

“REMOVE NOT THE ANCIENT LANDMARKS...”

By Keith Greer

“Do not remove the ancient landmark which your fathers have set.” {Proverbs 22:28}

*“You shall not remove your neighbor's landmark, which the men of old have set, in your inheritance which you will inherit in the land that the LORD your God is giving you to possess.”
{Deuteronomy 19:14}*

“Some remove landmarks; they seize flocks violently and feed on them.” {Job 24:2}

Many times in the Old Testament, God warned Israel about the sin of removing landmarks for the sake of personal gain. Let's apply this warning to our own day and examine some landmarks of the Lord's church that men have sought to remove in order to further their own causes.

Beginning in Jerusalem. *“Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow to it. Many people shall come and say, ‘Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths. For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.”
{Isaiah 2:2,3}* Isaiah prophesied that the word of the Lord would go forth from Jerusalem. Acts 2 gives this prophecy's fulfillment. The disciples and Jews from 17 different nations were gathered in Jerusalem to observe the Day of Pentecost. Still, many churches established by men defy history and prophecy because they began in locations other than Jerusalem. For example, does the Roman Catholic Church not get and broadcast its teaching from the Vatican in Rome? Refer to history and you will see that the Roman church began in Rome, not in Jerusalem as Isaiah prophesied the true church would. This is a change to one of its “ancient landmarks.”

Unchanging law. *“Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.” {Matthew 24:35}* God's word remains the same today as when it was “delivered once to the saints.” {Jude 3} Yet, the churches begun by men have councils, synods, conferences, and even a council of one organization's twelve apostles that meet annually to update the teachings of their religious organizations. Where is their authority for this? Our Lord said He has *“all authority and power on heaven and earth,”* {Matthew 28:18}. Observe carefully as these so-called churches tinker with the Bible's positions on homosexuality, abortion, woman's role in the church, worship, work, and a host of other things. They have removed yet another landmark. God's laws are not to be changed to accommodate men; they were given to suit God, and they will never change!

All-sufficient mission. *“To the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.” {Ephesians 3:10,11}* The church is sufficient to do all the work God designed for her – **evangelism, edification, and benevolence for needy saints.** Today, churches begun by men involve themselves in many other works – recreation, social issues, politics, social needs, and a host of other endeavors. Where do they get the authority to

modify the landmarks for the three works of the church? It is as though they are telling God He forgot some things, and they have better designs and plans!

Such conduct shows utter contempt for the **landmarks** our God gave for His kingdom. Are you willing to love, obey, and respect the **old landmarks**? ***