



# Helping to Fill the Void in God's People

May 2011— July 2011

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## It Came To Pass

Part 1

By Mark E. Benjamin

In the Bible that I use on my PC, and using the King James version, the phrase “it came to pass” showed up 453 times. That’s a fairly sizeable number of times that something had come... and gone. The first time we see the phrase is in **Genesis 4:3 And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD.**

I have seen many debates on what was wrong with Cain’s offering. I am not going to add another one to the list – at least not here. There is an often overshadowed and missed point I want to share. Instead of trying to figure out why Cain’s offering was not acceptable, let’s look at why this event even occurred at all. In doing so, we can learn a mighty lesson. But first let me share a lesson my family and I learned.

### **Been There, Done That**

Not too long ago I had to experience an unpleasant situation that a lot of people have the misfortune to endure. It was not the first time but it was very different in scope and duration than previous encounters. The company I was employed with had been going through a buyout. From time to time, I would notice someone was no longer gracing the office with their presence. It was always the same reasoning for their absence, “downsizing”.

And so it came to pass in those days that I too received the call to visit the personnel office. My boss had been waiting there in ambush with the personnel manager. Within ten seconds

of my entering the room, I too no longer had a job.

I cleaned out my desk and started on my hour-long drive home. On the way, I did a lot of thinking. How up-to-date was my resume, I need to sign up for unemployment benefits, how many payments were left on my car, things of that nature. Looking back on my trip home, I don’t know if any of the traffic lights I went through were red or green. Since no one ran into me, I suppose they were green.

I gathered my five children and my wife and made the announcement. My wife felt sad for me, but her faith is strong and we had been through this before, so she wasn’t too worried about it. At least not in a way that the little ones or I could visibly see. The children on the other hand ran the gambit of reactions; my oldest wanted revenge, the littlest were happy to now have me home all day with them, the middle ones were fearful and upset.

Trying to be the strong leader type, I assured them that all would be fine. Even though this was a tragedy for us, it was in God’s hands and we would survive. God was going to take care of us. We would need to do our part and work as hard as we could to help each other out, but God would provide.

Never before had such thoughts and words been so true.

### **Cain Vs. Abel**

The case before the court is the Cain vs. Abel. A very tragic case of

deception and murder. The facts of the case are these: Cain brought forward an unacceptable offering. The LORD informed Cain about the problem. Cain became angry and took the life of his younger brother Abel. God knew of the murder and questioned Cain about it and subsequently punished him.

This event had a purpose in its occurring. Both for those involved at the time and for us today. Plus, it is no small matter that this happened so early in the existence of God’s creation. By purpose, I am not implying that God made Cain do what he did, but certainly He did not stop it. Therefore, allowing it to take place and using the event to give one of the most important object lessons we need to learn.

Just a few verses earlier we see that Adam and Eve sinned and punishment was given to them for that sin. Something needed to be done to try to bring mankind back to God. Thus, the institution of offerings and sacrifices began, but this would not stay forever. How do we know it wouldn’t stay forever? We find the answer in the beginning of all of this. Simply, “it came to pass”.

These are the facts of the case and they are undisputable.

*Continue next issue...*



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# Israel News

## Who Is Like You?

According to the Shin Bet report for March, a total of 128 terror attacks took place in Israel compared to only 61 the month before. Out of that, 6 were killed and 27 injured. That includes the 5 killed on March 11 from the Vogel family. Father, Mother, two boys (11 & 4 years old) and a baby girl 3 months old killed by knife wounds while they were sleeping. Then on April 17th a 16 year old died from his wounds he receive when his school bus was hit by an antitank missile two weeks prior. All of these attacks coming from the Palestinians out of Gaza or the West Bank.

There has been a definite rise in attacks lately, all the while the PA claiming they want peace.

But then on March 16—near where mourners gathered for the Vogel family—IDF (Israel

Defense Force) and local residents helped to save the life of a Palestinian woman and her new born in the middle of the baby's delivery. One of the paramedics said, "It was touching, but I couldn't help but think that a few meters from there, people were mourning for another baby, who was murdered"

Sarah Palin during her end of March visit to Israel asked, "Why are you apologizing all the time?" It does make you wonder. Here Israel is attacked but they help to save the lives of those that attack her. A Google search of "Israel apologizes" gave 33,700 results, where as "Palestinian apologizes" gave only 1.

I believe the answer to Mrs. Palin's question is found in 1 Chronicles 17:21 "What other nation on earth is like your people Israel?"

His people are truly amazing.



In memory of the Vogel family and all others that have fallen to terrorist in Israel.

Ruth-34, Rabbi udi-36, Yoav-11, Elad-4, Hadas-3months

## Upcoming Holidays

Holidays begin at sundown on the evening before the date listed.

**Yom HaShoah**  
(Holocaust Remembrance Day)  
27 Nisan 5771  
May 1, 2011 (Sun)

**Lag B'Omer**  
18 Iyyar  
May 22 (Sun)

**Yom HaZikaron**  
(Israel's Memorial Day)  
4 Iyyar  
May 8 (Sun)

**Shavuot**  
6 Sivan  
June 8 (Wed)

**Yom HaAtzmaut**  
(Israel's Independence Day)  
5 Iyyar  
May 9 (Mon)

**Tisha B'Av**  
9 Av  
August 9 (Tue)

"All of the land of Israel is ours."

### Yitzhak Shamir

Born: 15 October 1915

7th Prime Minister of Israel

1st term: 10 October 1983 – 13 September 1984

2nd term: 20 October 1986 – 13 July 1992

### Mark E. Benjamin

#### Is available for

Church or Synagogue

Youth Group

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Seminars

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#### Topics Can Include

Passover

Seder

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Bringing Jews and Christians closer together

Understanding the Christian or Jew

Jewish Holidays

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