

Greetings from Phoenix,

There are so many hot spots where the U.S. has military activity in places of the world a few short years ago most people never knew existed. Many people even now do not know where Yemen or Afghanistan are located on a world map though we have been involved militarily a number of years.

There is a growing fear among many that war could break out any time with North Korea. The famous author, Mark Twain once wrote, *"God created war so that Americans would learn geography."*

Every week there is one thing which is prevalent in the entire world, and that is the presence of chaos and confusion. Peoples lives are disrupted in Syria with millions running from war and violence. It says in **I Cor. 14:33** *"For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, "*

God's way is peace, unity, and working together to accomplish, and build up, and it is a path which makes sense with a predictable end result. It always is a path to life.

The devil's way is pitting people against each other, tearing down, and breaking apart, and his way is crooked and it is subtle. Satan always shrouds the end result of his way, like he did with Eve in the Garden of Eden. Eve told the serpent that God had said, *'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'*

*"Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."* (**Gen. 3:4-5**)

The devil promised she would be like God and not "surely" die. Deception is in his confused way which always leads to death. The only way man is like God is he chooses for himself what is right and wrong when that is only God's prerogative.

We just came through the Days of Unleavened Bread, and we put leavening out of our homes because it symbolized sin. On a micro level when leavening is used fermentation occurs when yeast cells break down starch molecules into sugars. The sugars digested by the yeast "burp out" carbon dioxide and ethyl alcohol into existing air bubbles causing the dough to rise.

Leavening has the quality of agitating and breaking down by a chemical reaction. The lesson we learn from this is the sin causes people to be puffed up or filled with vanity. When a person is filled with vanity they are uncooperative and self-willed.

On the macro level the world's state can be described as filled with sin and vanity such that it is uncooperative and self-willed. Most all seek their own, and it creates chaos, and what we see written in the news every day. The world in its present state with its lack of unity and order is the product of the mind of its author. (**II Cor. 4:4**)

The end result of the way of Satan and the path most of humanity has chosen can not be anything but war and chaos. Albert Einstein was quoted as saying, *"I know not with what weapons World War III will be fought, but World War IV will be fought with sticks and stones."*

Our Great God is the author of peace, unity, cooperation, and building up, and as the Apostle Paul wrote, *"...as it should be in the Church of God."*

Attached is the PT for this week. Have a pleasant Sabbath

Kind regards,

Jim Tuck