In his “Tale of Two Cities” Charles Dickens began with the following Phrase, “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair .....” The good adjectives expressed here by Dickens bear no resemblance to today’s Israel world, do they? With the huge debt hanging over our heads like a guillotine, tens of millions of poor in our Israel nations, wealth confiscated, freedoms lost, etc., it is impossible to relate to the best of times, indeed it may simply be the worst it has ever been. We have great knowledge but certainly not wisdom; it is primarily a world of disbelief or scepticism, and hope seems to have all but vanished as we grope our way through a maze of controls, fears and lost values. Today, Dickens might be tempted to write, “It is the worst of times, an age of foolishness touched with fleeting pleasures to keep us occupied; un-statesman and unscrupulous leadership keeping us in the dark while pursuing their one world goals to our ultimate harm.

We live at a time when the world is falling apart and this editor believes that in the coming year, massive failures are going to erupt in the markets, nations will be contending with a myriad of problems not experienced since the Great Depression of 1929-33 and the control of people and people’s activities will be intensified. The New Year’s Eve festivities in this year of 2013 may ring out as loud and clear as celebrations of the past twenty or thirty years but future celebrations will probably be dull by comparison.

Do you remember the days when New Year celebrations were more than people getting inebriated and waking up sometime the next day not knowing what they might have said, what happened, or with whom. Not to say that some, particularly God’s people, act differently, but in the long ago past, there were far more of us who would unite in prayer asking that God’s will be done, and for His Kingdom to come soon. It was and still is, a better alternative to the mostly foolish, today’s typical New Year’s celebrations.

In trying to gauge how leaders in our movement reflect on 2013, I asked four of the most knowledgeable to give me their thoughts. I’m very pleased that each of these leaders so readily agreed to offer their thoughts to our many readers. It is not surprising that each of them express great concern for 2013 and beyond.

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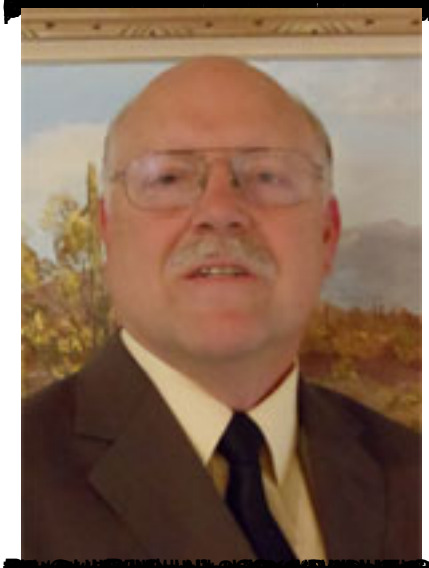

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