

REVELATION - THE MUSICAL
by Vojo
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ACT ONE

1 EXT. COURTYARD - DAY

1

In an outdoor courtyard, with bombed-out and bullet hole-pocked walls surrounding, PAUL KEMP, a former addiction clinic counselor, and ROGER BOOKER, a former schoolteacher, and ANTHONY TALLMAN, an ex-college student, are hiding in the bushes. They carry backpacks and hunting rifles. Anthony is speaking in a low voice, dictating an entry to his Blog by headset into his PDA.

ANTHONY

Blog: anthony2605, TD 06.06.26.
Time is running out. I hear rumors that soon Stefan Temple will close down the Internet for good, except for government use. I hope someone is reading this Blog. If so, copy all my archive files and pass them along. My PDA is working until I run out of batteries, so I'll try to post a few more times if I can.

Food is scarce. Without Temple's "mark," we can't buy or sell anything, so we have to hunt wild game to stay alive. His troops are everywhere, high on crank and itching to kill Christians.

Life is cheap in TD -- that's Temple Date, from the day the dictator Stefan Temple came to power: TD 01.01.01. The old AD referred to after Christ, so he changed the times - and a lot more.

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ANTHONY (cont'd)

It's now been six and a half years,
and things are getting worse if
you're a Christian. Whatever
happens, don't get his "mark". Read
the rest of my Blog to understand
why. Just don't do it!

Paul hears a sound and waves at Anthony to be quiet.
Anthony finishes his entry, folds everything up and puts it
in his pocket. They move farther into the bushes.

A SQUAD LEADER and FOUR MEN with rifles marches in, out of
step, but not in military uniform. They are dressed in
unmatched, odd and deranged mixtures of the uniforms of
Italian police, priest regalia, postal and delivery
outfits, with cloth strips binding their hands. Some of the
outfits have bloody bullet holes in them so they are
apparently plunder of previous victims. Paul and Roger turn
to each other with silent, questioning shrugs.

A bound, blindfolded PRISONER is brought before the squad
and is stood against a wall. He has been severely beaten,
and blood is running down his face.

SQUAD LEADER

(Unfolding a paper
and reading.)

Prisoner 248753, you have been
found guilty by this squad of
crimes against the state, and
against the person of our glorious
messiah, Stefan Temple, and of
spreading sedition and the
treasonous doctrine that Jesus was
the Son of God. There is no god but
Stefan Temple. Do you renounce your
false teachings? Recant now and
save your life!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PRISONER

(In a bold, loud
voice, face up.)

Jesus is Lord!

At that, the Squad Leader raises his arm to signal, brings it down and the Squad fires. RIFLE VOLLEY SOUND. The Prisoner slumps to the ground dead. One Executioner unties his hands and pulls off his heavy coat; a perfect fit! He finds a small Bible in the pocket and discards it. Another rifles his pockets, but nothing is there. The Squad marches off, out of step. All three men wait until they are long gone and slowly emerge from their hiding place.

ROGER

How did it come to this? How could
we let it?

PAUL

Missed opportunities.

ROGER

(Uncomprehending.)

Missed opportunities? Whose? When?

PAUL

(Body sagging wearily.)

Long, long ago, first our
forefathers and then our own. I'll
tell you what I remember and what I
was told, but it won't help the fix
we're in right now. There's more at
stake now. If we're lucky, we'll
end up like that guy there.

ROGER

(Aghast, he inaudibly
mouths the word.)

Lucky?

SONG - "High Noon"

FLASHBACK TO:

2 EXT. PARK - DAY

2

An outdoor urban park. A flashback scene, six years before Scene 03, shows JOHN BAILEY as a down and out drug addict and alcoholic, sitting on a park bench and passing a bottle to BO, a thirsty companion.

JOHN

I used to be a Marine, you know,
Bo.

BO

(More interested in
the wine than
the story.)

Uh-huh.

JOHN

Yeah, but I couldn't get all those
faces out of my head from combat.
You know, the ones I had to, uh,
y'know ..

BO

(Taking a swig.)

Uh-huh.

JOHN

When I came home, the dreams
started. I guess they seemed like
so many demons come to pay me back
for what I'd done. Those faces
haunted me. That's when I started
drinking.

BO

(Handing the bottle
back to John.)

Uh-huh.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOHN

But the worst part was that I took it out on my wife, Stephanie. I guess I must've hit her when I came home drunk. It wasn't enough to get into fights in bars; I had to bring it home. And us with a little boy in the house. Well, one day, she just up and left me. And the boy. She left me to take care of the boy when I couldn't take care of myself.

BO

(Trying to be thoughtful, but not even listening.)

Hmmmm.

JOHN

(Ignoring Bo, he is really talking to himself.)

And to make matters worse, some so-called pal handed me some cocaine one night, and within a week, I was shoplifting to pay for more. I've lost four jobs in the last six months, and I don't know where I'm heading.

BO

(Looking at the bottle.)

Uh-huh.

JOHN

I'm really thinking of getting a knife or something to rob people. Either that or kill myself, I don't know where to go or what to do. I'm so - lost - and alone.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BO

(The bottle is
empty, so he gets
up to leave.)

Well, John, I gotta go find a place
to flop. See ya tomorrow. Maybe.

JOHN

(Distracted.)

Huh? Oh, yeah. OK, Bo.

John lies down on the park bench and passes out.

FADE TO BLACK.

The next day, he awakens to the SOUND of loud traffic and
garbage men clanging cans near him. The hangover is
intense. Sitting on a bench nearby and eyeing him intently
is a 12-year-old BOY.

BOY

(Boldly.)

Hey, mister, you're a mess, huh?

John just motions for the kid to go away, but he refuses.

BOY (cont'd)

I know the answer to any problem
you got, mister. Go ahead; ask me.

John's head is pounding, and he is in no mood for some
self-important kid, so he tries to ignore him. But the
youngster would not be put off.

BOY (cont'd)

OK, so you don't believe me, but
the answer to your problems is here
in this little book. Read it when
you sober up. There's an address on
the back. It'll change your life.
See ya!

(CONTINUED)

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The kid stuffs a booklet into John's pocket and then disappears on a skateboard into the city streets. John struggles to an upright position, takes the booklet out and reads the cover.

JOHN

God loves you, even if you don't.

As John reads through the tiny book, it is like a flaming arrow through his heart. His face is contorted with pain and sorrow. He looks up, crying out.

JOHN (cont'd)

Oh, God! Help me! Help me!

John buries his head in his hands, sobbing. He looks back at the booklet.

JOHN (cont'd)

This address is just up the street.

He looks around for address numbers, and then points. He rises and stumbles at first, then makes off unsteadily to the address.

SONG - "Chains"

3 INT. CLINIC - DAY

3

Inside a private lockup addiction clinic in a large city, the waiting room is filled with the privileged that can afford such treatment. Several are celebrities, several are media personalities, several are teenagers of wealthy parents and several are corporate executives. All are there for a quick fix. A news-talk radio station in the background drones on with arguments over political upheaval all over the globe.

They argue among themselves, and it is obvious that within this damaged group, all have serious problems they have never addressed.

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RITA, the wife of a wealthy businessman, is used to getting her own way. Her pain pill addiction kept her in a state of near-coma, and now the irritations of everyday life are almost too much to handle. JASON, recovering from cocaine addiction, is in no mood for society dames with an attitude. MARCO, a self-obsessed minor league baseball player with an alcohol problem and a short temper doesn't want to hear their petty squabbles.

The clinic director, JOHN BAILEY, is now recovered and having overcome his own demons, and is relentless in his overwhelming task of trying to break the addictions of his clients. He ushers the waiting crowd into a group session, where he attempts to crack through their unwillingness to call on God to help them break their chains. His bosses have instructed him to "go easy on the Jesus pitch" with his clients, unless they ask to hear it. They want the money to keep flowing in. His assistant, PAUL KEMP, as an atheist, is against using religion in rehabilitation.

RITA

(Snapping at Jason
with irritation.)

Do you have to always do that? It's quite annoying.

JASON

Shut up, big mouth! Whatever I'm doing that bothers you, I don't care.

RITA

Jason, you think the world revolves around you, but it doesn't. When will you learn no one wants to hire a wannabe bad actor with a drug habit? Now stop cracking your knuckles and incessantly humming off key. You can't sing, you can't act; what can you do right?

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CONTINUED:

Jason, of course, cracks his knuckles in front of her and hums even louder.

MARCO

Sit down, Jason.

Knowing Marco's violent edge, Jason sits. Marco walks to another part of the room, but pauses in front of a small mirror long enough to admire his own reflection. No one in the room makes a comment.

JOHN

All right, time for group. These arguments are just signs you're not ready to confront your addictions. You're trying to blame each other for your problems, and that's evading them. When you realize you're powerless to fight them on your own, then maybe you can start on the road to recovery.

JASON

Oh, no, not God again!

MARCO

(Giving Jason a scowl.)

Quiet! If John has something to say that will get me off the booze, I want to hear it. Nothing else has worked so far, and I can't do it on my own. At least I won't have to listen to your whining. Go ahead, John.

SONG - "You Can Call God"

4 INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - DAY

4

John's son has come home in tears. He has worn a t-shirt to school with the name of Jesus prominently on the front, and has been sent home by his teacher. Sitting in the school office, John is infuriated with the principal and won't be calmed down.

JOHN

How can you possibly accept this?
The teacher sent my son home to
change his shirt? Because it had
Jesus' name written on it? How is
that possible?

PRINCIPAL DAVIS

(He motions for
John to calm down.)

It's a very clear school policy,
Mr. Bailey, that no overtly
religious symbols are permitted on
school grounds. We certainly don't
want to offend other students who
may not share your son's beliefs.
We encourage tolerance here, and as
a Christian, you should have more
tolerance yourself.

JOHN

(He is not placated,
but tries to
control his anger.)

Tolerance! That's just a buzzword
for allowing everybody's opinion,
no matter how extreme, to be equal.
Just because someone has an opinion
doesn't make it the truth. But what
about all those cartoons of demon
creatures I saw kids wearing in the
halls just now? You think satanic
images are okay, but not the name
of God or Jesus?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PRINCIPAL DAVIS

(He smiles, pleased
with his quick thinking.)
But those "demon" creatures, as you
call them, are not religious
symbols now, are they? Those are
just cartoons that the children
like.

JOHN

(He's had enough,
so gets up to leave.)
You think not, huh? You think Satan
doesn't use every trick in his
arsenal to make the occult
attractive to kids, the most
vulnerable of all?

John storms out.

PRINCIPAL DAVIS

(Waving his hands
in a dismissive
gesture.)

Satan! What a moron!

SONG - "Teach Your Children God"

5 INT. NEWSROOM - DAY

5

The newsroom of Global Satellite News is a constant drone of phones and adrenalin. PETER, the news director, is giving directions to CARL, a reporter, on a story he is covering.

PETER

Carl, I told you before that Stefan Temple's gifts to the African continent are great human-interest stories.

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PETER (cont'd)

Why do you find every way you can to question his motives? That includes your body language. That raised eyebrow at the end of the last piece, in effect, said you didn't believe him.

CARL

(Treading carefully.)

I wasn't aware I had done that, sorry. I guess it's my natural instinct to question everyone's motivation. I mean, really! Who gives away millions of bucks' worth of food? And why? I know he owns this network, but..

PETER

(Interrupting.)

Mr. Temple owning this network has nothing to do with our coverage of him. He has insisted on our independence and journalistic integrity. But a story is a story, and with his breakthroughs in science and food technology, he has been able to blend fish products with seaweed and soy products that would allow just one fish to feed an entire African village for a week. Now, go get some footage of those people eating well, for the first time in their lives. Let's get some "feel good" stories on the air for a change.

CARL

(To himself,
out of earshot.)

It's not worth losing this job over that queasy feeling I get when I get near Stefan Temple. Hunches are for suckers and blackjack players.

6 INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

6

The dimly lit conference room is dominated by a round table. Eleven men in business suits - MR. GALINDO, MR. SCHNEIDER, MR. AMARI, MR. DIEFENBAKER, MR. FERRANTE, MR. DEMARCO, MR. OZBEK, MR. BLACKSON, MR. DIMANCHE, MR. MITRANO and MR. STEFAN TEMPLE - all billionaire kings of commerce, and each wielding powerful, behind-the-scenes political influence in their respective countries, sit with somber, but purposeful, intention. They are gathered to save the world, finally and permanently, from itself.

MR. GALINDO

Mr. Schneider, you have an update for the Order to discuss?

MR. SCHNEIDER

Thank you, Mr. Galindo. Yes, I do. The oil situation is now critical, as we're all aware. Worldwide demand is over 60 billion barrels a year, and production is only two thirds of that. No matter the price of crude, there are no new sources of any consequence. The majority of the world's supplies are in the hands of corrupt regimes that we enrich to obscene proportions. Oil currently provides 40% of all energy and nearly 90% of all transportation fuel. The ascendance of the Chinese economy has fueled an unprecedented drain on the supply. We are in crisis.

MR. AMARI

I agree, Mr. Schneider. It is as we predicted ten years ago.

MR. DIEFENBAKER

All of the other global indicators are favorable as well. The eleven largest U.S. banks are owed billions by third world nations unable to repay their loans.

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MR. DIEFENBAKER (cont'd)

The real estate market is in free fall, and millions of repossessed properties sit vacant. Fraud and mismanagement have shuttered financial and insurance entities beyond the scope of any previous scandals. The only thing left now is --

MR. FERRANTE

A stock market crash.

MR. DIEFENBAKER

Exactly.

MR. GALINDO

And that is why we are here today, gentlemen. The time has now arrived. Our imprint upon human society has heretofore been in the shadows, guiding the world through much travail. That secrecy will soon end. It is up to us to create, finally, a world society that will sweep away all of the old inefficiencies and corruption. Our vision for a new world order will be hailed as the savior of mankind. Each of us has been criticized in the past as moneychangers and worse. Our critics will have to eat their own barbs when we prove what we have known all along.

MR. DEMARCO

That the creation of a super state, where our own handpicked leader will rule with an iron hand, is the only salvation of mankind.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MR. OZBEK

And it is in times of economic crisis when frightened people look for a savior with a solution.

MR. BLACKSON

America will pay for its excesses. I regret to say it, as an expatriate American, but it is our vision of a new system that will solve the moral quagmire that America has exported to the world. World unity alone can create a permanent world peace.

MR. SCHNEIDER

When we consolidate world banking operations and centralize their management, as well as consolidate the ownership of gold, silver and other precious minerals, then the previous wild economic deviations will cease. A global consciousness will replace national self-interests.

MR. DEMARCO

Yes, Mr. Schneider, but only through the great shaking that we will soon unleash upon the world will they understand. Short-term hardships will be replaced by a permanent and lasting world peace. So, gentlemen, this stock market crash we are about to engineer will start in Japan, spread to the United States, then to Europe and then the rest of the world. The U.S. dollar and Japanese yen will be decimated within a month.

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CONTINUED:

MR. DEMARCO (cont'd)

When major banks suffer catastrophic losses and close down, all people will understand that their faith in paper money is only faith in paper. We will replace it with faith in us, for whoever controls the money controls the world.

MR. AMARI

Faith in us and faith in our chosen new leader, Stefan Temple.

STEFAN TEMPLE

(Standing.)

We are resolved, gentlemen, that this new world order will be at a great and painful sacrifice to many, but will result in the greatest leap forward for mankind in the history of the world. All bank deposits will be frozen. Production of food will be controlled by our entity. Oil production will come under our control. Famine and profiteering will be a thing of the past. When the global community finally learns of our great plan for their deliverance, the men in this room will become like immortals in the human family. Our greatness is waiting for the world to discover it.

Temple acknowledges the applause of the group. The lights dim over the conference table, and Temple walks forward, speaking to himself as he moves.

FADE TO SINGLE PIN SPOT.

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CONTINUED:

STEFAN TEMPLE (cont'd)

How interesting! Everything exactly as planned. The new members, Ferrante, DeMarco and Blackson, have fallen perfectly in line with the others. Only six months ago, they replaced their former business colleagues within the group, moving up from associate to full membership.

Such a sad "accident" when I asked Duclos, Heinz and Alexander for a weekend on my yacht in the Mediterranean. I knew far in advance that the three had conspired to put Alexander's name before the Order instead of mine, but they underestimated my resources in their own intelligence services.

Alexander, the billionaire Greek arms broker, imagined himself a modern day Alexander the Great, and perhaps his own name dazzled him with dreams of imperial power.

There was not the least bit of suspicion when I gracefully excused myself from the group to go scuba diving while they drank in luxury. Diving straight down a hundred feet and away from the boat a hundred yards, I released a yellow balloon marker to the surface.

Within five minutes, a low-flying attack helicopter skimmed the waves until it spotted the yellow balloon.

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STEFAN TEMPLE (cont'd)

It then unleashed a volley of missiles that exploded with a fiery ferocity, tearing the yacht into thousands of wood and metal shards.

The people on board never saw it coming. The crew of eight vaporized along with my three rivals. What a shame. That was the best chef I ever had.

After surfacing ten minutes later, there was my rescue by a "fortunately" close fishing boat, and my emotional and breathless story of being the target of a terrorist bomb planted on the yacht, and everyone bought it.

My "lucky" scuba dive only convinced the other members of the Order that destiny had given them their man. How accurate. I am that man of destiny. Now it begins. The Roman Empire reborn. Hail, Caesar! Ha-ha-ha!

FADE TO BLACK.

7 INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - DAY

7

JANET MCCARTY, a concerned mother, confronts Principal Davis about what they are teaching the children. The school principal is a spineless administrator, and wants nothing to do with the storm over religion in schools. Janet knows she is unlikely to dent Principal Davis' bureaucratic cowardice, but she is bound and determined to try.

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CONTINUED:

JANET

Principal Davis, won't you agree that the 1962 Supreme Court ruling against God in school was followed by the most deadly half century in U.S. school history? The Columbine massacre?

Children murder smaller children with guns, knives and weapons of every kind. When we were students, a fistfight was the worst thing that happened.

And it's all because two generations of kids have had God removed from their lives. And you still refuse to say the name of God in school.

PRINCIPAL DAVIS

(He has a ready answer for her.)

Mrs. McCarty, God in school has nothing to do with that. It's up to the parents to put God in their children's lives; it's not my job.

If you think your daughter has to study God to make her behave, that's up to you.

JANET

(Not satisfied.)

It's not my daughter I'm so worried about, it's all the rest of the students. There are more bullies on the playground than there ever have been. These kids have no moral compass without God in their lives. They have no conscience; it's been replaced by a black hole of evil.

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CONTINUED:

PRINCIPAL DAVIS

(He hates that
word and shows it.)

Evil? How can you call ninth
graders evil? That's a word that is
too - uh, too -

JANET

Christian? Is that the word you're
looking for?

PRINCIPAL DAVIS

(Backpedaling.)

Well, no, maybe judgmental is the
word. A ninth grader is not evil.
Bullies have been around forever,
so ..

JANET

(Countering.)

But mass murders on school grounds
haven't!

PRINCIPAL DAVIS

(Palms out to calm her.)

Now that's a bit much. We've never
had such a thing here.

JANET

(With certain assurance.)

Yet! The armed guards at the
entrance are the only deterrent
now. You think kicking God out of
school was a good thing? How about
your former graduate who was just
sentenced to prison for business
fraud, for stealing pensions from
senior citizens? By your not using
God's principles to teach ethics,
the result is one more thief
inflicted on the world.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PRINCIPAL DAVIS

(Insulted now,
he shoots back.)

MY not using God's principles? Mrs. McCarty, that's out of line! You're looking for a scapegoat for society's ills, and I refuse to take it! I suggest you take it up with the Supreme Court, not me.

If you want your daughter indoctrinated in all that Christian dogma, take her to a Jesuit school! I'm sure she'll grumble about wearing the same clothes as everyone else, and then what will you complain about?

JANET

(Incensed over
his rudeness.)

A Jesuit school? I shouldn't have to do that to make sure she's safe. And anyway, we're Protestant!

PRINCIPAL DAVIS

(Now standing to
show her the door.)

Whatever. It's all the same to me. I'm only following the law, and I suggest you do the same.

SONG - "God's Not In School"

8 EXT. OUTSIDE SCHOOL - DAY

8

A libertarian group pickets a school whose teacher has dared to tell students that the evolution theory has significant holes in it. The 1st TV Reporter is interviewing Mr. Mason, a representative for the group.

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1ST TV REPORTER

(Facing the picketer
with a microphone.)

Mr. Mason, you're demanding that this teacher who pointed out flaws in evolution theory be fired. Is it a crime to offer alternate explanations?

MR. MASON

(With great pride
at being on
national TV.)

No, not alternate explanations, but he has been teaching that there is only one truth, and that is his truth. He's one of those right-wing Christian activists who insist that evolution is a lie, and that all scientific explanations are a hoax.

That's not true science; it's religion, and our group demands that religion of any kind be taken out of public schools.

1ST TV REPORTER

But, Mr. Mason, I understand that he only presented another point of view for students to consider. He said that the Earth, the solar system and the rest of the universe is too perfect a creation to be randomly formed.

Likewise, the human body is perfectly designed to live on our planet. So, logically, a perfect creation requires a Creator. And you refute that?

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CONTINUED:

MR. MASON

(Admantly.)

Absolutely! The name of God has no place in school. I will not allow my child to be subject to such dogmatic material in class.

1ST TV REPORTER

(Probing.)

Well, Mr. Mason, isn't it true that, since your contentious divorce, you haven't seen your son in six years, that you've had no part in his upbringing since that time? And that even the phrase "freedom of religion" is one you refute?

MR. MASON

(Now angry.)

My personal life is none of your business! I'm doing this for the benefit of all children, so my family is irrelevant to the issue; and that is we demand, not freedom OF religion, but freedom FROM religion.

SONG - "Libertarian Blues"

9 EXT. OUTSIDE COURT - DAY

9

Another group of picketers is walking in front of the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, whose ultra-liberal rulings have incensed them. A 2ND TV REPORTER questions a PICKETER.

2ND TV REPORTER

What is it you folks are protesting out here today?

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PICKETER

(Carrying a sign that
reads: "Impeach the 9th".)

We are disgusted with the way the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals and others like it across the country have taken it on themselves to take the name of God out of our lives. They allow atheists to bring their spurious lawsuits that claim they are injured by even seeing God's name anywhere. Now this lawsuit to take "In God We Trust" off all U.S. currency is the last straw.

2ND TV REPORTER

But it's just writing on money. Who does that harm by taking it off?

PICKETER

(In amazement.)

You don't get it, do you? It's the erosion of God from our daily lives that is pulling this country down into a moral cesspool. It's all part of Satan's master plan to separate man from God. And he appears to be winning.

2ND TV REPORTER

(Rolling his eyes as
he faces the camera.)

Satan's master plan! I wonder if he's to be subpoenaed in this suit? That's it from the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, Tony, back to you in the studio.

SONG - "The U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals"

10 INT. TV STUDIO - DAY

10

In front of a curtain, a television talk show HOST is doing his comedy monologue.

HOST

You've heard of all these atheists lately getting what they want from the U.S. courts. Did you ever think that maybe God's getting tired of listening to them?

An atheist was taking a walk through the woods, admiring all that the "accident of evolution" had created.

"What majestic trees! What powerful rivers! What beautiful animals!" he said to himself. As he was walking alongside the river he heard a rustling in the bushes behind him.

He turned to look and saw a 7-foot grizzly charging towards him. He ran as fast as he could up the path. He looked over his shoulder and saw that the bear was closing. He ran even faster, so scared that tears were coming down his eyes.

He looked over his shoulder again, and the bear was even closer. His heart was pumping frantically and he tried to run even faster. He tripped and fell on the ground.

He rolled over to pick himself up, but saw the bear, right on top of him, reaching for him with his left paw and raising his right paw to strike him.

At that instant, the atheist cried out, "Oh, my God!"

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HOST (cont'd)

Time stopped. The bear froze. The forest was silent. Even the river stopped moving.

As a bright light shone upon the man, a Voice came out of the sky, "You deny My existence for all of these years, curse My Name, teach others I don't exist and even credit Creation to a cosmic accident. Do you expect Me to help you out of this predicament? I expect now you want to be a Christian, is that it?"

The atheist looked directly into the light. "Well, not really. I'm not so sure that this is not just a dream. If not, could You perhaps make the bear a Christian?"

"Very well," said the Voice.

The light went out, the river ran again and the sounds of the forest resumed. And then the bear dropped his right paw, brought both paws together, bowed his head and spoke:

"Lord, for this food which I am about to receive, I am truly thankful."

SONG - "When God Made Man"

11 INT. ANTHONY'S DORM ROOM - DAY

11

In a tiny college dorm room, in the corner of the stage, Anthony Tallman is dictating into his PDA while a news-talk show is playing on his radio.

ANTHONY

Blog: anthony2605. Taking the strangest course at City College: Comparative Religions. Especially for me. I've never been religious, so this is all new. But they teach the class like every religion is equal to all others. Some are just weird! How can anyone believe in something that some guy just made up?

FADE TO BLACK.

12 INT. VARIOUS RELIGIOUS TEACHERS' ROOMS - DAY

12

VIDEO SCREENS show a series of quick cuts from one belief to another, presenting the dizzying array of human-constructed religions. When mullahs and priests speak, the language translations appear on screens.

HINDU PRIEST (V.O.)

Hindus believe that no particular religion teaches the only way to salvation above all others, but that all genuine religious paths are facets of God's pure love and light, deserving tolerance and understanding.

The students nod obediently.

(CONTINUED)

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UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM MEMBER (V.O.)

We believe that personal experience, conscience, and reason should be the final authorities in religion. In the end, religious authority lies not in a book, person, or institution, but in ourselves. We put religious insights to the test of our hearts and minds. We will not be bound by a statement of belief.

WICCAN TEENAGER (V.O.)

I can choose which religion I want, and this study of witchcraft has given me more power over my own destiny. It's not really the worship of Satan, like people think. That's silly. Who would worship Satan?

SIKH (V.O.)

We believe that liberation from the karmic cycle of rebirths occurs in the merging of the human spirit with the all-embracing spirit of God. Our religious worship involves contemplation of the divine Name. The ultimate deity is known by several names: Sat (truth), Sat Guru (true Guru), Akal Purakh (timeless being), Kartar (creator), and Wahi-Guru (praise to the Guru). By concentrating on God's Name (or many titles), one conquers the ego and unites with God.

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BUDDHIST TEACHER (V.O.)

All religions teach the same thing and are wonderful. The problem is that we all need to see these lessons from a different direction to understand them. The argument between Buddhism and Christianity is pointless because they both have the same objective.

MUSLIM MULLAH (V.O.)

Palestine is part of the faith. To relinquish any part of it is to abandon Islam. Liberating the sacred land from the Zionist occupation and establishing Islamic rule over the land from which the Prophet ascended to heaven is our most important goal.

You should willingly give your life for such a task, and you will be rewarded richly in heaven for your sacrifice.

Both Jews and Christians, who are infidels, stand in our way. Violence is permitted in our task of cleansing the world. Do not be deceived by their false religions. God has NOT selected the Jews as His chosen people.

As for the Christians, God forbid that God should have a Son.

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CARIBBEAN SANTERIA PRIEST (V.O.)
 Santerian beliefs are not discussed outside of the faith, so you are constrained even unto death from passing along what I tell you. Olorun, or Olódùmarè, the "owner of heaven" is the supreme deity, the creator of the universe, and of the lesser guardians, called Orisha.

Each of these has an associated Christian Saint, a principle, important number, color, food, dance posture and emblem. The Orishas need food in the form of animal sacrifice, as well as human praise, in order to remain effective.

The ritual sacrifices of the blood of chickens and others is collected and offered to the Orisha. Their sacrifice is believed to please the Saints, and to bring good luck, purification and forgiveness of sins.

HUMANIST (V.O.)

We secular Humanists reject the concept of a personal God and regard humans as supreme. We value knowledge based on reason and hard evidence, rather than on faith.

We reject a created universe in favor of the theory of evolution and a universe that obeys natural laws.

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CONTINUED:

HUMANIST (cont'd)

We also reject divinely inspired ethical and moral codes in favor of codes derived by reason from the human condition.

We think that full responsibility for the future of the world, its political systems, its ecology and all else rests with humans.

We believe that there is no God in heaven to intervene and save us from a disaster.

A message appears on the screen above the stage: "What is the truth?"

SONG - "Multiple Choice"

13 INT. ANTHONY'S DORM ROOM - DAY

13

In the corner of the stage, Anthony is on an outdoor bench on a college campus and is dictating into his PDA.

ANTHONY

Blog: anthony2605. An e-mail pal in Jerusalem has been keeping me up to date on all the weird stuff going on over there, like those terrorists who actually think blowing themselves up and killing little kids will get them into heaven. Not!

Of course, I don't really believe in heaven - or hell, for that matter - but those guys have been so brainwashed that ruthless politicians are using them as cannon fodder. It's scary how convinced they are that their version of the truth is the only one.

FADE TO BLACK.

14 INT. JERUSALEM STUDENTS' APARTMENT - DAY

14

In a living room in a small apartment in Jerusalem, four young Jewish college students MICHAEL, RONALD, IRVIN and ISAAC - all wearing yarmulkes, are discussing politics and religion.

MICHAEL had been surprised with TAYLOR, a Christian missionary, who handed him a booklet on the street, but has decided to bring him home to meet his friends to explain himself.

MICHAEL

(Trying not to be
confrontational.)

You have a lot of nerve giving out
Christian tracts in Jerusalem.
You're an American, right?

TAYLOR

(The American is
friendly and anxious
to speak to Jews.)

Yes, I've been here a year. I'm
going to Hebrew University.

RONALD

(Greatly surprised.)

You are? So are we! What major?

TAYLOR

Archaeology. The chance to study
Holy Land digs is a once in a
lifetime opportunity.

MICHAEL

And the chance to convert Jews to
Christianity.

The others laugh.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TAYLOR

(With no embarrassment.)

Sure! Why not? The Jews are the chosen people of God; it was through Abraham, Isaac and Jacob that He revealed Himself, entrusted them with His Word and through whom the Messiah would come. Now I'm just returning the favor.

MICHAEL

(Somewhat taken aback.)

Returning the favor? What does that mean?

TAYLOR

For protecting, preserving and delivering the Word.

In the Old Testament, the prophet Isaiah prophesied events of the First Coming of the Messiah and the Second Coming in one sentence, concerning the Lord's favor and the Lord's vengeance, thousands of years separated only by a few words, and confusing many.

Some rabbis thought that there would be TWO Messiahs, one the Conquering King and one the Suffering Servant, in that order, but this order fit into their human needs and desires, not God's.

The Jews expected the Conquering King to be the first, throwing off the yoke of Roman oppression, not the Suffering Servant who had come to die to atone for their sins.

Seeing he wasn't interrupted, he continues.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TAYLOR (cont'd)

They thought, because of their good works and the way they incorrectly interpreted Scripture, that they were already holy and acceptable to God, and they didn't need a Suffering Servant, so they rejected Jesus when He didn't arrive on a war horse with a sword. It was to be His SECOND Coming that Jesus would return as the Conquering King.

RONALD

(Puzzled.)

Second Coming? We're waiting for the FIRST!

TAYLOR

Exactly, that's the issue. The persecution the Jews suffered for the past two thousand years is a result of that, when God dispersed them to the world as Divine discipline for their unbelief.

The entire world wrongly blamed them for Christ's death, when it was our sin - all of us - to blame. It was the Romans who crucified Christ. During their military occupation, the Romans crucified 250,000 Jews, but only One rose from the dead.

It was by the old Mosaic Law that many believed in salvation by works, by being good and following the Law, was what led to God. But all of us have sinned and come short of the glory of God, so perfection is impossible.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TAYLOR (cont'd)

Jesus was sent by God to die for our sins, and by that atonement we are cleansed of our sins. Faith in Jesus as the Son of God is all that is required for eternal life.

It's been foretold that a horrible time is coming soon when God will severely shake Israel until it truly believes that their King has already come, and is coming again soon.

He is coming to fulfill all the promises of favor to the Jews that were made to your forefathers. Israel will be the great Kingdom from which Christ will rule. Good news, bad news.

MICHAEL

Soon? What does that mean?

TAYLOR

We're told not to speculate on when - just soon. Signs will be evident, and you will know, but only if you read the Word to know what they are.

RONALD

Coming soon? Does that mean I don't have to study for finals?

All laugh. Ronald, seeing that he has an appreciative audience, decides it's time for an old joke.

RONALD (cont'd)

You know, our two religions are not that far apart. When the Messiah comes, we'll just ask Him: "Is this your first or second visit?"

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

That line elicits groans all around, so Ronald holds his arms up, questioning.

RONALD (cont'd)

What? What?

15 EXT. BENCH OUTSIDE CLINIC - DAY

15

Anthony is sitting outside the addiction clinic waiting for Paul and dictating into his PDA.

ANTHONY

Blog: anthony2605. My friend works in an addiction clinic near campus. To hear him tell it, it's a burnout job, working with privileged addicts and listening to their 'poor me' stories of how tough they have it.

To top it off, he's an atheist like me and has to listen to his boss try to slip in God and Jesus into conversations about kicking their habits. Well, we all have a cross to bear, I guess.

16 INT. CLINIC - DAY

16

Inside the clinic, RITA and the other addicts are arguing among themselves that their lives are not as bad as other people who had done much worse things.

RITA

I don't know about anyone else here, but I'm certainly going to heaven. After all, we've given money to my club's charities for years. And I give all my old clothes to the church's thrift store. I may not go to church regularly, but I consider myself a spiritual person.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOHN

(Shakes his head at
their dangerous
ignorance.)

Did you ever lie? Cheat? Steal?
Curse your parents? Curse God?
Ever? Even once? Once is enough for
God's judgment.

JASON

Isn't that typical of self-
righteous rich people? I don't even
pretend to go to church, but I'm a
good person. I mean, overall. I've
only done little "parking ticket"
things, like lying, cheating on my
taxes, drugs, sex and a little bit
of stealing, but I'm sure I'll be
in heaven.

Jason puts his hand over his mouth for a single aside to
Rita, and then takes it away for questions to John.

JASON (cont'd)

And I'll be there to torment you,
lady! I don't know if there is a
God, but if He does exist, and if
what they say is true about God
being love and mercy, how can He
possibly send the majority of
people on Earth to hell? How can He
condemn His creation?

JOHN

Because God's love must also take
into account His justice. Where
there is no judgment, there is no
justice. Even the crimes you call
"parking ticket" sins are as much
against His will as the major ones.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOHN (cont'd)

Even though we would like it to be so, God will not grade on the curve.

You remember the curve in school, where only a few failed, a few got A's and the majority passed? That is not God's plan. Judgment will happen, whether or not you believe in it.

SONG - "God Won't Grade On The Curve"

17 INT. ANTHONY'S DORM ROOM - DAY

17

ANTHONY

(Dictating to his PDA.)

Blog: anthony2605. We have a Muslim student in Math class who is, to put it mildly, on edge all the time. He wants to bring every conversation around to the Jews in Israel -- except he won't call it Israel; he calls it Palestine. The anger this guy carries around!

Someone made the mistake in class of saying the Jews were there a couple thousand years before the Arabs were, and this guy went ballistic!

It's just my opinion, but if the Jews really were there 4,000 years ago, the land is theirs and everyone who rushed in later to grab it are just squatters. But I decided long ago not to get in the middle of a discussion between Muslims and Jews - uh, make that an argument. They stopped having discussions 1,300 years ago.

18 INT. SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS - DAY

18

VIDEO SCREENS: A kindergarten children's Sunday school class is sitting in a circle. Each close-up shows a different five year-old child answering the teacher's questions.

UNSEEN TEACHER

So who can tell me what new things they've learned this year?

CHILD 1

Never trust a dog to watch your food.

CHILD 2

When your dad is mad and asks you, "Do I look stupid?" - don't answer him.

CHILD 3

Don't squat with your spurs on.

CHILD 4

Never hold a dust buster and a cat at the same time.

CHILD 5

You can't hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk.

CHILD 6

Puppies still have bad breath even after eating a Tic Tac.

CHILD 7

If you want a kitten, start out by asking for a horse.

CHILD 8

Never allow your three-year old brother in the same room as your school assignment.

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CONTINUED:

CHILD 9

Felt markers are not good to use as lipstick.

CHILD 10

When you get a bad grade in school, show it to your mom when she's on the phone.

CHILD 11

Never try to baptize a cat.

CHILD 12

When you hear the toilet flush and my little brother say, "Uh oh," it's already too late.

UNSEEN TEACHER

That's nice, and I'm sure your parents are just thrilled. But what have you learned from the Bible and Sunday School?

CHILD 1

Moses went up on Mount Cyanide to get the Ten Amendments.

CHILD 2

Joshua led the Hebrews in the Battle of Geritol.

CHILD 3

The greatest miracle anyone had ever seen was when Joshua told his son to stand still, and he obeyed him.

CHILD 4

King Solomon had 300 wives and 700 porcupines.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CHILD 5

The people who followed the Lord were called the twelve decibels.

CHILD 6

One of the opossums was Matthew, who drove a cab; he was a taxi man.

CHILD 7

The Bible says a Christian should have only one wife. This is called monotony.

CHILD 8

When the three wise guys from the East Side arrived, they gave baby Jesus gold and Frankenstein.

CHILD 9

When God made the universe, He had to do it left handed, 'cause Jesus sits on God's right hand.

CHILD 10

Yes, Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. Jesus told them to open the tomb, and then He said, "Lazarus, come out!"

And it's a good thing he didn't just say, "Come out!" because there would have been a stampede of dead guys.

CHILD 11

Easter is every year when the Jews roll away the boulder and Jesus comes out. If He sees His shadow, we have six more weeks of basketball.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CHILD 12

My dad said I shouldn't say "Dear Harold" when I pray. But that's what they call God in church. You know, when we say, "Our Father, who art in Heaven, Harold be Thy Name."

CHILD 1

I asked God to teach me to whistle. How was I to know He was gonna do it when I was in church?

CHILD 2

We must be God's TV because He is always watching us.

CHILD 3

I sometimes don't say my prayers at night 'cause my mom says them for me. She says, "Thank God he's in bed!"

CHILD 4

We learned about Adam and Eve in Sunday school. When I had a pain in my side, I told my dad, "I think I'm going to have a wife."

CHILD 5

When my grandpa died, he asked his two lawyers to sit with him. He said, "Jesus died between two thieves, and that's how I want to go."

CHILD 6

I know where Jesus is. He's in our bathroom! 'Cause every morning, my father gets up, bangs on the bathroom door, and yells, "Good Lord, are you still in there?"

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CHILD 7

Mom said Moses was wandering
through the desert for 40 years
'cause men won't stop for
directions.

CHILD 8

When Noah was on the ark, I don't
think he did any fishing, 'cause
all he had was two worms.

CHILD 9

No matter how much Jell-O you put
in a swimming pool you still can't
walk on water.

19 INT. PRISON LIBRARY - DAY

19

John accompanies WILLIAM RODERFIELD to his prison ministry, as William's health deterioration has caused him to step aside to let another take over.

William Roderfield is a 67-year old pastor of prison ministries, traveling up and down the state for thirty-some years now, bringing the Gospel to inmates in the smallest county jails and to hardened cons in high security penitentiaries. He'd been able to reach many, but he'd also seen many turn their backs on God. He'd witnessed executions of those who had accepted Christ only hours before their final, fateful walk, but with confidence that God forgave even murderers who believed. The irony was that their victims might be in hell for their unbelief.

John Bailey hears the cell door slam shut behind him with a solid clank. A shiver runs through his body, but he quickly suppresses it. He couldn't show emotion of any kind to these convicts. He was here for the first time, to take up the ministry that William was passing on to him, worn out from the weight of this overbearing and claustrophobic existence to which he willingly subjected himself. William carries only his Bible.

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Twenty convicts sit in hardback plastic chairs in a semicircle around the two men. A guard, armed only with a baton, stands menacingly at the door. A baton wouldn't protect John if these guys got violent, so his uneasiness grows instead of dissipating.

WILLIAM

(Smiling at the group.)

Good morning, men. It's good to be here again.

The convicts greet William back warmly, and with smiles, to John's surprise. They banter back and forth, like old friends at a local club.

WILLIAM (cont'd)

I've come to tell you I won't be back next month. John Bailey here will be taking up the group for me, and I want you to make him feel welcome.

CONVICTS

No, no, you can't mean that! Where are you going? What do you mean?

The mood of the convicts turns sour, but not nasty. They obviously have great affection for William, and some tried to change his mind, but he just shook his head.

William shushes them, but with a smile, then a sadness creeps into his eyes.

WILLIAM

No, I have to leave you. Just last month, my doctor told me I have a cancer in my liver that has gone too far. I don't have long to live. Soon I won't be able to leave the house.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

John is as shocked at the news as the inmates, all of whom stand up with cries of disbelief. The guard takes one step forward, and they all quickly sit back down. William tries to calm their distress.

WILLIAM (cont'd)

I'm not complaining, and neither should you. God is calling me home, and that's where I want to be. Now I asked some of you to bring a friend today, and I see several new faces.

They are the ones I want to talk to today. The rest of you fellows are safe in God's hand, but I have a story I wanted to tell to those who are here for the first time.

The room gets quiet as William begins.

WILLIAM (cont'd)

Up on Lake Erie, it can get vicious during the winter. A man took his only son out fishing on the lake, and his son brought a school friend, both of them seventeen.

For several hours, they talked and joked, but caught few fish. Suddenly, with no warning, a storm blew in from Canada. The wind screamed furiously around the tiny boat, and waves whipped into foam within minutes. The swells became enormous and one huge one capsized the small boat as if it were a toy.

All three were thrown into the icy cold water, frantically clawing the water to stay afloat.

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CONTINUED:

WILLIAM (cont'd)

The father had grabbed the only flotation device, with a 20-foot line attached. Far to the left was his son; far to the right was his friend. He had only one line to throw out.

There was dead silence among the prisoners. William pauses, and looks far, far away.

CONVICTS

What happened? What did he do?

John sees actual concern on their faces, and he finds himself stunned at their reactions.

WILLIAM

The man knew that his son was a Christian, but that his friend was not. He could not bear to think that his son's friend would spend eternity in hell. He hesitated but a second, and threw the line to his son's friend.

He knew with absolute certainty that his son would enter heaven within seconds, and would be there forever. As the friend grabbed the line, the man looked at his son and said, "I love you, son."

His son gave him a faint smile, trying to mouth some words, but failing, and disappeared forever in the swirling water. His body was never found.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CONVICTS

(Aghast with
incredulity.)

No one would ever do that! No way!
How could he let his only son die?
I'd never do that! That story can't
be true!

WILLIAM

(Soothingly.)

The story is true. I know, because
I was that boy.

The convicts exchange stares in open-mouthed shock.

WILLIAM (cont'd)

Fifty years ago this month, I was
the one to whom the father threw
that line. I lived because he
sacrificed his one and only son so
that I might live.

He allowed me to live out of his
love for his son and for me. I
didn't deserve it. I was as far
from God as possible. But he threw
me the lifeline anyway.

Now, it's time for me to meet them
both in heaven and tell God the
story, even though He already knows
it.

The room is hushed.

WILLIAM (cont'd)

In the same way, God sent His Son,
Jesus, to die so that you can have
eternal life with Him. We don't
deserve it. None of us do.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WILLIAM (cont'd)

But God loved you so much that He watched His Son die a humiliating and excruciating death on the cross, so that all mankind could live.

Jesus paid the price for you. All it takes is faith that what God said was true, that Christ arose in three days to live forever, and He offers the same to you.

Only a little faith, just the tiniest seed of faith planted in your heart is enough. You don't have to memorize the Bible.

Just believe Jesus is who He said He was: the Son of God. And God will forget your sins, as if they never happened.

You don't need a priest to absolve you of all the bad things you've done. You just have to accept the gift. You can't get it by doing good deeds or being a good person.

It's a gift, and like a birthday gift you get as a child, you just accept it and say, "Thank you."

The prisoners collectively exhale, many having held their breaths at the end of the story. Those who had brought a friend turned their heads to them, with an unspoken, "Well?" Slowly, and with great embarrassment, one newcomer stands facing William, not looking at the others.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CONVICT 1

(Blurting it out.)

I want that lifeline. What do I do?

Then another, then another stand. Three in all.

WILLIAM

(Whispering to John
with a smile.)

A great harvest.

FADE TO SINGLE PIN SPOT.

JOHN

(Walks forward,
ashamedly speaking
to himself.)

How can I follow this? They're
going to expect me to be as
committed as William was. I can't
be!

A father forfeited his son so this
man could live, but that sacrifice
brought thousands to eternal life.

FADE TO BLACK.

SONG - "Love In The Key Of God"

20 INT. ANTHONY'S DORM ROOM - DAY

20

In a corner, Anthony is dictating to his PDA.

ANTHONY

Blog: anthony2605. The news today is all abuzz with this guy who is floating a Middle East peace plan. And he's not even a politician! About time, huh? I hope he can do something about the skyrocketing gas prices and the lines. I saw another fight today at the gas pumps. The worst in people has come out during this crisis.

FADE TO BLACK.

21 INT. NEWS TALK RADIO STATION - DAY

21

EDWARD, the radio talk show host, is speaking to a political expert, MR. SILVER.

EDWARD

Mr. Silver, in your Middle East experience, have you ever seen such a turnaround of events?

MR. SILVER

No, Ed, I haven't. It seems that in a matter of weeks, attention has focused on Stefan Temple as the peacemaker to watch.

He has put his billion-Euro empire solidly behind creating a stable situation in the Middle East, and he seems to reject any political role for himself.

EDWARD

But after so many centuries of distrust, how can the Muslims and the Jews coexist?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

EDWARD (cont'd)

The Palestinians have called for the destruction of Israel since its inception in 1948, and now their attention is riveted on Temple's next move. What has he said to them behind closed doors?

MR. SILVER

(Shrugging.)

Who knows? Perhaps he has found common ground for them both. After all, the killings on both sides have proven ineffective in getting anyone to the bargaining table.

This is a non-politician proposing a solution, someone who has absolutely nothing to gain and absolutely nothing to lose.

He is the perfect peacemaker.

FADE TO BLACK.

22 INT. JERUSALEM STUDENTS' APARTMENT - DAY

22

The five college students are debating Stefan Temple's ascent to power.

MICHAEL

This Stefan Temple could be Israel's salvation. Just look at how many trips he's made to Jerusalem to find a peace solution with the Palestinians.

RONALD

Did you hear what Rabbi Reuben Dan said about him?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RONALD (cont'd)

He went on national TV to ask our leaders to listen to his plans for a settlement of disputes by outside parties, like the European Union.

That Union was anti-Israel until Temple got in the middle of their deliberations and put economic pressure on them.

MICHAEL

(With enthusiasm.)

I think we are closer to peace now than we've ever been. I hope our stubborn Prime Minister and the Palestinian Authority will sit down and listen.

Those old men need to listen to new solutions. I took one of Rabbi Dan's classes at the University, and I would trust him with my life.

RONALD

(With a flash
of skepticism.)

Uh, well, that's what we're doing, isn't it? Trusting Rabbi Dan with our lives? What if he's wrong about Temple, and he's just another profiteer?

MICHAEL

Oh, right, a profiteer! With all the free food he's given away in Africa, is that the sign of an exploiting capitalist? He's a humanist, Ronald, not the Antichrist!

All laugh at Michael's outrageous statement.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Taylor, the American Christian has been sitting quietly until the last statement.

TAYLOR

Say, guys, there's something you ought to know.

MICHAEL

Oh, come on, now, Taylor. That was just a joke. You Christians are so uptight when it comes to jokes about all this prophecy nonsense. Chill out!

TAYLOR

(Smiling. He doesn't want to alienate them.)
Yeah, but don't you believe the Old Testament prophets? Like Isaiah and Ezekiel and Daniel? Especially Daniel.

MICHAEL

Well, sure, after all, we're good Jews.

They all laugh at that, knowing they're not.

TAYLOR

(Sensing an opening.)
Let me show you what Daniel had to say about "End Times," which is Bible shorthand for the rise of the worst dictator the world has ever seen.

All the bloody tyrants of history - Stalin, Hitler, Mao Tse Tung, the Czars, the Caesars, the Pharaohs - all rolled into one, won't hold a candle to this guy.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TAYLOR

Just one bit of advice after you read these pages I've marked for you - don't get his mark, no matter how hungry you get. Just remember that, if nothing else. Don't get his mark.

Taylor hands them a Bible with Post-It notes sticking from the pages.

RONALD

Mark? What mark? Is this like the Jewish telegram: "Begin worrying. Details to follow"?

The others look at him disapprovingly; this is no time for jokes.

TAYLOR

To understand that, you have to read the last book, Revelation, and I've labeled that too.

Michael takes the Bible grudgingly and flips to the first Post-It.

SONG - "I Heard The Word"

23 INT. RADIO STUDIO - DAY

23

A lone announcer sits at a desk in front of a microphone.

WAYNE SPOFFORD

This is Wayne Spofford with Independent Radio News. Good evening and welcome to our program.

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CONTINUED:

WAYNE SPOFFORD (cont'd)

Tonight, we are profiling the always interesting, but secretive, Stefan Temple, who has only recently begun a foray into international politics.

It was only ten years ago that an accidental shelling by Israeli jets of a Middle East peace conference in the desert near Amman, Jordan killed his father, a wealthy Italian financier.

It was suspected that American intelligence supplied to the Israelis about a terrorist base nearby was faulty. However, he publicly forgave those responsible, something that stunned both Arabs and Jews, long accustomed to cycles of revenge and bloodshed.

Having inherited a huge fortune and industrial holdings from his father, he quickly expanded their reach into the most important industries to reaching human stomachs and minds.

His inherited media empire is the centerpiece, controlling satellite, television and print news that reach the majority of the world's population.

His wealth allowed him to buy controlling interests in military and industrial corporations, multinational food companies and computer software giants whose former empires he has consumed in hostile takeovers.

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CONTINUED:

WAYNE SPOFFORD (cont'd)

Temple's controlling interest in the merged motion picture and recording industries allowed him influence over the culture and entertainment that is delivered, increasingly through his software and Internet channels and in diminishing proportion through the old structures.

His trading prowess in commodities and world stock exchanges has multiplied his wealth ten thousand fold, creating the greatest fortune in history.

But it is Temple's charitable works that have made him a hero to Third World nations by providing them with free and low cost food from his improved techniques of growing and distribution.

His scientists found new ways to desalinize seawater, providing irrigation and drinking water to formerly impoverished nations. Vast sub-Saharan wastelands have been transformed into millions of acres of wheat and rice farms, providing bread and staples to starving populations around the globe.

His laboratory's discovery of methods to blend fish products with seaweed and soy products allowed his supporters to boast that he had duplicated Jesus' miracle of the fishes and the loaves, but on a global scale.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WAYNE SPOFFORD (cont'd)

He is hailed as a champion in Islamic mosques throughout the Middle East.

He has created a conglomerate that controls virtually all the world's media. He attracts the best and brightest to his employ, brilliant young business types on the move upward, who will do anything to get ahead. He pits his employees against each other, dangling power and money to foster absolute loyalty.

No one knows what Temple's next move will be in the political arena. If he is able to defuse the hostilities between Israel and its neighbors, it will be a peace effort unmatched in modern history.

24 INT. STEFAN TEMPLE'S OFFICE - DAY

24

Stefan Temple is meeting in his office with the European bankers. They see a winner in him, and they want in on a piece of the action. MR. KREUTZMANN represents a German multinational bank, and acts as the spokesman.

MR. KREUTZMANN

The economic chaos after the crash of the world stock markets has the financial markets in a panic, and there are riots in almost every city. You may be one the only one unaffected by it, Mr. Temple, with your profits in the last quarter surpassing the GNP of many of the European nations we represent.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MR. KREUTZMANN (cont'd)

We acknowledge that you don't need financing for most of your projects, but our banks are willing to negotiate very attractive terms for some of your nation building developments.

Temple knows he has the edge with these vultures, but prefers not to be too heavy-handed.

STEFAN TEMPLE

Mr. Kreutzmann, Deutsche Mitsubishi Commerce Bank is the world's largest banking institution, and you honor me by traveling to Rome to meet with me. You and your colleagues represent over eight trillion Euros in assets. The influence that you gentlemen have over world affairs is not something I fail to appreciate. What is it you want to accomplish? Let's start there, and see if we can do business together.

Kreutzmann is pleased to hear such a positive reply and gets right to the point.

MR. KREUTZMANN

Mr. Temple, we understand that your food and irrigation projects in Africa have created an opportunity whereby the right leadership could be installed in those nations in the near future, a leadership that will focus on long term stability of investments - our investments. We are most interested in working along with you to guarantee a risk-free environment in those countries.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Temple knows their game already; he wants to see how far they would go.

STEFAN TEMPLE

Mr. Kreutzmann, creating a risk-free environment anywhere today is an expensive proposition. I hope you gentlemen understand that.

MR. KREUTZMANN

(Head bobbing
vigorously.)

Yes, of course, that goes without saying. With the appropriate investments, the continent's assets could be developed much more extensively than previously, and for the benefit of the entire world.

STEFAN TEMPLE

(A nod.)

I assume you're referring to the gangster "liberation movements" and robber-presidents plaguing the continent for decades? By their thievery, they've kept their countries in poverty.

Their industries now produce only a portion of the gold, diamonds, oil, copper, zinc, cobalt, nickel, bauxite, phosphates and aluminum that are in the ground.

I estimate the value of mineral rights, given the proper security, at more than twenty trillion Euros. Is that what you gentlemen are interested in?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Not wanting to break out in a cold sweat from the temptation of all that African wealth, Kreutzmann dabs a handkerchief on his palms.

MR. KREUTZMANN

Well, of course, Mr. Temple, mineral rights are certainly something our banks invest in. And we certainly appreciate your candor. The issue of security, though, is of paramount importance.

Temple had gauged the temperature right. They wanted to rob and pillage Africa, but they couldn't do it without him. He relaxes comfortably in his chair.

STEFAN TEMPLE

I understand your position. This subject is one, as you may know, that is a treasured one to me. Feeding the African continent has been my dream for many years, but at every turn, these corrupt politicians in virtually every country have stymied me by stuffing their pockets.

However, if you gentlemen are truly willing to invest in securing the continent and installing pro-business regimes, I believe it can be done.

MR. KREUTZMANN

(Ecstatic.)

Really? If anyone can do it, you can, sir. You are loved and respected in Africa like no European ever has been. How long do you think it would take? And how much would it take?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Temple had thrown them the bait - twenty trillion Euros in minerals - and now it was time to set the hook firmly in their jaws. He casually writes on a slip of paper and passes it to Kreutzmann. The blood drains from Kreutzmann's face as he reads it and passes it to the others.

STEFAN TEMPLE

Your consortium would have the total and exclusive mineral rights to Africa for a guarantee of fifty years. In that time, you could probably extract even double the estimates I gave you.

Without war and genocide on the continent, a climate of business could return.

Don't you think that is worth an investment by your group of two trillion Euros?

MR. KREUTZMANN

(Trying to stay calm.)

Of course, but you understand two trillion Euros is something all of our boards would need to discuss.

Temple is casual and exuding a "take it or leave it" attitude.

STEFAN TEMPLE

I have projects all over the world where I will make a lot more money than this one. Almost every Euro will go into a Pan-African army to keep the peace. The regimes want peace as much as you do, but someone has to pay for it.

It's just that the present regimes assume that they will stay in power, and that supposition is fallible.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Kreutzmann swings his arms out to Temple and to his colleagues.

MR. KREUTZMANN

Mr. Temple, I am sure we can work something out among us. Gentlemen, Mr. Temple is a noble and honorable Roman gentleman.

His word is his bond. I believe we can convince our boards to agree to the terms, don't you?

The others nod in agreement.

STEFAN TEMPLE

(Rising with a smile.)

Then it's a deal! I'll begin work on the plan right away. When you can start transferring funds, I can begin implementing it.

They all rise; they shake Temple's hand and leave. Temple smiles as they leave; he walks forward, speaking to himself.

STEFAN TEMPLE (cont'd)

Ah, gentlemen! I have no intention of doing anything I've said. I have other plans for your money.

But I can certainly drag it out for so long and hide the money in so many unreachable places that I can bankrupt each of your banks before you understand that Africa is no more than a world stage on which to play the champion.

There are bigger fish to fry than Africa. Far bigger.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Temple smiles broadly and reflects upon the recent events with his confidant, that clever and ruthless image in the glass. He adjusts his collar.

STEFAN TEMPLE (cont'd)
Noble and honorable Roman, he
called me! Ha! He should read more
Shakespeare.

That line was from "Julius Caesar"
when Cassius called Brutus a "noble
and honorable Roman."

And it was Brutus that drove that
dagger home into Caesar's heart.
How fitting!

FADE TO BLACK.

SONG - "Millions In The Bank"

25 INT. ANTHONY'S DORM ROOM - DAY

25

In a corner, Anthony is dictating to his PDA.

ANTHONY
Blog: anthony2605. Well, I'm
failing calculus, but the good news
is that there may be actual peace
coming to the world with Stefan
Temple.

Who woulda thought it could happen
this fast? Maybe in a new world, I
won't need calculus. I can hope,
can't I?

FADE TO BLACK.

26 INT. TV STUDIO - DAY

26

JEANETTE KEPLER, a female TV news anchor, is interviewing RABBI REUBEN DAN.

JEANETTE

Our guest today is Rabbi Reuben Dan, former professor at Hebrew University and a former Minister of Information for Israel. Good morning, Rabbi.

REUBEN DAN

Good morning, Jeanette, and thank you for inviting me. But call me Reuben, please

JEANETTE

Rabbi, uh, Reuben, you've been part of Stefan Temple's organization, directing part of his food distribution in Africa. Now you're working on peace negotiations in the Middle East. What is it that Mr. Temple wants to accomplish?

REUBEN DAN

Peace, Jeanette, peace in our lifetime. He has seen that political actions have stalled, based on national territorial ambitions, greed over oil and other assets or religious domination.

JEANETTE

(Nodding her head.)

That's been true for thousands of years. How does he expect to be the one to succeed when so many others have failed? Does he plan to insert himself politically into these countries' affairs?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

REUBEN DAN

He has no political ambitions, Jeanette, none at all. He has all the money he will ever need. His sole ambition has been to feed and to bring peace to a troubled world.

JEANETTE

But now the European Union wants him to take the head of their organization, to be its President, is that correct?

REUBEN DAN

That's true. Because they know he can cut through all the bureaucratic wrangling that has hampered past peace efforts.

Not only that, but he has begun new negotiations with Islamic countries that have been excluded from the European Union to set up their own sister union.

Exclusive clubs must not exist in troubled times. As a result, Asian and African countries have approached him to create other sister unions to plan their own destinies.

JEANETTE

(Curious.)

Does that mean he wants to head those unions as well?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

REUBEN DAN

(With palms outward.)

Oh, no. Mr. Temple has no ambitions whatsoever with these other unions.

He is merely holding out a hand of peace to those who wish to lay down their arms and make war just a bad memory.

JEANETTE

(She's still not convinced.)

But isn't there talk of combining all these unions into one global World Federation?

And isn't there discussion of Stefan Temple being the one to be Chairman of this all-encompassing World Federation?

REUBEN DAN

(He is ready for this question.)

Yes, there have been talks by the war-weary countries that have been decimated by violence to have such a Federation. But Mr. Temple absolutely rejects any role in such an organization.

He is not a politician; he is a humanitarian. He refuses to even consider such talk. Even convincing him to accept the Presidency of the European Union was a massive undertaking, and he intends to walk away from that in a few years.

He prefers to feed the starving. All else would take his concentration away from this task.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JEANETTE

(She presses on.)

But the lone holdouts in the midst of all the hysteria to acclaim Temple as a leader of the people are the United States and the tiny state of Israel. What are their issues?

REUBEN DAN

(Shaking his head.)

Jeanette, "hysteria" is not the right word, I believe "consensus" fits better, don't you?

JEANETTE

(Shrugging.)

Well, both countries have always distrusted strong leaders. Russian and China seem to be on board with you, since they have long histories of following powerful father figures.

But what about the U.S. and Israel, your own country?

REUBEN DAN

(Unconcerned.)

Jeanette, Mr. Temple has been most supportive of Israel's right to exist.

Up until now, the U.S. has been Israel's chief ally, and perhaps there is a bit of a personal issue there, with Mr. Temple achieving more in a short period of time than the U.S. has in many years.

As far as Israel is concerned, they have a hard time trusting anyone, and with good reason.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

REUBEN DAN (cont'd)

But they should look to what people do, not what they say, and Mr. Temple's actions are those of a peacemaker. I am an Israeli.

Would I do something that is against the interests of Israel?

JEANETTE

What is this new slogan Mr. Temple is proposing, "Order Above Chaos"?

REUBEN DAN

The world must emerge from the chaos of the past century, and the only way to do that is through order.

It is nothing more than a reminder to people where we have been, how incorrect the old solutions were and how each country can move boldly into a new world order. International conflict must be a thing of the past or we will destroy ourselves.

Mr. Temple has a plan for an era of global peace, and a firm hand is needed to control the unrestrained violence threatening the planet; nothing else will work.

Jeanette moves in another direction, instead of following up.

JEANETTE

Rabbi, uh, Reuben, what do you make of the news stories of a huge upsurge in sexual crimes in the past year?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JEANETTE (cont'd)

It appears that widespread worldwide sexual misconduct is completely out of control. Some see a parallel to the immorality of the old Roman Empire.

REUBEN DAN

These crimes are indeed widespread, and will be dealt with in a criminal justice setting. They cannot continue. As for the comparison to the old Roman Empire, that could be overblown. I don't think anything could get as immoral as that period in history.

SONG - "He'll Send His Angels"

27 INT. U.S. SENATE FLOOR - DAY

27

U.S. SENATOR BELL is trying to convince some of his fellow politicians that this is all the work of the immortal evil spirit, Satan himself, and that to discount his power is to bow to him. The other senators, particularly SENATOR TALBOT, laugh at his naiveté.

SENATOR BELL

My fellow senators, I rise to warn all that the terrible and dreadful Day of the Lord is almost upon us.

The Scripture warns us of evil times when a worldwide dictator will lead the planet into war and chaos. I see the fulfillment of this prophecy in Stefan Temple.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SENATOR BELL (cont'd)

Do not trust him, and do not give into his deceptions.

He is controlled like a puppet by the father of murder, lies and hate, Satan himself.

Senator Talbot cannot contain himself. He rises, laughing.

SENATOR TALBOT

Will the honorable Senator yield?

Bell nods.

SENATOR TALBOT (cont'd)

The honorable gentleman mentions Satan. I must respect the Senator's faith, but this is a bit much. How can we have reasoned debate in this august chamber if we bring up the name of Satan as indisputable fact?

We have never proven this fictional character from Bible myths as real, and to bring up his name at a time when we are on the verge of a real and lasting peace is unconstructive to the peace process that Mr. Temple has begun.

SENATOR BELL

Does the Senator imply that no one has ever proven the existence of Satan in the same way that it has never been proven to his satisfaction that there is a God?

SENATOR TALBOT

(Nodding.)

Well, perhaps, but my views mirror those of my constituents, who prefer to keep the name of God out of public debate.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SENATOR TALBOT (cont'd)
 There is, after all, a separation
 of church and state to which we
 must all adhere, including my
 honorable colleague.

SENATOR BELL
 (Ominously.)
 "As the lightning comes from the
 east and flashes to the west, so
 also will the coming of the Son of
 Man be."

The time of judgment, although
 known only to God, will come
 swiftly, but it will come.

Read the signs. "Now learn this
 lesson from the fig tree: As soon
 as its twigs get tender and its
 leaves come out, you know that
 summer is near."

SENATOR TALBOT
 (Still amused.)
 Fig tree? The Senator is bringing
 up fig trees? Does he wish to
 propose subsidies for fig farmers?
 Or is it Fig Newtons to which the
 Senator refers?"

SONG - "Fight Temptation's Schemes"

28 INT. SENATOR TALBOT'S OFFICE - DAY

28

Senator Talbot returns to his Senate office. He tells his
 staff to take an early lunch; he wants to be alone. As soon
 as he sits down, he opens a laptop computer and slips an
 earphone and microphone over his head. He punches several
 buttons and Stefan Temple comes on the screen.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

STEFAN TEMPLE

Good afternoon, Senator, I was just watching the deliberations in my office. You have good timing.

SENATOR TALBOT

That idiot Senator Bell should go back to his hick town and his tired old church beliefs.

STEFAN TEMPLE

(Smiling and
accommodating.)

Well, now, Senator, you know just how to neutralize him, don't you? I've always admired your way with words. Making fun of him irritates him so much that his blood pressure jumps; he might even have a heart attack one day.

Temple's smile turns crooked.

SENATOR TALBOT

(A bit uneasily.)

Uh, well, I .. Say, I didn't know that. How do you know about his blood pressure?

STEFAN TEMPLE

(He's said too much.)

Oh, that's all in his medical records. And you know I keep very complete information on those of interest.

SENATOR TALBOT

(Satisfied.)

Oh, right. Well, I just wanted to let you know about Bell, but you're already informed, so I'd better get back to the floor for a vote coming up.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

STEFAN TEMPLE

Thank you, Senator. I look forward
to your visiting us here in Rome
this summer. Goodbye.

Temple spins around in his chair and walks over to a
gigantic map of the world. He has sliding plastic overlays
to signify agreements, tentative deals and targeted deals.

FADE TO BLACK.

29 INT. TV NEWS ANCHOR SET - DAY

29

The male NEWS ANCHOR comes on with a "Commentary" on recent
breaking news.

NEWS ANCHOR

You've all followed the amazing
recent events in the Middle East.
The powerful earthquake in
Jerusalem two weeks ago shook for
so long and so violently that the
Dome of the Rock, Al Aqsa mosque
and every manmade structure on the
mountain was leveled to dust. The
Western Wall, long venerated by the
Jews as the last remnant of the
Second Temple, was likewise
demolished.

The earthquake seemed to be
confined to a specific fault line
around Mount Moriah, and much of
Jerusalem was spared. Jews rejoiced
at the event, claiming a sign from
God to cleanse the area of pagan
rites.

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CONTINUED:

NEWS ANCHOR (cont'd)

Muslims, however, claimed it to be a Zionist plot, and that it was no earthquake but, in reality, explosives detonated in underground tunnels beneath the mosques. Seismologists in Arab capitals who picked up the seismic activity, though, discredited this idea within several days.

Stefan Temple, the European Union President, flew to Jerusalem immediately, and addressed the world from the disaster site. He said that he had prayed for a solution just the night before, the implication being that he had an inside track to God's ear.

But seeing what subsequently happened, I wouldn't be surprised.

In a bold, unanticipated move, Temple declared that he would instruct banks under his control to lend the money for the building of the Third Temple, the third incarnation of Solomon's Temple of God in Jerusalem.

It would be a magnificent edifice, he said, to prove that the Jews have returned from an exile of 2,000 years and would permanently occupy the homeland of their fathers.

Israeli politicians were completely taken aback by that offer because there is apparently a fund already established for just that purpose.

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CONTINUED:

NEWS ANCHOR (cont'd)

After consideration, the Israeli Prime Minister decided to accept a fifty-fifty split of rebuilding costs with Temple's banks.

Within hours, the Palestinians erupted in protest, but Temple stunned them and the entire world by declaring that he had carved a nation for them out of portions of Lebanon, Jordan and Syria, and that he would pay the costs to allow them to immigrate there.

Lebanese, Jordanian and Syrian protests at grabbing their land were quickly squelched by trade embargos and military blockades imposed by the European Union that led to almost instantaneous collapse of their governments and acquiescence to his demands.

The United Nations has been in a state of paralysis, and can't even agree on the shape of a table to discuss the issue. Within a week, Temple's rapid deployment force sent in hundreds of transport planes to fly Palestinians to their new country.

Enticed by the offer of free land, millions of Palestinians have been flooding into their newly created country, leaving Israel to the Jews.

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CONTINUED:

NEWS ANCHOR (cont'd)

Muslims grudgingly and privately concede that Temple is indeed a man of peace and has been able to cut the Gordian knot of endless violence, and they have today accepted his offer for loans to rebuild the Dome of the Rock either in Mecca or in his new city of commerce, a rebuilt Babylon, where his headquarters have been relocated.

Another startling development in this story is that Muslim governments throughout the Middle East now agree to concede that records had been altered centuries ago regarding the location where the prophet Mohammed ascended to heaven.

In fact, they now say, it was at Mecca, not Jerusalem. Whether any of the Muslim leaders believe it or not appears to be irrelevant to their opportunity for land, Temple's cash and promises of peace.

Israel initially wavered in its support of Temple, but they have finally acquiesced to the tangible benefits that he offers them. With the Palestinian problem solved, they see a future of peace and prosperity.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NEWS ANCHOR (cont'd)

Now, only the United States remains as a lone holdout. Temple's ability to find solutions where none previously existed have attracted most world leaders to his cause, and the pressure mounts for America to join in the worldwide quest for peaceful coexistence, finally, of all mankind.

If all these breaking stories are overwhelming to some, here's yet another to demonstrate how quickly things have moved in just two weeks. An architect presented his computer simulation and a model, which you can see on your screen now, of the plans for rebuilding.

He had apparently been working on these for years. When they were shown to Israeli officials, they immediately approved his plans and told him to proceed. The architect says the rebuilding of the Third Temple will be commenced next month, and they will try to surpass King Herod's rebuilding of the main Temple sanctuary in only eighteen months.

It won't be long until the Jews revive their ancient temple worship and the sacrifice of animals for the sins of the people.

In a seemingly inconsequential story, but one important to Orthodox Jews, it was recently discovered that an obscure part of Jewish tradition is centered on livestock.

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CONTINUED:

NEWS ANCHOR (cont'd)

A rare breed of flawless and perfect red heifers has been raised in a kibbutz in Israel since 1997, something that had not been seen since 70 AD, when the Roman emperor Titus destroyed Herod's Second Temple. The red heifer, which must be three years old, is to be slaughtered and burned, and the ashes made into a paste used to purify those who wished to rebuild the Temple.

And, finally, in a related story, due to the success of President Temple's peace efforts, the European Union today floated a proposition for a World Federation, with the world being divided into ten semi-autonomous regions, with freedom for all, but with modifications to each government to eliminate fraud, graft and self-serving political maneuvering.

They have suggested disbanding the United Nations, an anachronism of the old, battle-scarred world. The proposal suggests rotating seven year terms for a Chairman of the new World Federation, who would then step down so that another could be elected by the body.

Stefan Temple has refused to consider being Chairman of this Federation, however, saying that he would prefer returning to his charitable efforts.

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CONTINUED:

NEWS ANCHOR (cont'd)

Public opinion has shifted throughout the world to emulate these peace initiatives, and to reject the old ways of conducting political affairs.

The United States' citizens have hotly debated the proposal, acknowledging the possibility that a world trade embargo, as with Lebanon, Jordan and Syria, would decimate their economy and lead to total collapse.

Nothing that Temple has ever said has proved untrue or duplicitous. He seems to be what he says he is, a benefactor of mankind, using his wealth for the advantage of all.

The tide of public opinion, including this commentator's, begins to turn in his favor.

30 INT. ANTHONY'S DORM ROOM - DAY

30

In a corner, Anthony is dictating to his PDA while watching TV. On Anthony's TV, the male TV News Anchor speaks lower, then more loudly as Anthony turns up the volume.

ANTHONY

Blog: anthony2605. Things are happening so quickly, I can't grasp the implications. My e-mail pal in Jerusalem is ecstatic about the earthquake demolishing the Dome of the Rock that's been there, like, 1300 (?) years.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ANTHONY (cont'd)

Now they say their Third Temple will be rebuilt there. And the Palestinians moving to their own country? What is going on?

My Israeli pal says I should study the prophecy. But that means studying the Bible, huh? I think not!

Anthony reaches over to turn up the volume of the TV.

NEWS ANCHOR (V.O)

After unremitting pressure from virtually every country, Stefan Temple has finally acceded to their demands for him to head the new World Federation.

On the eve of Temple's election as Chairman of the World Federation, the nation of Israel has signed a seven-year treaty with Temple, who personally guarantees the state's autonomy, protection and right to exist, something the Palestinians had fought since Israel's founding in 1948.

Critics in Jerusalem argued against this treaty, saying that it is evidence that the warnings of Old Testament prophets have been ignored once more, that Israel again puts her trust in a man, not God.

Those warnings have been ignored almost universally as the world rejoices over the prospect of a global peace after centuries of bloodshed.

31 EXT. /INT. VIDEO MONTAGE OF WORLDWIDE EVENTS - DAY 31

A cacophony of events overwhelms the world. On the same day, every Christian on the Earth disappears, along with every child under the age of 13.

The kindergarten Sunday school classroom is empty, with empty clothes remaining on the tiny chairs. Baby strollers on the street are empty. A kid's playground is deserted, with a still-moving swing and a long slide both strewn with empty clothes; toys left suddenly in the sandbox sit in mid-action. A dog on a loose leash looks back and forth for its small master.

Mothers left behind begin to scream. The wail takes on a global intensity as mothers everywhere cry for their babies. We pull back and back until we are looking at planet Earth from far above. The mothers' cries are heard, even from space.

John is speaking to Paul, the atheist, in a quiet conversation at the clinic. John suddenly stops in mid-sentence and gazes heavenward with a shocked look. He hears a SHOUT and a loud TRUMPET SOUND, but Paul hears neither. As Paul starts to ask what the matter is, John vanishes before his eyes. Paul is flabbergasted.

Radio and TV show hosts vanish in mid-broadcast, their lavalier microphones dropping with a "thump" onto the desk and covered with vacated clothing, while astonished broadcast technicians try to comprehend it all.

32 INT. ARMY BASE - DAY 32

ARMY OFFICER

Sergeant, are you sure about that? Seventy percent disappeared? Just vanished? How could that happen? That's impossible. What about the other bases in the command?

Well, make sure you've got those gates shut down tight. I want no word of this to leak out to the media, do you understand? We can't let anyone know how exposed we are.

33 INT. JERUSALEM STUDENTS' APARTMENT - DAY

33

The five college students in Jerusalem are passing around the Bible that Taylor, the American, has bookmarked for them.

They argue among themselves over a point, and then before their eyes, Taylor disappears. His clothes lie crumpled in a pile on the floor. They are stunned.

Michael stares at the empty clothes and points to them.

MICHAEL

Did you see what I just saw?

RONALD

(Fixated on
the spot.)

I was looking right at Taylor,
straight at him. And then he wasn't
there.

MICHAEL

(Dumbfounded.)

Did he sneak out, did he ...?

RONALD

(As an eyewitness, he
won't be swayed.)

He vanished. I was looking right at
him and he vanished before our
eyes. All that's left are his
clothes and his watch.

MICHAEL

That's impossible! It's some kind
of joke he's pulling on us.

Come on, Taylor, if you hear me,
this is not funny. Hide and seek is
a children's game, now come out!

All right, now everyone, search the
other rooms and the hallway. This
is crazy.

34 INT. TV STUDIO - DAY

34

On a TV roundtable discussion, JANET GABLE, the host, asks questions of her expert, DR. MUSSO.

JANET GABLE

Dr. Musso, you are the leading proponent of the theory of an alien race being responsible for initially colonizing the Earth. Do you think that is the explanation for the recent disappearance of perhaps hundreds of millions of people in a single day?

DR. MUSSO

Absolutely, Janet, there is no doubt in my mind. "Aliens," however, is a misnomer; we are their offspring.

My research has shown that such advanced marvels as the Pyramids of Egypt, the Sphinx, Stonehenge, Easter Island statues, as well as less dramatic examples, such as sophisticated ancient literature and the statues of ancient gods, could only have been the result of a highly developed intelligence, in essence, using Earth as an incubator for their own species, but far from the danger of their own threatened home worlds.

These visitors from light years away, not God, originally populated Earth, and they have returned to reclaim their citizens after an interstellar war that decimated their population. The recent increase in UFO sightings has only confirmed that they have returned.

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CONTINUED:

JANET GABLE

But, Doctor, how did they do it so quickly?

DR. MUSSO

I firmly believe that the children were taken first, abducted by "Star Trek"-like "transporters" to "cloaked" starships wanting to repopulate their ravaged planets.

When they quickly found that our children could not reproduce, perhaps as theirs can, they immediately abducted adults as well, but evidently a much smaller number. Perhaps it was ninety percent children and ten percent adults.

The prisons, as a rule, report almost no disappearances of inmates. However, oddly enough, there was one prison in Florida where the entire population vanished, including the guards. We have no explanation of what that signifies.

JANET GABLE

(She furrows
her forehead.)

Is that the experimental prison in Florida where all the inmates are Chris..

DR. MUSSO

(Interrupting.)

Now, Janet, there is no need for speculation as to why one person disappeared and another didn't. It serves no purpose.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DR. MUSSO (cont'd)

I believe it may have been completely random, except in circumstances we don't yet understand.

JANET GABLE

Dr. Musso, we have reports of riots breaking out in cities across the world, and the military being called to quell the disturbances. Do you see what these riots can accomplish?

DR. MUSSO

Nothing at all, Janet. How can we battle a technologically advanced civilization that, after all, was responsible for us being here in the first place?

I believe they have taken all that they needed to rebuild their own planets and will not return.

It is my expert opinion that we should move boldly forward with Stefan Temple as Chairman of the World Federation and rebuild our world as a paragon of peaceful coexistence with each other.

There's nothing else we can do.

35 EXT. BENCH - DAY

35

On a bench, Anthony is dictating to his PDA.

ANTHONY

Blog: anthony2605. Anyone reading this Blog has probably been through the same thing I have: people just disappeared. I called home, my brother was there, but BOTH my parents have vanished!

My friend Paul, in the addiction clinic, said he saw his boss one second and the next he was gone! What is going on?? If anyone has any SANE explanations, please e-mail me.

But not any of that Bible stuff, please! I'd believe the alien abduction story first.

FADE TO BLACK.

36 INT. TELEPHONE OPERATOR'S CUBICLE - DAY

36

OPERATOR

Yes, m'am this is 9-1-1. No m'am, we can't send anyone right now. Well, we're missing over half the police force and fire personnel. No, m'am, we don't know when.

Yes, m'am, there are other emergencies all over town, and you'll just have to be patient.

37 INT. WHITE HOUSE AIDE'S DESK - DAY

37

PRESIDENTIAL AIDE

(On phone, but
completely distracted.)

I'm sorry, Senator, but the President is -- uhh -- not available. He has taken the cabinet with him to an undisclosed location until we find out what is behind this attack on the nation's children.

Yes, Senator, we understand about the adults as well, but we're not completely convinced that the two are related. Yes, Senator, I will convey your message to the President as soon as I hear from him, sir.

After the Aide hangs up the phone, he speaks to the empty line.

PRESIDENTIAL AIDE (cont'd)
If we EVER hear from him again!

38 INT. SENATE TV STUDIO - DAY

38

Senator Talbot is on TV, addressing the country.

SENATOR TALBOT

Fellow Americans, we have just gone through a tremendous tragedy. It's true that the President and his cabinet have disappeared.

We feel they may have deserted our country to protest the political upheavals now underway in the world. And, even though we don't have all the answers right now, I can assure you that we will in the near future.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SENATOR TALBOT (cont'd)

Now, we understand that many people have gone missing, but don't concern yourself with rumors at this time. I won't even dignify them by repeating them here, but suffice it to say that nation is absolutely safe.

The military is deployed to protect our borders, and we are on a full alert status. Do not panic, I repeat, do not panic. Stay home and away from large gatherings that will do nothing but incite fear and terror.

Now, you know me as a loyal American, a war veteran and a trustworthy public servant. Everything I have ever done has been for your benefit, not my own profit or advantage.

So I appear to you today to say that I have closely studied the pending entry of the United States into the World Federation, and that I wholeheartedly endorse it.

Chairman Stefan Temple will lead this Federation for only seven years, after which he will step down and another Chairman elected by Federation members.

Chairman Temple has proven to be a peacemaker in his Middle East solution, and we are confident that he will expand that peacemaking effort on a global basis.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SENATOR TALBOT (cont'd)

But we must all be part of this world community to benefit from it.

Therefore, fellow Americans, I am proposing today in the U.S. Senate that our country enter the World Federation as soon as feasible, and that we place our enthusiastic support behind Chairman Stefan Temple to create, for the first time, a world without war.

Peace in our generation. What could be better than that?

The TV camera blinks off; Senator Talbot takes off his lapel microphone, rises to leave and speaks to the crew.

SENATOR TALBOT (cont'd)

How was it, boys?

Used to being asked such inane questions, they automatically answer.

TV CREW

Great, Senator, just great!

39 INT. SENATOR TALBOT'S OFFICE - DAY

39

Senator Talbot walks to his office, closes the door and opens his laptop. With a click, Stefan Temple is on his screen, smiling broadly.

STEFAN TEMPLE

That was just wonderful Senator, you are one of the world's great orators. I'm proud to have you as my friend.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SENATOR TALBOT

(Seduced by the
flattery, he
smiles sheepishly.)

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, coming
from such a gifted public speaker,
I appreciate your comments. I'm
only doing what I feel is right for
my country.

STEFAN TEMPLE

(Most solicitous of
the Senator's motives.)

Of course, Senator, and that's what
we all have in mind, isn't it?

We need to change people's thinking
away from the previous national
selfishness of each country, and
more to a commonality of purpose,
the determination to have a
community of man.

SENATOR TALBOT

(He smiles.)

Mr. Chairman, you've had my support
from the very beginning, and will
continue to. I look forward to
seeing you very soon.

STEFAN TEMPLE

(With his most
thankful smile.)

Senator, I couldn't have done it in
your country without you. I
appreciate it, and I definitely
will not forget it. Goodbye.

FADE TO BLACK.

In the darkness, we hear Temple as he bursts out in an
unrestrained laugh.

STEFAN TEMPLE (V.O.)

Ha-ha-ha-ha-ha-ha-ha!

40 EXT. OUTDOOR PODIUM - DAY

40

As he is walking to accept the Chairman's title, an assistant close to him, and secretly carrying a hidden ceremonial sword, stabs Temple in the head, and is immediately gunned down by bodyguards.

Immediately after the assassination attack, a POLICE OFFICER starts to pick up the assassin's sword, when SECRET SERVICE OFFICER NASH interrupts him.

SECRET SERVICE OFFICER NASH
Excuse me, officer! Don't touch that sword! That's a world security issue, not a local police issue.

POLICE OFFICER
(Immediately backing off.)
Oh, sorry, I was just trying to ..

SECRET SERVICE OFFICER NASH
(Smiling.)
I understand, and I appreciate your help. Now, you can keep those crowds far away, and help to rope off the area to prevent any evidence from going missing.

POLICE OFFICER
Right away, sir!

Secret Service Officer Nash bends down to pick up the assassin's sword. He looks around, and no one is watching. He runs his finger along the bloody blade, and it is definitely not sharp.

He deftly conceals it inside his long coat and simultaneously switches it with another sword, already bloodied. He runs a piece of paper across it to test its sharpness; it is absolutely razor-sharp.

41 INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

41

In the hospital corridor, there are more Secret Service Officers than doctors. DOCTOR BAKER is trying to enter, but is stopped by SECRET SERVICE OFFICER MAXWELL while DOCTOR FREED and DOCTOR SCHULTZ work inside.

DOCTOR BAKER

But I'm a specialist in head wounds. Why won't you let me in there?

SECRET SERVICE OFFICER MAXWELL

(Holding him back
in the hallway.)

Sorry, Doctor, but Mr. Temple's own doctors are the only ones allowed in the room.

Doctor Baker walks off in a huff. The door is locked from the inside. The room has now been secured.

DOCTOR FREED

(Leaning over the
patient, he looks
at the wound.)

You have to be right on top of it to see the difference. Amazing!

STEFAN TEMPLE

(Rising from his bed.)

It is amazing what special effects makeup can do these days, eh, Doctor?

None of the Secret Service Officers is surprised. Dr. Freed is interested in the rubber wound that Temple had applied to his own head after the fake assassin had attacked.

DOCTOR FREED

How long do we wait?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

STEFAN TEMPLE

Twenty-four hours. I want sufficient time for the world to mourn my martyr's death before I am resurrected. Just like Jesus supposedly did! But I will do it in less time! More efficient!

Those in the room chuckle at his joke, but not so loud that it would arouse outside suspicion. Temple motions for his security man, who walks over.

SECRET SERVICE OFFICER MAXWELL

Yes, sir?

STEFAN TEMPLE

(Pulls him close
and stage whispers.)

The assassin?

Everyone in the room was in on the plot, so no one even thinks about being interested in the exchange.

SECRET SERVICE OFFICER MAXWELL

Immediately shot, sir, he didn't know what hit him. He thought this was all a stunt, a piece of live political drama. We have his prop sword. We replaced it with a real one. Every item on the checklist completed.

STEFAN TEMPLE

(Smiling.)

Well done, exactly as planned.

Temple lies back down in the bed as Doctor Freed makes an adjustment on the wound replica.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Outside, in the hallway, a doctor is speaking.

DOCTOR SCHULTZ (V.O.)
Gentlemen, I am sorry to announce
that Stefan Temple was declared
dead on the way to the hospital by
his own doctor.

An unbalanced member of a terrorist
organization struck him down in
cold blood. Stefan Temple is a
martyr for the cause of worldwide
peace. We can only go forward with
his visionary plans to honor his
memory.

SONG - "Matters Get Much Worse"

42 INT. ANTHONY'S DORM ROOM - DAY

42

In his room, the radio is on and Anthony is dictating to
his PDA.

ANTHONY
Blog: anthony2605. Strange things
everywhere! Stefan Temple is killed
in front of millions of people on
TV, declared dead by doctors, and
then rises from the dead the next
day!?

I'm sitting here dictating this
Blog and not knowing what to say,
'cause I think I've fallen down the
rabbit hole in "Alice in
Wonderland." I expect to see the
Queen of Hearts now any second.

RADIO HOST (V.O. on the radio.)
No, I don't have a Bible, callers.
I'm as much in the dark as you are.
What do you think is going on?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CALLER 1 (V.O.)

These must be the events they said
were foretold in prophecy.

CALLER 2 (V.O.)

Is it only Christians who vanished?

CALLER 3 (V.O.)

Don't believe all that Christian
propaganda! It's aliens, like they
said.

CALLER 2 (V.O.)

The church on TV issued a press
release supporting one of Temple's
proposals, for a one-world
religion, to avoid future bloodshed
and strife.

CALLER 3 (V.O.)

Don't believe that either!

43 INT. STEFAN TEMPLE'S OFFICE - DAY

43

He stands at a podium, with a heavy bandage on his head,
speaking into the TV camera.

STEFAN TEMPLE

My fellow citizens of the World
Federation, I sincerely appreciate
the outpouring of love and
affection you have lavished on me.

But this is not about me; it is
about you! I am here to serve you.

There are many who would not see
our plans for world peace succeed.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

STEFAN TEMPLE (cont'd)

And to that purpose, I have made a proclamation today that is the first step to ending the evil that endures.

In an effort to eliminate counterfeiting and currency manipulation by speculators, today I am initiating a voluntary worldwide debit card microchip to be implanted in each person's right hand or forehead that will also serve as identification.

A miniature tattoo will be added, once the chip is implanted, over the area to prevent tampering or theft. All buying and selling will be conducted with the chip implants, and each person's salary will be deposited into the account from which they can withdraw automatically.

The chip will be a solution to drug smuggling, which requires cash, as does terrorism and most other criminal activities. Societal ills will be swept away with this one great technological marvel.

Full employment will soon become a reality, and no one except retirees will be allowed to be unemployed. Everyone has a job to do, whether voluntarily or assigned.

The microchip has the additional advantage to be connected to Global Positioning Satellites to find lost children or the elderly with Alzheimer's.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

STEFAN TEMPLE (cont'd)

We are on the threshold of finally realizing mankind's transcendental dream of a world of peace. It is within our grasp, yours and mine.

This small scientific wonder will bring about a revolution, but a revolution of peace. Trust in me, and I will lead you into a world without war, a world without fear.

VIDEO SCREENS: zoom in on the chip closer and closer until the microscopic digital numbers imbedded in the microchip are visible: 010111101011110101111. The digits begin to circle into a whirlpool, and then slow to a fuzzy blur, but they are unreadable.

FADE TO BLACK.

SONG - "A Startling End"

END - ACT ONE