

Exploring the Bible & Our Biblical Heritages

MARCH 2025

A Heritage of Light for All Nations!

We are where we are now because <u>unintended consequences</u> produced <u>cascading</u> <u>unexpected events</u>. Along the way, some people were able to experience glimpses into the future and write books about what they saw. Standing here in 2025 and looking back in time makes it possible to see those books as signs along the path. Two signs stand apart from the others.

- *Nineteen Eighty-Four* by English writer George Orwell was published on June 8, 1949. In this novel, much of the world is in perpetual war. Airstrip One (Great Britain) has become the totalitarian superstate Oceania. Big Brother, a dictatorial leader, is supported by an intense cult of personality manufactured by the Party's Thought Police. The Party engages in omnipresent government surveillance. The Ministry of Truth uses historical negationism and constant streams of propaganda to destroy individuality and independent thinking.
- *Neuromancer* is a 1984 science fiction novel by Canadian-American author William Gibson. Set in a near-future dystopia, the narrative follows Case, a computer hacker enlisted into a crew by a powerful artificial intelligence and a traumatized former soldier to complete a high-stakes heist. Gibson created the word "cyberspace" -- "a consensual hallucination experienced daily by billions of legitimate operators, in every nation, by children being taught mathematical concepts . . . A graphical representation of data abstracted from the banks of every computer in the human system. Unthinkable complexity. Lines of light ranged in the non-space of the mind, clusters and constellations of data." A copy of a person's consciousness is made and uploaded to cyberspace, so it can also exist there.

Many things that were fiction in those books are real today. Things are changing very fast and there are sources to look back to for help. *This one is on us; we will succeed!*

A new deadline has been established. America will enter a new age in 2030. The good news is we have time to move even quicker into it or change the destination. The date was set in "*The democratization of investing: Expanding prosperity in more places, for more people*" by Larry Fink.¹ Below are three key changes in trading.

- By 2030 or even sooner, every individual and their virtual or physical assets will be tokenized. Tokens will be stored in cyberspace on blockchain, the world's leading crypto finance house since 2011. (That was 3 years after the Great Recession and only 14 years ago).² Traditional paper certificates signifying financial ownership will no longer be accepted as legal titles.
- This will enable instant buying, selling, and <u>transfers without paperwork</u> or waiting days or weeks. Markets will be open <u>24-hour a day for trading</u>. <u>Settlements of all size will be processed in a matter of seconds</u>, <u>including billion and trillion</u> <u>dollar transactions</u>.
- In 2030 there will be more <u>trillion-dollar tokens</u> in circulation than trillion-dollar companies. <u>Trillion-dollar tokens</u> will play a major role. They will be supported by a <u>decentralized ecosystem of entities</u>. Decentralized refers to <u>distribution of</u> <u>power and control instead of a central authority</u> (i.e., governments). <u>Entities are</u> <u>parts of a distributed network</u>.³

Why was the year 2030 chosen to make the changes?

- <u>Public pensions</u> are facing huge shortfalls. Nationwide, the data shows <u>they're</u> <u>only about 80% funded</u>.⁴ The US Pension Funds Market size is expected to grow from USD <u>6.69 trillion in 2025</u> to USD <u>10.24 trillion by 2030</u> underfunded by 20% or more.⁵
- <u>Global electricity demand is surging, driven in part by the rise of AI</u>. A single data center can draw 1 gigawatt of electricity. <u>That's enough to power the entire city of Honolulu on the hottest day of the year</u>. As of March 2025, there are approximately <u>5,426 data centers in the United States</u>, which is the highest number of any country worldwide. <u>In Utah, Ohio, and Texas, utilities have already</u>

¹ <u>https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/presentation/larry-fink-annual-chairmans-letter.pdf</u>

² <u>https://www.blockchain.com/</u>

³ <u>https://helalabs.com/blog/what-is-decentralization-understanding-its-impact-and-significance/</u>

⁴ <u>https://reason.org/commentary/public-pension-debt-rankings-for-state-and-local-governments/</u>

⁵ <u>https://www.mordorintelligence.com/industry-reports/us-pension-funds-market</u>

<u>warned that Al-driven electricity demand will push their grids past capacity</u>. If massive investments in energy generation and transmission are there —<u>who will</u> <u>get the electricity — humans or machines?</u>

• By 2030, <u>mandatory US government spending and debt service will consume</u> <u>all federal revenue</u>, therefore creating a permanent deficit. That will in turn raise the possibility of uncontrolled debt and ballooning deficits which will endanger the dollar's position as a world currency. Could digital assets like Bitcoin replace the dollar. <u>The dollar may not freely used or exchanged for other currencies inside</u> <u>or outside it own borders</u>.⁶

How are tokenizing identities and assets related to democracy and investing?

Today, many countries have twin, inverted economies: one where wealth builds on wealth; another where hardship builds on hardship. The divide has reshaped our politics, our policies, even our sense of what's possible. The unspoken assumption is that capitalism didn't work and it's time to try something new.⁷

Our Twin Economies

Those with Wealth Who Build on Weath.

Those with Hardships Who Build on Hardships.

The top 20% held 71.1% of total household wealth.

The bottom 20% held 3% of total household wealth.8

Is "*democratization of investing*" the same as "<u>*Democracy in Capitalism*</u>." For Americans, the word "<u>democracy</u>" means something <u>very different than what</u> <u>democracy means in other nations</u>. The *Declaration of Independence* is the document that defines "<u>democracy</u>" for many Americans.

Democracy requires an understanding of the meanings of these:

• Laws of Nature and of Nature's God.

⁶ <u>https://www.investopedia.com/articles/forex-currencies/092316/how-us-dollar-became-worlds-reserve-currency.asp</u>

⁷ <u>https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/presentation/larry-fink-annual-chairmans-letter.pdf</u> p. 3.

⁸ https://www.stlouisfed.org/community-development/publications/the-state-of-us-household-wealth

- <u>Creator's Self-Evident Truths</u>: All men are created equal; all men are endowed with certain unalienable Rights.
- Governments instituted among Men.

• Governments with their just powers derived from the consent of the governed.

The Constitution of the United States of America expands the definition of democracy:

- Justice
- Domestic Tranquility
- Common Defense
- General Welfare
- The Blessings of Liberty to Ourselves and Our Posterity

Guarding and protecting democracy is "<u>the collective responsibility of We the people</u>" – <u>all</u> citizens <u>all</u> of the time – *to work together to make the things above better and stronger!* However, for <u>citizens with Christian Biblical Heritages</u>, the Bible is <u>the</u> <u>source</u> for understanding the <u>Laws of Nature</u>, <u>Nature's God</u>, and the <u>Creator's Self-Evident Truths</u>. The Biblical Heritage Center is an educational institution that teaches people how to use the guidelines and models below to understand the <u>Laws of Nature</u>, <u>Nature's God</u>, and the <u>Creator's Self-Evident Truths</u>.

BHC Primary Guideline

My Belief System will be large enough to include all facts, open enough to be examined and questioned, and flexible enough to change if errors or new facts are discovered.

BHC Linguistic Model

A word is a symbol or group of symbols with an attached bundle of associations, which are a product of the Source's culture, time period, location, and personal experiences.

Israel and the Nations

For people with Christian and Jewish Biblical Heritages, there is a **<u>gap that began in 70</u>** <u>**CE and ended in 500 CE**</u> that must be explored, discussed, and understood.

- In 70 the Romans destroyed the Temple in Jerusalem. This ended the Second Temple Period. The functions of the Temple in Jerusalem were no longer part of life.
- In 90 the New Sanhedrin in Yavna ruled that members of the Kingdom of Heaven movement of Jesus could no longer participate in synagogue services.
- In 325 Roman Emperor Constantine the Great ruled that Jesus and God were "<u>of the</u> <u>same substance</u>." Emperor Augustus had to elevate Julius Caesar to the status of a deity. This was the beginning of the Roman Gentile Christianity.
- In 367 Bishop Athanasius of Alexandria (296-373) was the most prominent theologian of the fourth century. His list of canonical books was published as part of his *Thirty-Ninth Festal Epistle*.⁹ This is the first *New Testament* with the books that are identical to the *New Testament* today.

Again, it is not tedious to speak of the books of the New Testament. These are: the four Gospels, according to Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. After these, The Acts of the Apostles, and the seven epistles called Catholic: of James, one; of Peter, two, of John, three; after these, one of Jude. In addition, there are fourteen epistles of Paul the apostle, written in this order: the first, to the Romans; then, two to the Corinthians; after these, to the Galatians; next, to the Ephesians, then, to the Philippians; then, to the Colossians; after these, two of the Thessalonians; and that to the Hebrews; and again, two to Timothy; one to Titus; and lastly, that to Philemon. And besides, the Revelation of John.

These are the fountains of salvation, that he who thirsts may be satisfied with the living words they contain. In these alone the teaching of godliness is proclaimed. Let no one add to these; let nothing be taken away from them. For concerning these the Lord put to shame the Sadducees, and said, Ye do err, not knowing the Scriptures. And he reproved the Jews, saying, Search the Scriptures, for these are they that testify of me.

⁹ <u>https://www.bible-researcher.com/athanasius.html</u> - Sections 5 & 6.

• In 500 the Talmud in Babylon was completed and work on Masoretic text began.

Roman armies ended Temple Judaism and that required changes to be made. The Jewish Sanhedrin ruled members of the Jesus Movement could not participate in synagogue services and forced them to make changes. The creation of the New Testament and the Babylonian Talmud created the gap that Christians and Jewish religious institutions have not been able to bridge. But, over the centuries since then, there is a steady stream of individual Christians and Jews that have bridged it.

Rabbi Jeffrey Leynor and I held many meetings together. Below are his words. Rabbi Jeffrey Leynor and I bridged it. Below are his words.

Let me begin by saying, I think the Jewish Jesus would be much more comfortable at my synagogue than any church. Jesus was a Jew. He was raised in a Jewish home by Jewish parents. He lived in a Jewish town in Nazareth. He was born into the Jewish culture. He accepted the Jewish ways of life. He learned the Jewish tradition. He kept the laws of the Torah. He was even circumcised and named on the eighth day, which is still done to this day. He regularly kept the Shabbat, Pesach (Passover), Shavuot (Pentecost), Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, and he was in Jerusalem for the Feast of Dedication (Hanukkah). We still do many of the same things he did.

Some of you are probably wondering how Jim and I, two people for completely different backgrounds, end up being able to talk about differences in our mutually exclusive belief systems. Normally, Jewish and Christian belief systems don't normally mix together real well. Normally you would not find a rabbi from New Jersey and preacher from Cleburne, Texas doing what we do.

When I moved to Dallas I began teaching at the local Jewish Community Center. I will always remember the night Jim Myers walked into my class carrying a lot of books, and asking just as many questions. I did not know just what to make of him. At first, I thought he was a Jew for Jesus. It was not long until I realized he was a Christian for the Jewish Jesus and someone who studied and taught facts versus belief. From that point on my favorite saying was, "*Never let anyone tell you or sell you the truth, always get the facts!*"

Jeffrey gave me a booklet – *Ten Turning Points in Jewish History* – written by Rabbi Morris B. Margolies in 1962. The information below is from his obituary:

Rabbi, teacher, writer, counselor, orator par excellence, devoted student of all things Jewish, Rabbi Morris B. Margolies died on Friday, Nov. 9, 2012. He was an inspiration to all who thirsted for Jewish knowledge. Judaism and the Jewish people were his driving passions, and his highest ambition was to instill those passions in others. Many of his students became rabbis themselves and innumerable others were inspired to live more fully Jewish lives owing to his influence.

His lecture series at Congregation Beth Shalom, where he served as senior rabbi for 25 years, regularly drew hundreds of listeners, and his sermons, occasionally marked by controversy but always uplifting, drew on his vast store of Jewish law, lore, history and culture. He rarely missed an opportunity to impart some nugget of Jewish wisdom, whether the subject of his talks was baseball, Shakespeare, Chaim Nachman Bialik or Johann Sebastian Bach.

This is from his booklet -- "Lecture Five: The Crucifixion of Jesus" (pages 37-47).

Joshua, the son of Joseph and Miram of the little town of Nazareth in Galilee was born a Jew, lived the life of a Jew, and died a Jew. This is the most important single statement to bear in mind in a discussion of the life, the works and the influence of Jesus called the Christ. The odd feature of this entire fascinating problem is that Jesus was not a Christian. The concept of Christianity was developed after Jesus. Had anyone ever said to him in his lifetime that he was departing the Jewish fold, he would have vigorously and emphatically denied it . . . He is not mentioned in any of the Jewish sources of the time during which he lived . . .

One thing is clear, that the Jews had already be subjected in Talmudic time to a great deal of Christian propaganda and the reaction of the Rabbis in the Talmud was therefore retaliatory, or defensive . . .

Jesus drew tremendous audiences. He was quiet obviously a preacher richly blessed with talent. He had a gift of reaching the people, the common people, which many others did not. Only learned Jews could come to the synagogue and listen to a leading Pharisaic rabbi preach and understand what he was talking about. But Jesus had the genius (and possibly he was the greatest genius of all times in this area) of being able to hold people's attention with a tight vice-like grip. When I talk about their attention, I do not mean the ear alone or the mind alone. <u>He gripped their hearts</u>

Three days after the crucifixion of Jesus, to a crestfallen group of apostles, who thought the world had collapsed around them, Magdalena announced that she had seen the body of Jesus rising . . . Be that as it may be, <u>this is where</u> <u>Christianity begins</u>

I say, and <u>this is my conviction not only as a Jew, but as a human being</u> <u>who is an intense admirer of the teaching of Jesus</u>, I say that the pathos, the true passion of the entire story is the fact that the man who lived his life for love, should have become for nineteen successive centuries the instrumentality of precisely the reverse, of so much hatred, so much blood, so many false Crusades, conducted in his name. To Christians I say this is blasphemy. If Jesus had lived meaningfully, and I believe he did, then the message that he was called upon to usher into the world has unfortunately not yet been heard. Can this message be reconciled with 10 million victims of concentration camps in the last thirty years in countries all over the world, Jews as well as Gentiles? <u>Can this message be reconciled with the fact that a Christian nation is</u> <u>forced to be poised upon the precipice for self-destruction as well as</u> <u>destruction of the rest of mankind? Where is the Kingdom of Heaven?</u>

The real tragedy is not the death of Jesus. That is tragic enough. But millions of other died on the Cross, and will continue to die, I suppose. The great tragedy is that a most brilliant teacher of morality has so far lived and died in vain. <u>We live in the hope that Jews as well as Gentiles, Christians as well as Mohammedans, pagans and atheists</u> (for I believe God made them too) <u>will one day translate the message of that great teacher of Galilee into their relationships with each other</u>. "What is the most important thing in the world to remember?," 'he had asked. Quoting the *Book of Leviticus* and the *Book of Deuteronomy*, juxtaposing two verses one on the top of the other, he had answered:

"Love thy neighbor as thyself, and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, with all thy soul and with all thy might."

I think Jews and Christians, however they may differ, should arrive at the realization that it is not the man and it is not the book, it is not even the

ceremony, it is not the rite, it is not the synagogue, it is not the church, and it is not the mosque, that is in and of itself significant. **It is decency, and it is justice, and it is love that count** . . .

Is this not the area which Jews and Christians should explore and exploit together? Should we not banish hatred from our hearts? . . . Perhaps the greatest verse in all Biblical literature, *New Testament* and *Old Testament* alike, was the verse: "And the Lord created man (all men) in His image."

Douglas Murray's new book, On Democracies and Death Cults: Israel and the Future of Civilization, was released a few days ago. Probably unknown to him, he addresses the most important question that Rabbi Margolies asked: "Can this message be reconciled with the fact that a Christian nation is forced to be poised upon the precipice for self-destruction as well as destruction of the rest of mankind?"

Sometimes a flare goes up and you get to see exactly where everyone is standing.

The morning of October 7, 2023, was just such a moment. That morning airraid sirens went off all across Israel. This was no unusual thing in itself. Certainly not in the south of the country that had for seventeen years been within rocket range of Hamas. Nor in the north of the country into which Hezbollah had fired rockets since the 1980s. But in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem the sirens sounded too. People woke up that Saturday morning to the realization that something very unusual was happening.

Because of our relationships over the past 30 years with Israelis, October 7, 2023 woke us up, too. Because of Susan (my wife) we linked to Jewish networks that were reacting to news coming out of Israel. She was calling and checking on friends who lived there and I was following every report released by the Israel Defense Force. We were outsiders, but we were part of an experience that Jews train for all of their lives. That transformed the way I understood the words of Jesus and his teachings. Most of all, as time has passed since then – I now know what Isiah meant when he said:

"I will also give you as a light to the nations, that you should be My salvation to the ends of the earth . . . Shall the prey be taken from the mighty, or <u>the</u> <u>captives of the righteous escape</u>?"

The State of Israel has been shining a very bright light on all nations of the earth.

Do you know of any other nation that <u>values the lives of its people this much</u>? <u>Would America do what Israel has done to bring its captives home?</u>

Can Rabbi Morris B. Margolies's message be reconciled with the fact that America is now poised upon the precipice for self-destruction? <u>We may find out in 2030</u>.

