

Shemitah Shematah

by Steve Barwick

Is the so-called “shemitah event” being touted by certain Christian broadcast ministries getting ready to take place this coming fall 2015? Will there be a crippling financial blow to the fledgling one-world system this fall resulting in financial collapse and worldwide famine? Is Satan about to arrive to deceive the whole world? Will it constitute the deadly wound? Is it time for the elect to ready themselves to be delivered up?

In this short study, I’m *not* going to answer any of those questions. Why? Quite frankly, because:

- 1.) No one on the face of God’s green earth knows our heavenly Father’s exact timing for the final events of this flesh earth age except for our heavenly Father Himself. He’s in charge of the timing. People claiming to know when the events of the end are going to transpire are generally *selling* something, such as sensationalistic books, tapes, videos, survival goods, etc.
- 2.) Our heavenly Father’s Word is very clear that the famine of the end days is a famine for *truth*, not a physical famine for food (i.e., Amos 8:11). So when people are touting the idea of a “shemitah” event ushering in “seven years of severe global famine,” they’re blowing smoke and directly contradicting our heavenly Father and His Word.
- 3.) The main promoter of the idea that a so-called “shemitah” event is about to usher in seven years of global famine is a charismatic, bearded “Rabbi” who’s last name quite literally means “Cain.” And while he’s claiming to be a Christian convert and is regularly appearing on various Christian TV broadcast ministries, we as Christians always have to remember St. Jude’s distinct warning that the sons of Cain love to infiltrate Christian ministries and lead Christians down rabbit holes of deception. (More on that in just a moment.)
- 4.) If Christians would focus on learning their heavenly Father’s Word for themselves, instead of taking their doctrine from Kenite infiltrators, they’d already know the answers to the above-stated questions, anyway.

Please Release Me

The word “shemitah” means *release*. It relates to the Biblical idea that every seven years God’s People were to be released from their debts. But in this case, the so-called “shemitah” event is being touted by its chief purveyor as an event that will usher in a seven year cycle of *severe famine* and worldwide economic collapse.

The individual promoting this idea on nationwide Christian TV is a man who, by any definition, is a walking, talking contradiction in terms. Claiming to be a “Messianic Rabbi,” he admits to converting to Christ while praying in the dark of night at a Satanic altar on a mountain top. If you’re not familiar with his story, listen to the following video from 3:25 minutes to 6:13

minutes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y3TvK0sD7c8j>). As you'll see, he's quite the story teller.

How Now Brown Cow?

This individual claims the recent birth of two cows with the number "7" on their foreheads (not kidding!) – one born in Israel, and one in the U.S. – are related to the story of Joseph and the Pharaoh of Egypt, in which the Pharaoh had a dream about seven fat cows and seven lean cows, which symbolized seven years of prosperity and seven years of famine, respectively.

He further claims the birth of the *second* cow with a "7" on its forehead – the one that took place in the U.S. – is a sign that seven years of economic collapse/famine will take place in America on or directly after the anniversary of the "shemitah" this coming fall, in the September/October time-frame.

In my view, this charismatic Kenite story-teller is using Christian TV broadcast ministries to put on what's commonly referred to in the publishing world as "dog and pony shows" designed largely to sell his books.

Only in this case, he's actually using *two cows* as his story-telling prop, instead of a dog and pony. (See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xwTTbRUmkXg>). Again, he's a great story teller. But stories are not Bible doctrine. They're just *stories*, even when the story-teller manipulatively tries to relate them to Scriptural passages.

Nevertheless, you can bet that if such a "shemitah" event were indeed to occur this fall, resulting in seven years of economic collapse and severe famine, this bearded "Messianic Rabbi" will be able to weather it just fine, thank you...with *your* money if you're so naïve enough to buy his books or contribute to his "ministry."

Indeed, the only "release" I can see taking place is Christian money being released into the "Rabbi's" burgeoning bank account.

Certain Men Crept in Unawares

I don't think anything breaks my heart more than seeing good Christian people duped into taking their doctrine from a conniving Kenite.

Surely you remember St. Jude's warning of those "certain men crept in unawares," which he wrote of in verse 4 of his short letter to the elect:

Jud 1:4 For there are **certain men crept in unawares**, who were **before of old ordained to this condemnation**, **ungodly men**, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

As I've explained in a previous Bible study titled [God's Purpose](#), it's important to understand that the word "ordained" in the above verse is translated from the Greek word *prographo* (i.e.,

Strong's G-4270), which means "designated beforehand," or in the judicial sense, "*previously sentenced*."

And the word "condemnation" is translated from the Greek word *krima* (i.e., Strong's G-2917), meaning a judicial decision, or judgment. These men were previously sentenced by God to this judgment.

So when St. Jude tells us these "certain men crept in unawares" were "before of old ordained to this condemnation," he's saying that in the first world age God sentenced them to come through the flesh as *infiltrators*.

It's quite literally their *job* to creep into Christian churches to try to deceive Christian people into following false doctrine, while simultaneously parting them from their hard-earned money. Got it? Just as they pretend to be Jews, but "are not and do lie" (Revelation 2:9 and 3:9) so they also pretend to be Christians. They represent *your test* to see how well you know your Father's Word. As St. Jude went on to explain in verse 12 of his letter:

Jude 1:12 These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds they are without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots;

In other words, they infiltrate Christian ministries pretending to be one of us, but they're really just there for the easy pickings. Though they might tout belief in God's Word, in reality they're devoid of truthful doctrine. And the withered fruit they offer as doctrine – just as Cain offered old withered "fruit of the ground" to God in Genesis 4:3 -- can only leave one spiritually dead to our heavenly Father, since the doctrine is false and specifically designed to lead Christians *away* from their Father's Word rather than toward it.

So the question is: Should *this* type of person be someone you'd want to take your Bible doctrine from? Should this type of person be someone you'd want to gain your understanding of the final events of this flesh earth age from?

A Real Bible Lesson

As I stated, in this study I'm *not* going to teach on whether or not the so-called "shemitah" event is about to take place. And I'm not going to teach on whether it might constitute the "deadly wound" of Revelation 13:3 and 13:12 as many Christians are claiming. Nor will I teach on whether or not Satan is about to arrive in his role as the antichrist, or false messiah, to deliver up the elect to those worldwide trials described in Mark chapter 13.

Instead, I'm going to briefly cover *five short verses* in the New Testament from an angle you might not have thought much about before – a lesson that will help you get through just about any period of spiritual crisis, but especially the deadly wound and the tribulation of the antichrist, whether these events take place this fall, or next spring, or ten or twenty years from now.

With that in mind, let's review these five verses from God's Word -- Matthew 14:22-27 -- looking at them as a *type* of the tribulation of the antichrist, so we can learn what actually happens...how faithful Christians are supposed to handle it...and what we can expect from Christ Himself at that time.

The Other Side of the Sea

At this point in Matthew chapter 14, Christ has just finished teaching and feeding the multitudes on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. And He's telling His disciples to board a boat and cross over the sea to meet Him on the other side:

Mat 14:22 And straightway Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitudes away.

It's important to understand that the word "constrained" in this verse is translated from the Greek word *anagkazo* (i.e., Strong's G-315), meaning "compelled." Thayer's Bible Dictionary shows that the word implies *force*. In other words, it wasn't a mere request. Christ gave His disciples a direct and blunt order to get into their boat and head across the Sea of Galilee to the "other side," *ahead of Him*, apparently with the idea of meeting up with them later.

The phrase "go before" is translated from the Greek word *proago* (i.e., Strong's 4254), meaning to "lead forward" or to "precede." We have a similar word in the English language, *proactive*. In other words, if you have a proactive employee, he or she doesn't need a lot of direct supervision, but instead is capable of going forward and accomplishing prescribed tasks *on their own*. They lead the way to completion of those prescribed tasks. In other words, they're people who can get the job done.

The phrase "other side" in this verse is quite interesting, as well. It's translated from the Greek word *peran* (i.e., Strong's G-4008), in essence, meaning "across." But this word *peran* is derived from the Greek word *peiro*, meaning "to pierce," or even to *pierce through* in order to get across.

Do you see that Christ's language in His directions to His disciples was very precise? He ordered the disciples to get in the boat *on their own*, and proactively pierce through to the other side of the sea of Galilee *ahead of Him*. Piercing through to the other side implies there's going to be some resistance.

We have pretty much the same standing orders today. You know from other studies that symbolically speaking, the sea is representative of the "peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues" of the world, generally operating in open resistance to God's Word (i.e., Revelation 17:15; Psalm 2). We, as God's elect, are to pierce through that "sea" of resistance and meet Christ on the other side, which is to say, at His second advent.

We are not on this earth merely to sit in a pew every Sunday lifting our arms in the air, singing hymns and waiting for His arrival (or being fleeced by Kenites invited to speak from the podium by so-called Christian "leaders"). True Christians are *in motion* at all times, carrying forth His

Word of truth across the vast (and as we'll see, sometimes boisterous) expanse of people, moving forward *proactively* towards our meeting with our Lord and Savior at His second advent.

If I wanted to put Christ's words to the disciples into modern English vernacular, I might say something like "Get off your duffs, get on your Christian boat, pierce through that wide open sea of rebellious people while carrying My Word with you, and meet Me on the other side."

Mat 14:23 And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone.

As darkness began to fall, Christ was on the mountain alone, praying, while His disciples were attempting to make their way across the Sea of Galilee to their intended rendezvous with Him. Darkness, of course, is always indicative of Satan's time.

Do you ever wonder what Christ was praying about? I'll bet He was praying for His disciples to be given the spiritual understanding they needed to make the cut, which is to say, to not let the *physical* and sensationalistic things of this world distract them from accomplishing their vital *spiritual* mission that includes meeting up with Christ on the other side.

Mat 14:24 But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary.

The word "midst" means *the middle* (i.e., Strong's G-3319). In other words, exactly halfway through their mission to pierce through that "sea" and meet Christ on the other side, the winds unexpectedly came up along with great waves that towered above their boat.

You might think of this "midst of the sea" as being the middle of the period of great tribulation during which the antichrist will arise and take his seat in the temple in Jerusalem, proclaiming himself to be God. It's during that time that he'll begin pursuing and persecuting God's elect (i.e., Revelation 12:13-17), largely by trying to deceive them into believing he's their God, and ultimately having them delivered up to the synagogues and Sanhedrin councils for trial (Mark 13:9) when they fail to bow to him.

We know from Daniel 9:27 that the antichrist stands up "in the midst of the week" to proclaim himself to be God, and to usher in what Christ would later refer to as "the abomination of desolation." And we know that this "week" spoken of in Daniel 9:27 was symbolic of a seven year period. So the antichrist stands up halfway through – i.e., right in the *middle* of – that seven year period. And through deception he causes the people of the world to worship him, rather than God.

We also know from Matthew 24:22 that "for the elect's sake" the period of the tribulation of the antichrist has been shortened. Indeed, as it's written in Revelation 9:5 and 9:10, that seven year period has been shortened to a five month period. And this five month period is otherwise described as "*the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth*" (Revelation 3:10).

And finally, we know that Revelation 8:1 tells us that Satan himself, in his role as the false Christ, will be cast to this earth *one half hour* into that “hour of temptation” period.

In other words, just as in Daniel 9:27 we learn that Satan wouldn’t make himself known until “the midst of the week,” so he will not make himself known until the very *middle* of that five month “hour of temptation,” which is to say, he’ll seat himself in the temple in Jerusalem and start calling himself “God” two and one half months into the five month period of Revelation 9:5 and 9:10.

So, symbolically speaking, the “midst of the sea” mentioned in Matthew 14:24 above is in reference to the middle of the tribulation of the antichrist, when Satan himself in his role as the false Christ stands up to set himself in charge of the world as it’s “God,” and begins to pursue and persecute God’s elect.

And what happens to God’s elect at that time? They’ll proactively be in their Christian boat, piercing through the great sea of people who are operating in opposition to God and His Word. And as the above verse points out, they’ll suddenly find themselves “*tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary.*”

The phrase “tossed with waves” is translated from three different Greek words, the first being *basanizo* (i.e., Strong’s G-928) meaning “to torture, toil or torment.” The second being *hupo* (i.e., Strong’s G-5259), meaning in this sense to find oneself “under” or even “beneath” something. And the third being *kuma* (i.e., Strong’s G-2949) meaning, in the sense of this verse, “billows,” i.e., huge waves toppling upon something from above.

In other words, to say the disciples were “tossed with waves” is a pretty mild way of putting it. In reality, they being *tormented under the billows*, which is to say, great billowing waves were bursting upon their boat, almost to the point of busting it apart and taking it under.

You have of course, heard of that great flood of lies that is cast out of Satan’s mouth when he stands up in Jerusalem and pronounces himself to be God. As it is written in Revelation 12:15, “*And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood.*” It’s that great flood of lies that strikes like billows of waves as Satan attempts to sink our Christian boat, so to speak, as we work to pierce through to the sea of opposition to meet our Lord and Savior on the other side at His Second Advent.

Finally, the phrase “for the wind was contrary” should have been translated in the *plural* sense, which is to say, “for the *winds* were contrary.”

This phrase is translated from the Greek words *anemos*, *en*, and *enantios*. Interestingly, *anemos* (i.e., Strong’s G-417) is the *plural* word that means “winds.” But these are not ordinary winds. As the Strong’s definition points out, they’re winds which come from four different directions at once. The word *en* (i.e., Strong’s G-2258) simply means “were.” And finally *enantios* (i.e., Strong’s G-1727), means “opposite,” or in the figurative sense, “opposing” or “antagonistic.”

In other words, symbolically speaking, in Matthew 14:24 above you see the four winds of Revelation 7:1 which usher in the end of this flesh earth age once they're finally unleashed. Here, these four winds are operating in full force, blowing antagonistically against the disciples in their boat *from each direction of the compass at once*, just as they'll blow antagonistically against God's elect during the tribulation of antichrist.

As further described prophetically in Daniel 7:2, "...and, behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea." The remainder of Daniel chapter 7, of course, goes on to describe the events that take place as the four winds begin to move upon the great sea of people that constitute this old world, and as the one-world beast system reaches its peak and ushers in the antichrist himself along with his ten supernatural kings who will rule the earth under his direction.

You do remember the disciples are struggling against the winds and huge waves in "the midst of the sea" at this point, right? In other words, symbolically speaking, this is representative of being in the very middle of the period of great tribulation at which point the false messiah himself is ushered in to "deceive the whole world" (Revelation 12:9) and to pursue and persecute God's elect, represented here by the disciples in their boat.

So how does it end?

Mat 14:25 And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea.

You'll remember from verse 23 above that *evening* had just begun when Christ went up the mountain to pray, and this great storm on the sea began to take place. In other words, as the disciples got onto their boats, *darkness* was beginning to fall. And darkness is always Satan's time.

Christ knew He was sending His disciples off across that great sea on their own, into the darkness of the night, and that once they arrived at the very middle of their journey they'd run into trouble. That's why He went up into the mountain to *pray* for them.

And it's why He'll be praying for *us*, as well, in the middle of the great tribulation of the antichrist when we're supposed to be proactively piercing through that sea of rebellious people but are met with stiff opposition, with the four winds that usher in the antichrist's arrival and his subsequent actions pounding us from all four directions at once.

Are we to freak out at that time, in fear and worry? Well, no. After all, our Lord and Savior said to go *before* Him to the other side, meaning He intends to re-unite with us there. We have His Word on it. And we have Him up on the "mountain" (i.e., symbolic of heaven) praying for us, as well. I can't think of anyone in the universe I'd rather have praying for me, beloved, than our own Lord and Savior. It means we're going to make it...*if* we stay focused on our objective.

But in the verse above we've arrived at the "fourth watch of the night," which is between 3 a.m. and 6 a.m. In other words, at this point it's getting fairly close to *the dawn*. The disciples have

been being pummeled by the contrary winds and boisterous waves for hours, in the darkness. And just as the darkness is always representative of Satan's time, so the dawn is representative of Christ's time. As it is written 2 Peter 1:19, "*We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts...*"

In other words, Christ Jesus is the true morning star (i.e., "day star"), and He's about to arrive onto the scene at this point as the dim light gradually begins to show on the horizon. Speaking prophetically, He's coming for His elect who are working to pierce their way across that open "sea" of adversity in the spiritual darkness of these end days, with His Word firmly embedded in their hearts and minds to light the way.

Mat 14:26 And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear.

I hope God's elect know their Father's Word well enough that they don't end up crying out in fear at that point in time, when the tribulation of the antichrist is taking place and they're being delivered up to those trials described in Mark chapter 13 for refusing to bow to the false one. For as it is written in Matthew 24:30-31, regarding this very same time-frame, the elect (as well as the rest of the world) will indeed see the great sign of Christ in the skies, indicating His imminent arrival during the dawning light of the fourth watch:

"And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."

He's coming to our rescue, beloved. He's not going to let us down...He's not going to allow the four winds to sink our Christian boats...He's not going to allow the antichrist's flood of lies to engulf us with deception – not as long as we're doing our job, proactively sailing our Christian ship, flying our Christian flag, carrying forth that Word of God to others as we pierce through the midst of that great sea of people who are operating in direct opposition to His Word.

Mat 14:27 But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid.

Frankly, I cringe just a little bit every time I read the above translation of that verse. Sounds to me just a little bit too much like a British fop speaking, doesn't it? Or perhaps like the Basil Rathbone character in those old Sherlock Holmes movies where he pulls off his disguise at the last moment and surprises his sidekick Dr. Watson: "*Cheerio, Watson. 'Tis I. Don't be afraid.*"

No. I'm sorry. That's just *not* what's written in the manuscripts. Instead, our Lord and Savior was giving His *second* command of the day to His disciples. He did not say "Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid." Instead, He called out to His disciples with solemn emphasis: "*Have courage! Fear not! I am!*"

That's quite a difference, isn't it? Don't ever forget those words, beloved. They bear repeating: "*Have courage! Fear not! I am!*"

He began with a direct order for the apostles to "get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side." And He ended with a direct order to "Have courage! Fear not! I am!"

To see for yourself that "it is I" in the above verse should be translated "I am" – which is the sacred name of God -- use your Strong's Concordance to compare the phrase "it is I" in this verse with the phrase "I am" in Matthew 22:32, Matthew 24:15, Matthew 28:20. And while you're at it, check out the meanings of the rest of the words in that verse so you can see for yourself what our Lord and Savior actually said. Don't take my word for it.

I hope He never has to remind any of us, ever again, Who He is. He is indeed our Lord, our Savior, and the very personage of our heavenly Father. He is the great I Am. He is the Commander who gives us the order to cross over the boisterous sea of contention. And He's the Savior who comes rushing to our rescue when the going gets too rough during antichrist's reign.

To Shemitah, or *Not* to Shemitah?

So do we need to fear a massive so-called "shemitah" event this coming fall? Or sometime next year? Or the year after that?

Uhh...no. Our Lord and Savior said "*Have courage! Fear not! I am!*" So we do not fear such an event at all, especially since it contradicts our heavenly Father's Word in Amos 8:11 that the famine of the end days will be for *truth*, and not for bread.

And we most certainly don't need to listen to some fat, bearded play-acting Kenite who's trying to sell Christians sensationalistic stories disguised as "doctrine" in order to put them into the position where their "hearts failing them for fear, and for the looking after those things which are coming on the earth..." (Luke 21:26).

We have *nothing* to fear from the events of the final days of this flesh earth age. Our Lord and Savior has already told us how it's all going down, right up to the very end when He comes to rescue us, and we're gathered back together with Him.

As it is written in Mark 13:13, "*And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.*" The word "saved" in that verse, dear one, is translated from the Greek word *sozo* (i.e., Strong's G-4982) and it means "to save, to deliver, to protect, to heal, to preserve." He is our Deliverer. He's our Savior. And He's got it all under control.

So is a so-called "shemitah" event really going to happen later this year? And will it constitute the "deadly wound" as some Christians are also claiming?

Answer: I don't know whether or not there will be another massive financial crisis this September, such as the one that took place in 2008. There certainly *could* be. The world

financial system teeters on the brink even as you read this. But...it has teetered on that brink for decades and decades. And the financial wizards behind the scenes have managed to keep it propped up in spite of periodic stock market crashes and economic “recessions” like the one that started in 2008.

So while an economic crash is certainly possible, I have my doubts we’re going to see “the big one” this fall. Why? Because frankly, *everyone* is expecting it. Virtually every financial guru is predicting it. Virtually every financial website is talking about it.

As a general rule-of-thumb, when *everybody* is expecting calamity, it most likely *isn't* going to happen (i.e., remember Y2K, for example). Indeed, generally speaking, we can expect calamity to happen when *nobody* else expects it. That’s what makes it so...well... *calamitous*.

Here’s What I Know for a Certainty



So all I can tell you for a certainty is that there will *not* be a seven year global famine, because our heavenly Father is abundantly clear that the famine of the end days is not for bread, but instead, for His Word of truth.

I can also tell you for sure that the charismatic son of Cain who’s stirring up so many Christians over the supposed coming “famine” with his books and TV broadcasts does not have a *clue* as to when the final events of the end days

will unfold.

Only our heavenly Father knows the exact timing of the final events of the end of this flesh earth age. He’s in complete charge, contrary to the erroneous idea that the Kenites are the ones running the show today. They’re just our heavenly Father’s puppets. And because our heavenly Father is the One in charge, truly faithful Christians are going to be just fine regardless of what happens. They know how to handle the winds of adversity until Christ gets here.

Of course, because you’re a rationale individual who knows your Father’s Word, if you haven’t done so already you might certainly want to set aside some extra canned goods for your family, or maybe stuff some cash in a sock somewhere nice and safe. And then *relax*. Your Lord and Savior has it all under control.

The events of these end days have to take place *sometime* in this final generation of this flesh earth age. Whether it’s this year, next year, or 10 years from now, nobody knows but Him. All we really know is that the end times events described in the Bible will indeed happen, and a wise man or woman of God is prepared for it in advance.

True Wealth Is Our Heavenly Father’s Word

And since our heavenly Father is completely in control, it only makes sense to keep studying His Word. Indeed, stay *in* your Father's Word. And quit venturing *outside* of your Father's word to listen to the manipulative, sensationalistic Kenite story-tellers with their tales of dark nights, Satanic altars, brown cows, financial apocalypses and global famines.

They're skilled at parting you from two things: Your money. And your Father's Word. (Not to mention estranging you from His good graces.) That's their entire *job* in life, i.e., to infiltrate Christian ministries and to separate Christians from their heavenly Father by sending them down a rabbit hole of deception.

Your job, on the other hand, is to ignore the circus side shows being put on in the Christian churches by these infiltrators, obey Jesus Christ, and pilot your Christian boat across that boisterous sea of rebellion until the four winds begin to blow.

At that point, ultimately, in the dawning light you'll see the sign of the Son of man in the skies, as your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ arrives to rescue His faithful servants, gather them to Himself, and calm the boisterous seas.

Do you trust Him? Or will you put your trust in some conniving, charismatic, story-telling infiltrator?

-- End --

You can sign up to receive Steve's periodic "News & Current Events from a Bible Perspective" email commentaries, and gain instant access to Steve's other in-depth Bible studies, at www.HaveYeNotRead.com

© Copyright 2015. [Have Ye Not Read?](http://www.HaveYeNotRead.com) an independent Christian Bible study ministry unaffiliated with any church or denomination.