

Thursology 105: Israel on the Brink—The Huge Wars of the Last Days

(Thursology-11/2/2023)

--Introduction:

--Historical Fact: Israel didn't exist as a _____...from 606 BC until 1948...when they were restored to _____ status in the Land promised to Abraham.

--Before 1948, there were two schools of thought:

1. Israel has been _____ by the Church...and is _____ to biblical prophecy.
2. Israel will be _____ as a nation...in a historic _____ ...and is _____ to biblical prophecy.

--A Pervasive Prophetic Principle: The only way to understand what will happen in the Last Days...is to understand God's promises to _____...and how the _____ People fit into God's plan for the _____ of the world!!!

--Three themes within many End Times passages:

- 1) They frequently describe _____ wars
- 2) In the Last Days...at the center of _____ war is..._____
- 3) These passages seem to describe more than _____ great war

--War #1: The Battle of _____

--Revelation 16:12-14, 16: The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river, the Euphrates; and its water was dried up, so that the way would be prepared for the kings from the east. And I saw coming out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits like frogs; for they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them together for the war of the great day of God, the Almighty...And they gathered them together to the place which in Hebrew is called Har-Magedon.

--19:11-16, 19-21: And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war. His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems; and He has a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself. He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses. From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty. And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."...And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies assembled to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image; these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone. And the rest were killed with the sword which came from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse, and all the birds were filled with their flesh.

--Zechariah 14:1-5, 9: Behold, a day is coming for the Lord when...I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle...Then the Lord will go forth and fight against those nations, as when He fights on a day of battle. In that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which is in front of Jerusalem on the east; and the Mount of Olives will be split in its middle from east to west by a very large valley...And you will flee by the valley of My mountains...Then the Lord, my God, will come, and all the holy ones with Him! And the Lord will be king over all the earth; in that day...

--Characteristics of Armageddon:

1. In the midst of this war...God _____ comes _____ Israel
2. He sets up His _____ on _____
3. There is no mention of _____
4. This war occurs at a time when Israel is living amidst _____, _____, and _____ peace treaties
5. The largest army in this battle comes from the _____

--When it occurs: Armageddon occurs _____ the time of the Second Coming of Christ...and right _____ the Millennium begins

--Rev 19:19; 20:1-2: And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies assembled to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army...Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years...

--War #2: The Battle of _____ and _____

--Ezekiel 38:1-2, 7-9, 14-16 → 39:6: And the word of the Lord came to me saying, "Son of man, set your face toward Gog of the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him..." "After many days you will be summoned; in the latter years you will come into the land that is restored from the sword, whose inhabitants have been gathered from many nations to the mountains of Israel which had been a continual waste; but its people were brought out from the nations, and they are living securely, all of them. You will go up, you will come like a storm...you and all your troops"... "Therefore...say to Gog, 'Thus says the Lord God, "On that day when My people Israel are living securely... You will come from your place out of the remote parts of the north...a great assembly and a mighty army; and you will come up against My people Israel...and it shall come about in the last days that I will bring you against My land...And I will send fire upon Magog..."

--Major differences between Armageddon...and Gog/Magog:

--Difference #1: The principal _____ of the invading armies is different

--Ezek 38:1-2, 14-15; 39:2: And the word of the Lord came to me saying, "Son of man, set your face toward Gog of the land of Magog...and prophesy against him...Thus says the Lord God, On that day when My people Israel are living securely...You will come from your place out of the remote parts of the north...a great assembly and a mighty army...and I will turn you around, drive you on, take you up from the remotest parts of the north and bring you against the mountains of Israel.

--What direction does Gog come from? Far _____

--Where does the largest army come from in Armageddon? The _____

--Difference #2: While Armageddon occurs at the _____ of the Millennium...the Battle of Gog and Magog occurs at the _____ of Millennium

A. When this war begins...Israel is living _____ in _____

--Ezekiel 38:14: "Therefore prophesy, son of man, and say to Gog, 'Thus says the Lord God, "On that day when My people Israel are living securely..."

--Matt 24:15-16, 21, 29-30: Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place, then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains...For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will.

--But immediately after the tribulation...the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory.

--Ezek 38:10-11: 'Thus says the Lord God, "It will come about on that day...that you will say, 'I will go up against the land of unwalled villages. I will go against those who are at rest, that live securely, all of them living without walls and having no bars or gates..."

B. The Battle of Gog and Magog ends with the _____ falling...and the _____ of the world

--Ezek 38:18, 22; 39:6: It will come about on that day, when Gog come against the land of Israel," declares the Lord God, "that...I will enter into judgment with him; and I will rain on him and on his troops...a torrential rain, with hailstones, fire and brimstone..."And I will send fire upon Magog..."

--20:1-2, 7, 9: Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years...And when the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison, and will come out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together for the war...and fire came down from heaven and devoured them.

--Rev 21:1-2: Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away...And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God..."

--**Application #1: God has a _____...and it will unfold _____ as the Scripture says...and no theological manipulation can _____ it!!!**

--Some facts about Israel:

--Fact #1: It's _____ that Israel is _____ in their Land...but there they are!!!

--Fact #2: Both the Old and New Testaments _____ promised that Israel would _____ to their Land in the Last Days...and there they are!

--Fact #3: The "scholars" who have tried to allegorize away the biblical prophecies about the _____ of Israel...have been...repeatedly...proven _____!!!

--**Application #2: It's possible that the events happening in the world right now are headed toward conditions that could ultimately make Israel _____ enough to enter into a peace agreement with a "_____"**

--What must take place to prepare for The Tribulation (Daniel's 70th "Week"):

--Prerequisite #1: The Jewish Messiah must be “_____” (Dan 9:27) → (32 AD)

--Prerequisite #2: The Jewish _____ must be destroyed (Dan 9:27) → (70 AD)

--Prerequisite #3: The Jewish _____ must be destroyed (Dan 9:27) → (130 AD)

--Prerequisite #4: Israel must _____ as a people...and must _____ to the Land that was promised to Abraham (Jeremiah, Isaiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Zechariah, Matthew, Mark, Luke, Revelation, Romans) → (1948)

--Prerequisite #5: Israel must have _____ surrounding populations intent on its _____ (Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Zechariah, Revelation) → (Since 1948)

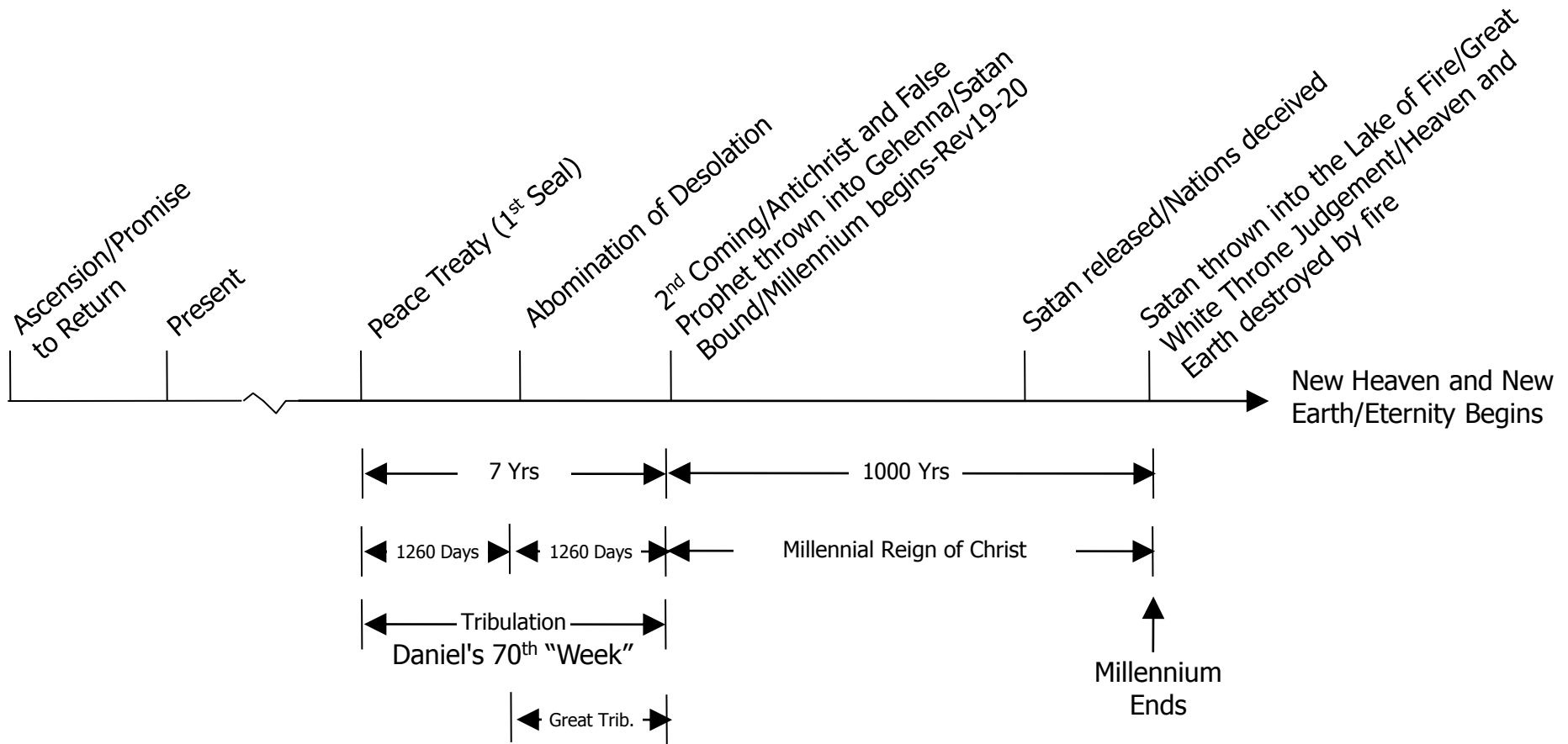
--Prerequisite #6: Israel must be a _____ to the _____ (Zechariah 12)

--Zechariah 12:1-3: The burden of the word of the Lord concerning Israel. Thus declares the Lord...“Behold, I am going to make Jerusalem a cup that causes reeling to all the peoples around...It will come about in that day that I will make Jerusalem a heavy stone for all the peoples...And all the nations of the earth will be gathered against it.”

--Application #3: Whether this conflict with Israel ends up being the “_____ One” or not...don’t let your eschatology have you _____ for something to happen _____ Jesus comes back!!!

--Matt 24:36, 40-44: “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone...Then there will be two men in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one will be left. Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming. But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what time of the night the thief was coming, he would have been on the alert and would not have allowed his house to be broken into. For this reason you also must be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will.”

The Revelation Timetable of the Future



Thursology 104: Stunning Surprise in a Secular World: **EVERYONE Worships SOMETHING!!! (The Mark & Worship-Pt 3)**

(Thursology Live! 10/5/2023)

--Review:

--The biggest surprise about The Mark of the Beast: It's **REALLY** about **WORSHIP!!!**

--Three Unchangeable Facts About Worship:

--Unchangeable Fact #1: Humans are inherently **WORSHIPPING beings**

--The defining attribute of humanity is...*worship!!!*

A. **4000** years ago

--Genesis 31:17-19: Then Jacob arose and put his children and his wives upon camels; and he drove away all his livestock and all his property which he had gathered...to go to the land of Canaan to his father Isaac. When Laban had gone to shear his flock, then Rachel stole the household idols that were her father's.

B. Ancient **Egypt**

--Exodus 12:11-12: "...you shall eat it in haste—it is the Lord's Passover. For I will go through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments—I am the Lord."

C. The ancient peoples **SURROUNDING** Egypt

--At the time of the Exodus...look at what God described about the tribes and cultures in the land that He was taking the Israelites into... →

--Exodus 23:23-24, 32: For My angel will go before you and bring you in to the land of the Amorites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Canaanites, the Hivites and the Jebusites...You shall not worship their gods, nor serve them, nor do according to their deeds; but you shall utterly overthrow them and break their sacred pillars in pieces... You shall make no covenant with them or with their gods.

--Idolatry in Mesopotamia: **ALL** of the ancient tribes worshiped **FALSE** gods

D. **Assyria**

--Ezekiel 23:7: Jerusalem bestowed her harlotries on them, all of whom were the choicest men of Assyria; and with all whom she lusted after, with all their idols she defiled herself.

E. **Babylon**

--Jer 51:47: "...behold, days are coming when I shall punish the idols of Babylon..."

F. **Persia**

--Ezra 1:7: Also King Cyrus brought out the articles of the house of the Lord, which Nebuchadnezzar had carried away from Jerusalem and put in the house of his gods...

G. **Greece**

--Acts 17:16: Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was being provoked within him as he was observing the city full of idols.

H. **Rome**

--Acts 12:21-22: On an appointed day Herod, having put on his royal apparel, took his seat on the rostrum and began delivering an address to them. And the people kept crying out, "The voice of a god and not of a man!"

--Key Concept #1: **WHAT** humans worship changes...but **THAT** we worship...will never change!!!

--Key Concept #2: We will all **ALL** worship **SOMETHING**!!!

--Key Concept #3: When humans take our eyes off of the One True God...we inevitably set up false **HOPES** and false **LOVES**...and every one of these is a false **GOD**!!!

--**Unchangeable Fact #2: There's no LIMIT to the ABSURDITY that people will accept from their IDOLS!!!**

A. **1 Chronicles 16:25-26**

--"...great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; He also is to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the peoples are idols..."

--The Hebrew term: Translated as "idols"...literally means..."**NONEXISTENT** things"

--A remarkable blindness of the human race: People will stake their whole **LIFE** on things that aren't **REAL**!!!

B. **Psalms 115:3-7**

--"...our God is in the heavens; He does whatever He pleases. Their idols are silver and gold, the work of man's hands. They have mouths, but they cannot speak; they have eyes, but they cannot see; they have ears, but they cannot hear; they have noses, but they cannot smell; they have hands, but they cannot feel; they have feet, but they cannot walk; they cannot make a sound with their throat.

--What humans will accept as a "god": People can be so **DECEIVED** that they'll accept imitations, façades, and fakes as **SUBSTITUTES** for hope, deliverance, healing, joy, and freedom!!!

C. **Isaiah 2:12, 18, 20**

--For the Lord of hosts will have a day of reckoning...But the idols will completely vanish...In that day they will cast away to the moles and the bats their idols of silver and their idols of gold, which they made for themselves to worship...

--A tragic and worthless use of a human life: People will completely **DEDICATE** themselves to things that they will ultimately **THROW** away!!!

--Ezekiel 16:17-21: "You also took your beautiful jewels made of My gold and of My silver, which I had given you, and made for yourself male images that you might play the harlot with them. Then you took your embroidered cloth and covered them, and offered My oil and My incense before them. Also My bread which I gave you, fine flour, oil and honey with which I fed you, you would offer before them for a soothing aroma; so it happened," declares the Lord God. "Moreover, you took your sons and daughters whom you had borne to Me and sacrificed them to idols to be devoured. Were your harlotries so small a matter? You slaughtered My children and offered them up to idols by causing them to pass through the fire."

--A stunning picture of the price of replacing God: People will **SURRENDER** their most **PRECIOUS** possessions...to worthless, vain, empty objects of their worship!!!

D. **Exodus 32:1-4**

--Now when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people assembled about Aaron and said to him, "Come, make us a god who will go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up from the land of Egypt, we do

not know what has become of him.” And Aaron said to them, “*Tear off the gold rings* which are in the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me.” Then all the people tore off the gold rings which were in their ears and brought them to Aaron. And He took this from their hand, and *fashioned it with a graving tool* and *made it into a molten calf*; and they said, “*This is your god*, O Israel, *who brought you up from the land of Egypt*.”

--A silly...but real...exposé on human idolatry: People will even believe that melted **EARRINGS** can perform **MIRACLES!!!**

E. **Daniel 3:4-7**

--Then the herald loudly proclaimed: “To you the command is given, O peoples, nations and men of every language, that at the moment you hear the sound of the horn, flute, lyre, trigon, psaltery, bagpipe and all kinds of music, you are to fall down and worship the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king has set up. But whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be cast into the midst of a furnace of blazing fire.” Therefore at that time, when *all the peoples* heard the sound of the horn, flute, lyre, trigon, psaltery, bagpipe and all kinds of music, *all the peoples*, nations and men of every language *fell down and worshiped the golden image* that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up.

--Point #1: Except for the three Hebrew children...**EVERYONE** in the entire city of Babylon worshiped the **IMAGE**

--Point #2: Humans will even **KILL** for their **IDOLS!!!**

--Point #3: The **FIRST** Nebuchadnezzar was a prophetic foreshadowing of the **LAST** “Nebuchadnezzar”!!!

--Rev 13:11-15: Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth; and he... exercises all the authority of the first beast...And he makes *the earth and those who dwell in it* to *worship* the first beast...And he performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down out of heaven...And he deceives those who dwell on the earth because of the signs...telling those who dwell on the earth to make an *image* to the beast...And it was given to him to give breath to the *image* of the beast, so that the *image* of the beast would even speak and cause as many as *do not worship the image* of the beast *to be killed*.

--Unchangeable Fact #3: Every **GENERATION** has *new* idols...no matter how “**MODERN**” or “**ENLIGHTENED**” they become!!!

--A short list of examples of today’s idols:

A. **SPORTS** figures

B. **SPORTS** teams

C. **POLITICAL** figures

D. **MATERIALISM**:

--Matthew 6:24: *No one* can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You *cannot* serve *God* and *wealth*.

--A huge surprise to those who aren’t paying close attention: Money has **EVERY** attribute of a **GOD!!!**

--Colossians 3:5: Therefore, consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry.

--What the Greek says in this text: "...and greed, which **IS** idolatry."

--Ephesians 5:5: For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

--The direct connection between coveting...and idolatry: The one who covets... who **DESIRES** that which is not theirs...or that which **GOD** has not seen fit to give them...is an **IDOLATER!!!**

--II Peter 3:10: But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.

--The unalterable destiny of every object in the Universe...and everything ever possessed by a human: It's **ALL** gonna **BURN!!!**

E. **TIME**-stealers

--A great definition for idolatry: Apart from air and sustenance...that which I **CANNOT** live **WITHOUT**...has become a god in my life!!!

--**Application**: The **SUBTLETY** of idolatry must be relentlessly IDENTIFIED...or even God's children will **SUCCOMB** to it!!!

--A summary of the biblical precepts of worship and idolatry: **ANYTHING**...and especially...**GOOD** things...can easily become **COUNTERFEIT** gods!!!

--The Screwtape Letters (CS Lewis)

--"My Dear Wormwood, Obviously you are making excellent progress...we have introduced a change of direction in the Patient's course which is already carrying him out of his orbit around the Enemy; but he must be made to imagine that all the choices which have effected this change of course are trivial and revocable. He must not be allowed to suspect that he is now, however slowly, heading right away from the Light on a line which will carry him into the cold and outer darkness. For this reason, I am almost glad to hear that he is still a churchgoer and taking communion. I know there are dangers in this; but anything is better than that he would realize the break he has made with the first months of his Christian life. As long as he retains externally the habits of a Christian, he can still be made to think of himself as one whose spiritual state is much the same as it was...and while he thinks that, we do not have to contend with the explicit repentance of a definite, fully recognized, sin, but only with his vague feeling that he hasn't been doing very well lately...You will say that the sins he has begun to toy with are very small sins; and doubtless, like all young tempters, you are anxious to be able to report spectacular wickedness. But do remember, the only thing that matters is the extent to which you separate the man from the Enemy. It does not matter how small the sins are, provided that their cumulative effect is to edge the man away from the Light and out into The Nothing. Murder is no better than cards if cards can do the trick. Indeed, the safest road to Hell is the gradual one—the gentle slope, soft underfoot, without sudden turnings, without milestones, without sign-posts."

--**Questions**:

--If you're really honest with yourself...is there anything that links you to the long and sad history of idolatry? Is there anything in your life that's at risk of becoming more important to you than simple obedience to the will of God? Is there anything that has replaced Him as your hope...your desire...your security...your future...your trust...your first love???