of Josephus and some of Tacitus; but most of the descriptions I’ve just given of Jerusalem are right there in the Bible! You just have to do individual searches to catch the picture. But you also, hav’ta realize that at the time our versions of the Bible were written... there were no words in our language for the objects of forgotten technologies!

“For example: in getting a little history of the Day of Pentecost... “Oh! Well—you do have to have a good Bible program installed on your computer with Strong’s Concordance and Dictionaries of the Hebrew and Greek languages. Then, let’s say—for your geography class you want to find out how many nations were represented at the Feast of Pentecost on the day that the Holy Ghost was poured-out upon Christ’s followers. ...If you make a search of the word ‘Pentecost’ you’ll find that Luke, the writer of the book *The Acts of the Apostles*—gave a list of nations that were represented at the scene of the outpouring of the Holy Ghost on that day, and they all heard the disciples of Jesus speaking the wonderful works of God in their own tongue!”

“Did you do that, Yuri,” inquired Hadassah ... “I mean—have you made that search, and have you checked out any other ancient geographers to see if there were others who had matching lists for those days?”

“Oh yes, Hadassah! I went online researching the words ‘ancient geography’ and found that a fairly modern Bible scholar named Bruce Metzger had made the same study and quoted from an ancient astrologer Paulus Alexandrinus who lived in the latter part of the fourth century C.E., whose list was similar to that in the book of Acts! It appears the lists of countries have something to do with the twelve Astrological Divisions of earth; and there were representatives from each of those areas that were present in Jerusalem at that time!

“And for anyone acquainted with the Septuagint, Hadassah—the idea of the division of nations according to heavenly bodies—seems to be accounted for, by Deuteronomy four: nineteen ...Let’s look at that,” said Yuri, while reaching for his copy of the Pentateuch... *“And lest you lift up your eyes unto the heaven;”* quoted Yuri, *“and when you see the sun, and the moon, and the stars; even all the host of heaven—you might be driven to worship them, and serve them—which the Lord your God has divided unto all nations under the whole heaven...”*

“So, that means—all nations under the whole heaven are divided by the twelve areas of the zodiac! Can you visualize what that means, Hadassah? It means that there were lost tribes of Israel, and proselytes in every part of the earth—not just in the so-called ‘habitable earth!’

Hadassah’s interest was piqued enough to ask: “Do you have those lists written down, Yuri? And do you have them with you today? ...I’d like to check that out... but if not...”

“No problem, Hadassah!” It’s in one of the pockets of my notebook... “Take a look” offered Yuri—handing her the sheet.

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“Well, Yuri,” said Hadassah after looking closely with chin resting on a fist. “I don’t see any nations in Luke’s list

that could’ve been in the western areas of earth... although I do remember reading Jesus’ instructions to His disciples just before He went up to heaven in a cloud... He said they would be witnesses for Him right where they were at the time, but then spreading out to the uttermost part of the earth...



And Yuri—I’m thinking it had to’ve been possible, since Jesus did commission them to do that! I did take one class in Christian Astrology and learned that each of the twelve zodiacal divisions has its own Biblical significance. ...I can’t recall them all right now; but I do remember the first one—Virgo is the prophecy of the promised seed: it’s the woman and the child—the desire of all nations.” But I’ve read Haggai’s prophecy too, Yuri—and was perplexed when he said it like this: “Yet once, it *is* a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry *land*; And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the Lord of hosts.”

“Good-ta-go, Hadassah!” commended Yuri, “So, can you see it all coming together into one Epic Story by taking the Ancient Prophecies literally? I’ve run across that information too; but also, since my brother’s death three years ago—besides doing all this research online; I’ve been listening to Bible prophecy CDs over and over until everything he was so convinced of—was finally making sense! Michael had taught me the art of using Boolean Principles in searching-out anything!”

“And what was that, Yuri?” asked Hadassah, leaning forward to catch every word.

“He said that George Boole was a mathematician in the eighteen hundreds who developed a process for solving problems by use of logic, and simple variables such as *and*, *or* & *not*! ...He said It’s a process that’s used by our computers today; and that—by adhering to these principles, you just can’t go wrong!

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“In following these principles... each time I ran across a new bit of information backing up my findings, Hadassah—I literally went livid with excitement!

“For example, Hadassah—Zechariah prophesied that in the Day of The Lord... Jesus’ feet would stand upon the Mt. of Olives and it would split... with half the mountain going to the East and half to the West! Then again: half going toward the North and half to the South—forming four hills for the New Jerusalem to come down upon... and many strong nations would flow into it!”

At this point, Hadassah’s mind was awlirl—trying to correlate these ideas with anything she had been taught about eschatology, and came up with: “Sooo—and what does that prove... Yuri? And what makes you so... so sure of any time-frame you’re placing it in?”

“I’m not finished, Hadassah! I’ll have to let you know about my studies of the ancient geographers! For example: Strabo lived before and during the time Jesus walked on earth with His disciples. You see, Strabo described Jerusalem as a city that was situated upon rock, with layers of rocky soil! Other geographers, including Poseidonius—said that Jerusalem was set upon one mountain, with two hills; the taller being the one upon which the temple was built... And the ancient historian Josephus gives the same account! And besides, the Bible talks about Jerusalem as a city set on a hill... God’s holy hill, Zion!

“Then I went to the Internet to find information about Jerusalem’s topography of today! Guess what I discovered, Hadassah!” offered Yuri excitedly, “...Yes! Hadassah—Jerusalem is now, a city laid out upon four hills! Can’t you see the difference, Hadassah? That means the Day of The Lord took place around the time of the C.E. seventy siege-of-Jerusalem! It had to’ve taken place at that time because—according to prophecies in the book of The Revelation... at the end of our Gentile Age—topography worldwide will be changed, and there will be no hills for His feet to stand upon! Wha’da you think about that?”

After a little contemplation, Hadassah answered: “Well, Yuri—I think your brother may’ve been onto something! How often did he discuss these things with you?”

“Hadassah—Michael was the kinda’guy who just needed a listening ear; and then that poor soul would be caught up in Michael’s web for hours! He always said there were a couple of things he loved... and he loved t’talk about them! There were times when we’d gotten into a discussion about the Ends of the Ages just before retiring. I remember once—I’d gotten-on my PJs and Michael was standing there in the doorway sharing some of the ancient prophecies that came together for him—prophecies that even Bible Scholars of our day cannot understand, nor fit into any puzzle!

“You know, Hadassah—right now, I regret not doing what it takes to stay awake and hear him out; but I kept falling asleep and waking now and then, only to see Michael standing there—impetuously and lovingly breathing out mysterious answers that could solve all of earth’s problems! If only humanity would wake up and realize—we’ve been kept in the dark about what really happened during the Dark Ages of earth’s history! If I’d just taken-in all his knowledge, Hadassah; I may not’ve suffered the rejection I felt... and the trauma of not knowing who and where I was in God’s kingdom—when I finally realized Michael was right! It was not until I gave in and began searching out the answers for myself, Hadassah; that I was convinced... God has had a ‘church’ called Zion... in every Age of earth’s history; and that He is always the same; and that the promises of His written Word are for anyone who will dare to believe and claim them!”

“But Yuri—how did you and Michael get all this knowledge; and the wisdom it takes to put it all together?”

“When we were very young, Hadassah—Mother used to wake us in the morning, singin’ a song; then after we all got dressed we’d gather-round sittin’ on the floor, and she’d tell us Bible stories—readin’em straight from the King James Version of the Bible! ...She’d make’m so interesting, Hadassah—that we never wanted her to stop! And since we had no TV—those were times of entertainment for us! ...

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Afterwards, we'd have breakfast and go outside t'play in our 'Little People' village. Michael and I, along with our three sisters—each had our own little house we built... besides utility companies, church-house and a lake. Since I was handy making things with clay—I was the utility guy n'hung telephones on everyone's wall... But yeah—you guessed-it, Hadassah... Michael was the preacher. I remember tryin' once, but got the words all mixed-up!

"In case you're wondering, Hadassah—this went on during the summer months when there was no school. Mother had started us out with home-schooling, but she and Dad were not in a financial situation it would take to continue our education at home; and when Michael was in the second grade she sent us to a public school... I was in kindergarten. Mother must've given us a good foundation, because after only a week or two at public school Michael's second-grade teacher sent a note home to Mother, advising her not to get onto him for the way he'd read out loud. It seems he put a lot of emphasis on words that had an exclamation mark or a question mark.

"Dad moved us around a lot, from state to state—tryin' to find a *perfect church!* And Mother took up home-schooling again; but by the time Michael was going into seventh grade, we were back at the same school as before. Michael had a little job at a grocery store and bought a guitar which he taught himself to play. Sometimes he took the guitar to school; and during recess he'd play and sing for his friends on the playground. Evidently—that was not too cool of an idea, because by the end of the year... the girls were all chasing him!"

Hadassah clasped her hand over her mouth and giggled.

I know," said Yuri. "—it's so true; and that makes it funny! "And so, when Michael should've gone on to eighth grade, Hadassah—Mom agreed for him to stay home and sent for a home-schooling high school course; then when Mom would take us to school and returned home—Michael would have the table cleared with two Bibles and a huge concordance laying there; then he'd let her know what they were going to study-out!

"It was that same year—he was twelve years old... that a Bible Talk show host invited Michael to be on his show and to answer questions, using God's Word as the tool. Michael never forgot his fingers flying through the pages—finding the place for each answer! He said he thought about Jesus, at the age of twelve—answering questions for the rulers of the Temple in Jerusalem!"

"Yuri," interrupted Hadassah, "did Michael ever marry?"

"He would've loved being married and raising a family, Hadassah," answered Yuri; "but it seemed that every time he thought he was in love with someone—there was always somebody else there, vying for her hand, and he would always back away! I guess it just wasn't God's will for him. Michael did attend a junior college and came away with a certification in Air Conditioning, and a degree in computer repair and programming; but as far as becoming a certified pastor or evangelist, Hadassah—he never even strived for that. He was invited to preach once in a while at his home church; but finally quit attending church services anywhere—after having been so misunderstood at the church he attended!"

"Why? Yuri," asked Hadassah.

"Well, Hadassah—it was actually because of making decisions his peers just did not understand! But the things he did—that brought so much confusion... Michael did them because he thought it was what Christ would've done if placed in the same situation. People began making fun of him and took advantage of his devotion to the truths of God's Word!"

"I'm confused, Yuri—about that. Could you give me an example?"

"Well... at one time, Hadassah—Michael was working for an elderly couple on their goat farm in Northern Arizona. He'd gone to their home one day for a time of fellowship, as they were of the same faith. But he saw that they needed help; and since he'd gone there in his pick-up truck with a camper attached for sleeping purposes—he offered t'stay n'help them with their chores! Michael loved them

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and did services for them—just as he would've for his own family! And for the work he did, Hadassah—they gave him an old car! Which... Michael, being mechanically minded—was able to repair.

“At the same church they attended, there was a young minister who was in-need of a car and Michael felt led to give the one that was given to him; but there was another young man—a single guy... who thought that Michael should've given the car to him, since he needed transportation for his job-hunting adventures! And he set-off a huge conflagration of bad feelings for Michael, that spread throughout the whole congregation!

“But that wasn't all, Hadassah. One Sunday morning, Michael was scheduled to bring the morning message; and afterward the minister took up an offering for him—knowing he was not paid for his services at the goat farm. When the meeting was over, all the young people decided-on going out to eat...And when it was time to pay the tab they decided Michael should be the one to pay, as he had plenty of money that day! And Michael, with his attitude of loving your neighbor as yourself—paid the tab with the usual smile on his face!

“But that still was not all... because that night... after the evening service, they wanted Michael to treat them again! And that was the end of it for him! He flatly refused, and never went back to fellowship with them again!”

“Oh, my God!” empathized Hadassah. “What did he do then?”

“Michael loved the mountains, Hadassah; and when the old couple's daughter had come to stay with them, he took off hiking the mountains—fasting, and hoping God would show him what to do next.”

“Did Michael ever backslide, Yuri?”

“Seemingly, Hadassah—Michael did backslide for a while; but never lost faith in the ‘positives!’ And never passed up an opportunity to share those things that he loved to talk-about! And then, when the ‘positives’ were not working for him—Michael would be the philosopher and handled life the best way he knew how... But let's get back to our story!

“Even though Jerusalem was built upon a rocky terrain, Hadassah—the water supply was surprisingly abundant! And as I said before... The city itself was spread upon two hills with a valley between, and three separate walls surrounding it, with steep drop-offs here and there... drop-offs down into a gorge-like valley called the Valley of Hinnom.

“Herod the Great had been appointed king over Israel in 39-40 B.C. and had been blessed with great wisdom and wealth! But he was not well-received by its citizens. So, to gain their confidence—he built for them this magnificent temple, and exceptionally enhanced their cities!”

"And Yuri," interrupted Hadassah, "In case you've not included this in your notes, I'm thinking it would really make a good point for persuasion, if you'd include right here... something about the *strangers* that Isaiah said... would build their cities. Perhaps Herod was a *son of the strangers* that King David had rounded up to help his son Solomon to build the Temple! There were thousands of them living in Israel... and these strangers had extraordinary powers and ways of doing things that other people knew nothing about. What do you think?

"You've a good point there," exclaimed Yuri. "I've read that before, in Isaiah, and also in the chronicles of the Kings; but not paying that much to those things in the New Testament... just never put two and two together! Thank you Hadassah; and yes! The strangers must be included for the understanding of His Story!

"Herod also built a glorious city called Caesarea with a colossal sports complex equaling those of our great cities; and a huge harbor that was engineered using technologies our government would love to've known about before the horrific destructions of some of our seacoast cities during recent hurricanes! ...And t'give you an idea of the technologies of their times, Hadassah; or should I say the

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technologies of the *strangers*?" added Yuri, recognizing Hadassah's thumbs-up sign and the tinkle in her eye, "...I'd like t'show you a newspaper article that's one artist's rendition of the city and its amazing harbor. My grandparents had clipped it from a newspaper back in the 80s."

Carefully examining the photo in the article, Hadassah asked, "Was that the same Herod who had all the Bethlehem babies killed that were two years of age and younger—after Jesus was born?"

"Way t'go, Hadassah! You're fairly well versed in that story; but do you know the real reason why Herod wanted all those babies killed?"

After closing her eyes and giving it some thought Hadassah offered: "I suppose... Was it because he didn't want there to be a chance of being supplanted by the Jews when they all found-out their Messiah/King had been born? ...They did have in their histories a couple of child-kings, already!"

"Yes, Hadassah—but there was a deeper reason, that probably even Herod himself was not aware of... and that reason was contrived by Satan himself—who knew that Jesus would not only become King of the Jews someday; but that He was actually the only begotten Son of God who would become the perfect sacrificial Lamb that would eventually take away the sin of the world for good... and destroy his kingdom of evil!

"You must understand also, Hadassah—that the coming of this baby to Earth was the main reason for the birthing of the Jewish race... thousands of years before!"

Hadassah's brown eyes widened.

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“When Adam & Eve disobeyed for the first time,” continued Yuri, “...just one of God’s commands—they handed-over to Satan the keys to their happiness and protection! And it was at that same time, Hadassah—that the serpent, a beautiful creature that walked on legs—was cursed to be like a snake crawling on the ground and eating dust for finding food because he had allowed Satan to use him in causing the downfall of the two beings He had formed out of the dust of the earth, creating them in His Image to be His friends!

“I’m convinced they had lived in the Garden of Eden with all its splendor and amenities for close to a thousand years, Hadassah—filling the earth with sons of God just as He’d commanded them to do! But when they ate the fruit of that one forbidden tree: the Knowledge of Good and Evil—it brought about a change in their DNA and their bodies took-on a new substance! It must’ve been what we know now as the Higgs boson particle that brought about the change! And it was all because of their unbelief—unbelief in God’s sufficiency! It was also this change in their DNA that brought about their pain and suffering in childbirth and other areas of their lives!”

“Whoa,” cautioned Hadassah, “...You’re stepping a little too deep for me there Yuri! I’m aware of the Higgs boson particle, because as you know from some of our class lectures, it was proclaimed in the spring of two thousand twelve as being the most sought-after scientific achievement in 400 years of Scientists trying to explain what we observe in the universe!”

“That’s just it, Hadassah! All of that which we observe—is called “mass!” God created our visible physical universe with DNA and the Higgs boson particle present in every atom of everything that could be seen with the natural eye! It’s the Higgs boson particle that gives everything... substance! But when He created Adam and Eve—He formed them out of minerals from the dust of the ground and breathed into them the Breath of Life; but I’m of the opinion the Higgs-boson particle had not yet been configured for physical appearances, because... you see—God had already prepared for them a place to live; sorta like C.S. Lewis’ Narnia! And it was called the Garden of Eden and Zion; and in that place, Hadassah—there was no such thing as sin n’deth... But, when God’s friends disobeyed and ate the fruit of that tree containing the Knowledge of Good and Evil, Hadassah—they took-on flesh’n’blood, and immediately entered into a process of dying!

“But God—being the faithful friend that sticks closer than a brother... and knowing their life was now in the blood—made a way for them to cover their sins by killing an animal for them; and showing them how to present blood-sacrifices to God—for the sin that was now inherent within their blood! And without those blood sacrifices, Hadassah—they could no longer obtain open communication with God—who is holy! ...And since they now had knowledge that they were visibly and substantially naked... God, in His mercy—covered them with leather coats; making them from the animal they had sacrificed.

“But Yuri,” inquired Hadassah, “since God has always been God, had He not made other worlds with other creatures? Why then, were Adam and Eve so special?!”

“You know, Hadassah—I think it was because God was lonely! Yes! And I also believe He’s been busy forever—creating galaxies of solar systems with creatures that would act and react according to the laws of their own certain universe. In the Bible we read that He is the Beginning and the Ending of all things; so then—it is possible that solar systems all have a beginning and an ending... the ending being—that it is swallowed by a ‘black hole’ for instance; and everything goes back into Him!

“But in creating Adam and Eve, Hadassah—God designed them with the feature of ‘free choice!’ He wanted friends! He longed for someone He could walk and talk with, and confide-in, and trust-in, and—who would confide and trust in Him and worship Him for who He Is... don’cha think?” Hadassah closed her eyes and nodded in agreement.

“But that’s not all, Hadassah. ...Because mankind would multiply, bearing sons and daughters with the knowledge of evil in the world—there was a need for modesty in dressing their bodies because of that old serpent the devil, who had been one of the most beautiful creatures in heaven and earth... and he

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was angry because God stripped him of the glory he had before lying to the woman! And besides, Hadassah—God knew it would be easier for them to maintain holiness without all the temptations that go-along with immodest dressing!"

"Come on, Yuri!" remarked Hadassah with disgust. "I can't believe you're telling me—you, too are one of these people that depend on a dress code to keep them holy, so they can please God!"

"Not at all, Hadassah! That's not what I'm saying, but I know where you're coming-from," protested Yuri, tipping his head with a nod. "You're thinkin' about church groups that use the third chapter of Isaiah, for one—where it talks about things God would take away from the daughters of His people because they were using those things to make themselves look good and enticing for their own glory instead of looking good to please and bring honor to Him! But on the other hand, Hadassah—they think they can pick and choose out of that list... things they think God would not mind if they do them: like wearing a watch instead of a bracelet, or like wearing changeable suits of apparel because it doesn't appear sinful to them, Or using glass mirrors because they need them, or using hairpins for crimping their hair because they see no harm in that..."

"Also, Hadassah—most of those women have beautiful hairdos, piled-up on top of their head, because they think that's what Paul was saying in his chapter about the hair having something to do with order in the home and in the church, but don't get me wrong, Hadassah! ...I'm not condemning them for doing those things; they're just doing them for the wrong reasons, not realizing... holiness is in the heart, and works its way to the outside! I also honor those groups for the way they worship God together—with all their heart, soul and strength; dancing to Him and shouting whenever they feel His Presence. It's beautiful, Hadassah! But you've got to realize also: there will always be hypocrites at any type of church gatherings! And... it's like I heard one of their ministers say, *'The consuming fire of God—breaks out with blessings on those who truly praise; but with anger on those that are just there to gaze!'*"

"I do get your point, Yuri," said Hadassah—resting an arm after musing with two fingers on closed-lips. "And I can also—now, understand the psychology in the apostle's admonitions regarding the hair! Wasn't that in *First Corinthians chapter eleven*—where Paul was trying to establish order in the church at Corinth? He was actually using symbolism to show that Christ is the head over the husband, who has his ears and neck—not covered, as a symbol that He is open to hearing and obeying Christ, his head!"

"And—why the neck, Hadassah?" quizzed Yuri, "...Why would that be symbolizing the will of the husband? ...And why should the wife be covered with her hair instead of wearing it atop her head while praying or prophesying?"

"Well," answered Hadassah hesitatingly, "would... his neck... be established as a symbol for the will of the husband, because of the words of Solomon when he said: *'He that hardens his neck, being often reproved, shall suddenly be destroyed—and that without remedy...?'*"

And receiving a wink and nod from Yuri—continues with a little trepidation: "As for the wife, Yuri—would that mean she covers her ears and neck to symbolize the fact that she realizes her husband is her head; and her will is subject to that of her husband—whose job it is to hear from God and to guide his family accordingly?"

"All right! ...And thanks, Hadassah—for bringing that up, because it helps in clearing our understanding about the role of Adam and Eve and other families after the fall! But of course, Hadassah—you and I both know that it was not a command we should keep, in order to obtain salvation! ...No; because we're saved by God's grace—through faith! I think the apostle was trying only to clear up confusion about the reasoning behind that custom; because it wasn't a custom held by the churches—only by some of the people.

"But we don't want to underestimate the role of the evil forces, either, Hadassah—because I think that's the main reason why God's people so easily fell into sin time after time, when they didn't have a strong leader to guide them and keep them encouraged regarding their role in God's plans! My favorite

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evangelist said it this way: God's plan in the beginning, was to fill the earth with sons of God; and Satan's plan was to pollute the seed of the woman, making it impossible—he thought... for her to someday produce that perfect seed God had promised—that would take away the sin of the world and renew the probability of the earth being filled, someday... with sons of God!

"I get it!" said Hadassah. "Satan tried to rob God of His friends, thinking he could destroy His plans to fill earth with sons of God! But when God made a way for them to continue friendship—he... then decided to pollute the seed!"

"Right-on, Hadassah!—and we can do a little more research another time on Satan's plans to pollute the seed of the woman..."

"Just one more thing, Yuri," added Hadassah, "that's coming to mind about some of those churches. My friend Marcia, that I met at our first Apologetics Seminar... she told me a story about her older sister when she was seventeen and very impressionable. They attended one of those churches when they lived in the Bible belt. At that time, their family was very poor, and to make a long story short—her sister was very eager to help in any situation; and since her circumstances at home were unfavorable for a teen-age girl—the pastor's wife invited her sister to leave home and stay with them, buying her some beautiful clothes and undergarments. Her sister was thrilled, Yuri—at the possibility of living with such a prestigious family, and took her up on the offer.

"Their pastor had his own business as a home builder with his own sons working for him, as well as their own brother. Marcia's sister was expected to rise before everyone else in the household and prepare breakfast for the workers; then after they'd left for work she would clean up the kitchen and start on the bedrooms—straightening them. They had a sister her own age and they were in the same grade of study, which was a secondary school correspondence course. Marcia said that to be eligible for graduation they had to write an essay and send it to Chicago for grading. Well... it so happened that the pastor's family also ran a small Christian Supply store in the mall where the girls worked part-time; and when it came time for the girls to graduate, Yuri—the pastor's daughter said she didn't have time to write her essay and asked Marcia's sister if she would write one for her, and when her sister refused—she was blamed for the pastor's daughter not being able to graduate!

"There was more to that story, Yuri—but I just mentioned that much to show how easy it is for someone in authority over a group of people... although constantly praying to God and studying His Word—to be blinded by some evil force, putting burdens on people they should be bearing themselves!"

"Sounds like a little of Mystery Babylon creeping in, Hadassah," offered Yuri. "Even though we pay due diligence to our ministry and worship of God—we still have a responsibility to love our neighbor as much as we love ourselves!"

"And Yuri... what do you mean by Mystery Babylon?" asked Hadassah.

"We'll be bringing that up later on, Hadassah—but I think we should break for now... besides, we've kinda veered from the subject-matter!"

"I don't think so, Yuri!" declared Hadassah. "I think you really need to expound some of this information—to justify the acts of God in carrying out His plans for having friends that can meet Him on His level of holiness. ...But of course, we can take a break... I'm going for the drinking fountain in the hall!"