



For wickedness burns as the fire; It shall devour the briers and thorns, And kindle in the thickets of the forest; They shall mount up like rising smoke.

Isaiah 9:18

Beyond This Life

Today we are squeezing a third (very) important feature into the UPLOOK: an outline of where we are in Bible prophecy (pg. 2). In addition...

Our first article seeks to head off at the pass a disturbing trend appearing in the Christian community: a denial of the seriousness of “Hell.” Hell is rightly understood to be a place of eternal torment, and yet it is actually an interpretation of three biblical words, two Hebrew and one Greek, that describe various states of life after death. *Sheol*, and *Gehenna* are Hebrew references, with the first denoting those generally consigned to death, and the second, to a place of torment.

Hades is a Greek term, similar to *Sheol*.

It was in *Hades* (or *Sheol*) that the rich man lifted his head to call out to Abraham when, to his chagrin, he discovered a division in that place: with one side of comfort, and the other of torment. This temporary state was superceded after the Cross for believers, so that the saints (those who rest in Christ as they pass to that world) are now “*absent from the body, and . . . present with the Lord*” (2 Cor. 5:6, 8, (Matt. 27:49-53, Eph. 4:8-10)).

Our second article (on “Jiminy Cricket”) considers the life of a nation rapidly approaching a point of national demise: Will the US survive as a viable nation state, or yield to the “New World Order” and succumb to the kingdom of the “Antichrist”?

Already, the fringes of our society . . . are being consumed by locusts.

The Problem with “Hell”

And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.

Luke 16:23, 24 AV

Before we get started in this discussion let it be stated that although I am tempted to “mess with” the reader by throwing out questionable comments, such is not my intent. Our subject is (to say the least) far too serious to play around with. However, having issued this disclaimer, allow me to now ask:

“Do you see something unusual about the opening text (above)”?

What person in, or out of, their right mind stops to hold a conversation with anyone on the merits of getting a drink of water, when they are in the middle of flames????! Would not the pain, not to mention the panic and urgency, be so extreme as to demand that one’s first priority be to *escape* or *extinguish* the tormenting agent (the flames)?

In fact, it would seem that a more “natural” reaction might be to

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AN EXPLANATION OF THE
“TEN POINTS OF BIBLE PROPHECY”

For those wondering why the UPLOOK has such a “weird” format this month, the answer may be quickly discovered by pulling the center-fold from this edition to reveal the “10 Points of Bible Prophecy” on page 7. This may seem like an extreme measure, sticking my neck out, in order to give the reader a quick reference guide to major revelations I believe the Lord has revealed over the past 20+ years. Yet, so many prophecies are in the process of fulfillment that I am concerned that both old and new readers may be confused about where each monthly article fits, within the overall picture of Bible prophecy.

First of all, please understand that the table on the inside of the back cover is an *extremely condensed* outline of where we are, in prophecy, and of our immediate future. What is presented here is the unthinkable (and will, no doubt, have to be revised): a line up of parallel visions from John’s Revelation so that we may see how they pan out on a simple time line. Having said this, I must remind the reader of two underlying rules for interpreting Bible prophecy, with the addition of two serious distinctions found in the table on the inside back cover (2 +2 = 4 points, on this page).

There are insights on the back page that have taken decades to uncover, but which will now allow the serious and honest Christian to answer questions that have puzzled believers for quite some time. Again, these points are *extremely condensed*. They must be prayed and meditated over, for yourself. It is *your* soul, and mine, that is at stake in the coming days.

The four underlying points are:

1. Bible prophecy is to be interpreted by the Holy Spirit –not by the perspective of the prophet who gave the prophecy (2 Peter 1:21). Prophets were only agents used by God to project secrets into the future. Their truths would be interpreted by the saints at the appropriate time. Because the world would change drastically, between the time the prophecy was transmitted and its fulfillment, the use of *symbols* provided the clearest and simplest way to accomplish this task (Romans 12:6 – a prophet may only proclaim what he can conceive of. The Holy Spirit is the interpreter – Jn. 16:12, 13).
2. John’s Revelation, as with all Bible prophecy, was projected through a Jewish mind with a repetition of cardinal themes, from differing perspectives. As an example of this principle:

Daniel’s original interpretation of the image with the golden head down to iron/clay feet, (chapter 2) has spanned many centuries up into our time – and yet his other prophecies in chapters 7 – 12, may be best understood, when layered upon that original prophecy (in other words, the beast with *ten horns*, of Daniel 7 can more easily be understood when correlating it with the *ten toes*, of that original prophecy . . .)

- a. Within John’s amazing prophecy, the Lord gives abundant assistance (and hints) as to where the “overlaps” should be placed, by repeated “resets” that re-define the story line (for example, the *seals* in chapter 6, overlap the *trumpets* in chapters 8 & 9)
3. I’ve taken the liberty of describing where these overlaps occasionally “split” (as with the sixth trumpet *containing* the fifth and sixth seal). As well as where the “beast” of Revelation thirteen *morphs* from a federation . . . and national patriotism shifts from nation-states to focus allegiance *on a man*.
 4. The “3½ clocks” allow a fuller description, from a biblical perspective, of the Jewish diaspora* and temple rebuilding (as per Scripture, itself – Lk. 21:24, Acts 15:14-17 & 1 Cor. 3:16) so that:
 - a. As with John’s Revelation, in general, his entire vision spans the complete era of the Christian church from Christ’s first coming (Rev. 12:3-5 –the “child” is Jesus, compare with Matt. 2:13-18) –up to His second coming (Revelation 19) – **so that all of John’s expanded vision, from the 12th to the 19th chapters, cover a complete set of the “3½ clocks.”**

And beyond this, I can offer no further explanations, due to lack of space . . . and because there is enough revelation contained in these two pages to occupy the reader for much more than a single month. . . .

Be blessed, in the true Messiah;
The Lord Jesus Christ!

* diaspora = a term referring to the Jewish dispersion, beginning long before the NT era, but accentuated by the Roman destruction of the temple in 70 AD, and loss of statehood, until 1948 . . .

What the chewing locust left, the swarming locust has eaten; What the swarming locust left, the crawling locust has eaten; . . .

Joel 1:4a

Not until the last presidential election did I really appreciate the office of President of the United States. Up until that time, it seemed, the president was just supposed to be a fellow you generally agreed with: a nice guy, and one you could trust to

truthfulness. Bottom line: every serious individual understands that corruption, and the padding of politico's pockets, is a sure way to the poor house for any nation or system of government. The most traceable, and obvious detraction from the national life of any country is not its financial reserve, or even its natural resources, but the way in which those resources are managed.

You may be (literally) sitting on a diamond mine, or possessing incredible oil reserves (as many African nations do) but if the leadership cannot keep its hands out of the till, the nation as a whole will suffer.

through the close of the age.

For the sake of clarification, and because this ministry generally deals with prophecy derived from John's Revelation, let me state clearly that in this edition, we are *not* concerning ourselves with the locusts of the Apocalypse, directly (in Rev. 9). Those creatures are released upon society to bring nerve rattling stress and distress upon a culture that is abandoning truth for fantasy (until men and women *long for* death – vs. 6).

We are here dealing here with the more direct consequences of abandoning truth: as we impoverish

That's not "Jiminy Cricket" we Hear!



handle the security interests of the United States.

Not until after "hearing" of presidential initiatives to set up ethics panels, with declarations of transparency, along with a web site whose stated purpose was to keep the general populace continually informed of the processes of government, did it begin to occur to me that someone was taking his office more seriously than I originally thought. For, while most Americans seemed to have voted for our current president because he is "a nice guy"—it started to dawn upon me that what we had installed in Office was not only an individual, but a whole point of view, and even a "conscience," if you will, for the nation.

This the reason for reference to "Jiminy Cricket" in the title, for that little creature, you may recall from Disney's play characters, had the job of trying to keep Pinocchio's nose from growing. In the same way, American politics (like it or not) and the American way have been understood to be based on integrity, and

The king establishes the land by justice, But he who receives bribes overthrows it.

Proverbs 29:4

So "Jiminy Cricket" plays an important part in the life of any national interest. The problem arises when his cousin (the locusts) come to visit and "munch" on our society.

For beyond simple exchange rates and purely financial dealings, there are issues of conscience at work among us that demand far more than mere lip service.

Financial services are measured on a balance sheet, and tallied on a bank roster. Such resources, it seems, are the only absolutes that (post) moderns agree upon. Yet, the "locusts" devour the moral life of a country and leave behind a *false* conscience, and false system of beliefs, that the God of Heaven must then eventually deal with. Such is what Pharaoh, king of Egypt discovered when confronted by Jehovah, and what this end time generation must now address, as we progress

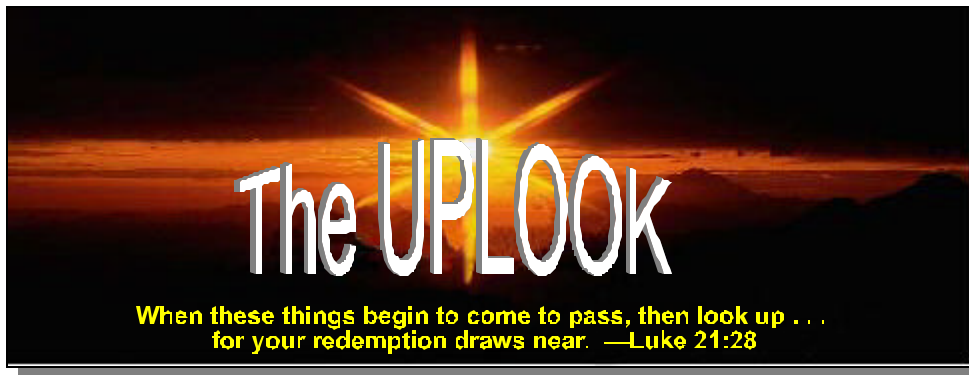
our nation in the pursuit of (post) modern superstitions, and work to establish a New Sodom.

These new superstitions are a direct consequence of our corrupting, and "playing with," the human conscience to fashion a world-view that suits ourselves—in direct opposition to the God of Heaven. Such errors occurred in the first century, when the Jewish nation rejected the Messiah (Jesus) and was forced to regroup and reinforce their religion . . . without their intended Deliverer. We, in our day, are now "exiting the Christian era" and doing the same: jettisoning centuries of established Christian faith and practice, to accommodate a new era of perversion and death (I speak of homosexuality, and "abortion rights").

Jiminy Cricket is getting his head unscrewed!

For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to estab-

(Continued on page 6)



(Continued from page 1) **The Problem with “Hell”**

run about in panic with the flames streaming behind him.

Again, I am not trying to deny the reality of what Christ is presenting here—only to cause the reader to realize that Christ had to be referring to something so *terrible* that the only earthly illustration available was this intense illustration of fire, and burning heat, when experiencing the agony associated with being truly separated from the Life Source that makes life worth living — in every possible way.

While yet maintaining an “existence.”

These thoughts come to me, while noting a new tendency to “opt out” of taking the Bible’s warnings about Hell, seriously—not a surprising development, considering the time we live in, as some who call themselves Christians are now found at strange altars that champion a God who is no longer masculine (He’s a She!) while endorsing homosexuality (of which, there is no wonder that flaming fire is so offensive . . . Jude 7).

I trust that I have not been irreverent in my observation—for that is the main problem now facing us at the close of the age: a failure to take God seriously. Like a drunken man standing on a ledge of the observation deck on the Empire State building— post modern men and women now stagger and swagger about the edge of judgment with impudent assurance that all will be well.

When such is certainly not the case.

Confusion over semantics and a misunderstanding regarding the actual meaning of Hell fire and brimstone, notwithstanding, any careless treatment of this sobering reality is nothing less than foolhardy, and better left alone until we are willing to consider it soberly, and deal with the matter in a proper manner. Your “stand” on the ledge only exposes your weakness (and ignorance)—while placing you in extreme danger!

For starters, let us concede that the Jews of the Old Testament had, at best, only an inkling of whether there even *was* life after death. Even the (very) godly man, Job, asked: “*If a man die, will he live again?*” (Job 14:14a). His was not the snide remark of a wise-cracking devil’s advocate, but the honest question of a man who had seen the very ugly display of death up close: of loved ones being laid to rest in absolute silence . . . while wondering at the awesome truth conveyed in the Garden, when the Lord told Adam that he would *surely die* (Genesis 2:17).

No, they did not understand what lay beyond the grave, but they did understand that what God said, He *meant*. They did not laugh at death—or at God, who had pronounced so awesome a curse.

For as wonderful as life itself may be as we awaken with each new day as if from a dream . . . as if from a castrated, to survive a new day and new experiences—the terror of Death, wherein loved ones sleep on, and on, and on—does seem like an encounter with the ultimate Terrorist. Indeed, you might say that no human being is truly mature, until after having first attended at least *one* funeral, for someone we love. No education in life is complete, without first considering its ending, in death. For:

Who knoweth the spirit of man that goeth upward, and the spirit of the beast that goeth downward to the earth?

Ecclesiastes 3:21

—That was “wise” king Solomon, the existentialist, puzzling over the meaning of life without having grasped fully, his father’s faith. Poor king Solomon (!) he could see no further than the sun (for all his experiences were “under the sun” – Eccl. 1:3, 9, 14, 2:11 . . .). He had everything but the very essence of life itself: a simple faith in God.

Yet, even Solomon had more than many of our “educated” class, today. For he, at least, feared God and took Him *very* seriously.

Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For

this is man's all.

Ecclesiastes 12:13

Uh! If *that* were all I had to look forward to, in my “religion” I’d be cynical, like Solomon was, as well!!

Yet, it must be acknowledged, that if we want to know, and to experience, the *living God* (not the one post moderns toy with, in their minds) we will have to come to terms with this awesome terror, and humbling truth, of dealing with the One who created us and pronounced the curse—before providing an ultimate blessing, for men and women of faith. Yes, it is true that the terrors of Hell can only be approximated by the things we may experience within this life, for the fires of Hell are actually a *spiritual experience* wherein the everlasting soul experiences an agony that is unrelenting: like a man whose conscience has been awakened—without anyone to alleviate the pain.

Said Isaiah of the experience:

For wickedness burns as the fire; It shall devour the briars and thorns, And kindle in the thickets of the forest; They shall mount up like rising smoke.

Through the wrath of the LORD of hosts The land is burned up, And the people shall be as fuel for the fire; No man shall spare his brother.

And he shall snatch on the right hand And be hungry; He shall devour on the left hand And not be satisfied; Every man shall eat the flesh of his own arm.

Isaiah 9:18-20 [emphasis added]

And here we see the answer for our original question, in our opening quote: for Hell (or Gehenna, for those quibbling over semantics) is so terrible that one would gladly suck their own blood, to quench the thirst. That is, the pain of suffering and personal loss: the damage to one’s self esteem (if you will) is so complete, that one would sacrifice their own “body” to alleviate the pain!

Worst, the pain is actually *intensified* by community, within Hell: Like a friendship gone bad—“No man shall spare his brother”—as each eggs the other on. Each points out the other’s faults, and none pities another. And (of course) there is NO LOVE (!) whatsoever, in that place. In fact, as we begin to fathom what is being described here, (that is, as we begin to understand and remember what makes life really worth living) we realize that such darkness of soul would actually cause the souls of men and women to utterly *collapse* if not for the flames.

Oh, yes, the flames. I know you probably never heard this before, so brace yourself. Ready?

Those flames . . . are a *blessing*. They keep you “alive.” They give you *something* outside of your miserable self, and collapsed self esteem, to “hate” more than yourself.

To think, that Jesus—the Son of God, would come to earth, just so that you and I would not have to go to that awful place. For “sin” is “missing the mark” (a Roman archery term)—simply put, it is missing the perfection for which we were originally created. When one realizes (hopefully, in this life) that they have fallen short of this standard, and comes to disdain the reality of truly violating our original design, this creates an intense hatred for the evil that we have done. “*Oh wretched man that I am,*” the apostle calls out,

“who shall deliver me from the body of this death?” (Romans 7:24)

Only Jesus Christ: only He can do such a thing. And now we realize that this deliverance is exactly what we saw enacted on the Cross of Calvary (remember *The Passion*....?). Yes, that is the reason for the blood: it was the only way to redeem us from such depravity (most often hidden, and concealed from the view of others). That is exactly why Jesus had to hang naked, and bloodied, upon a Cross.

If there is an honest, and compassionate, psychologist reading this material, you must be near tears, by now. If anyone has stopped to understand what life is really all about, you now *begin* to understand the terror and condition of the place just described. But if not: Avoid Hell, simply to escape the flames. Said Jesus:

“If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed, rather than having two hands, to go to hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched;

“where Their worm does not die, And the fire is not quenched.”

“And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame, rather than having two feet, to be cast into hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched;

“where Their worm does not die, And the fire is not quenched.”

“And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire;

“where Their worm does not die, And the fire is not quenched.”

Mark 9:43-48 [emphasis added]

Oh, and those of you who believe that “Hell” is in the grave, and that the soul is incinerated (annihilated) at death? What ever happened to the worms, in hell?

Why don’t *they* die?

Someone has been lying to you, and it isn’t God.

(Continued from page 3) **not “Jiminy Cricket”!**

lish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God.

Romans 10:3

A New Superstition:

To the moral perversion noted above (twisting right and wrong)—allow me to now add a modern superstition, and rapidly developing religion: belief in man made “climate change.”

For centuries we have had our factories belching coal dust and other pollutants into the air, and yet now that we have more or less brought that problem under control, our restive progressives have decided that we need to do more: we need to limit carbon emissions (more specifically, carbon dioxide. Wait a minute, *carbon dioxide??* Isn’t that the same thing we exhale, while breathing? Maybe we should reduce our population, as well. —Yes, that too . . .)

Aside from the fact that the “weather man” can not accurately project the weather two weeks in advance, and that our “warming cycle” has been demonstrably traced to changes taking place on the surface of our incredibly stable sun¹—my particular interest in this issue rests on two main points, and one economic reality.

The two prophetic points:

1. Environmentalists (Al Gore, et al) project massive world-wide flooding from melting ice caps. Interesting, isn’t it, that a similar apocalyptic scenario is *guaranteed* not to happen in Scripture (Genesis 9:11)??
2. Scripture does state that there will be a generally increasing environmental upheaval leading up to Christ’s returning (after Israel has returned to the holy land - Luke 21:24, 25), therefore:

→It appears that what the enemy of our souls is actually doing, is

performing a pre-emptive strike in order to explain away the judgments of God, while paving the way for men and women to increasingly harden their hearts, until the Lord brings the sudden birth pangs that will usher in the Lord’s returning (1 Thes. 5:3).

And the economic reality? That everything we use, within modern society, requires energy. . . and so this obviously implies that any severe restriction placed upon energy production will be like placing shackles on the feet of an athlete seeking to run (and win) a race. Such endeavors will neither “calm the weather” nor alter regular warming cycles within our world—but it *will* produce an incredible burden upon our economy, while producing a governmental behemoth that will stagger the imagination.

The bellwether initiative for those who believe in climate change is “cap and trade” legislation (which allows those who exceed artificially set limits to “buy” credits from their peers—or from under-developed nations, not yet exceeding their “caps”—wonder whose pocket, that extra “pocket change” will go into, in many third world nations???)

All these things, of course, point towards the continuing march of Bible prophecy: towards the black horse, wherein society will hover over an economic black hole: not *quite* tumbling in, but not escaping either. —As well as an increasing socialism, as even the US abandons the fear of God, while seeking to manipulate wealth and prosperity. For, true economic health requires two traits eaten away by the locusts of our moral morass: integrity (read that simple “honesty”) and faith in the God of the Bible (a willingness to “take a chance” on God’s Truth—Matt. 6:33 (Deut. 8:18)).

That *black horse* will lead to the *pale*, as a world now accustomed to seeking easy answers from big gov-

ernment seeks salvation through ever increasing governmental controls . . . and takes the final leap into the lap of the man of sin: Antichrist, and his side kick (a religious lackey, expert at twisting the conscience to do man’s bidding, instead of God’s).

After all, the US will have to spend all that extra government capital on something: why not on expanding Big Brother . . . and on an attempt to annihilate little brother, in the middle east, at Armageddon (where *all* nations will be represented—Zech. 14:2)?

Of course, any truly wise man or woman realizes that the God of Creation can be trusted – not only to maintain our ecological environment, but to make good on His promise to welcome Home all who truly trust in Him, through Messiah: the Lord Jesus Christ. We will need to trust Him with ever increasing tenacity, particularly in the days ahead, as this old world goes through the final stages of transition, from our New Sodom, to New Jerusalem. For, while the locusts of this world only offer distress and anguish of soul, the Lord offers us peace and eternal joy.

For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, . . .

You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Psalms 16:10, 11

Amen. Even so come, Lord Jesus.

Your will be done.

†

¹See the NY Times best seller, “The Politically Incorrect Guide to GLOBAL WARMING and Environmentalism.” By Christopher C. Horner (2007, Regnery Publishing, Inc.)

Spiritual view

Composite world view

Ten Points of Bible Prophecy

(where we are, and where we're going, by God's grace)

1st 3½ clock

dispersion

<====>

1. Israel: God's time clock (Times of the Gentiles) — [6/09 UPLOOK?](#)

a. Israel returns to Holy Land (Lk. 21:24)

2. The US in Bible prophecy (Daniel 7 & Revelation 13)

a. Formation of a "New World Order"

2nd 3½ clock

3. The 4 horsemen (approaching the **Black Horse**)

4. The Seven trumpets (just past the 5th)

5. Revelation of the **beast, pt. 1** (Rev. 13:1)

restoration

===== ← We are here

6. Awaiting Jewish Revival (Times of the Gentiles) — [6/09 UPLOOK?](#)

<====>

7. Revelation of the **beast, pt. 2** — morphing into *the* Antichrist

a. Eyes and mouth, forming (Daniel 7:20, Revelation 13:6)

3rd 3½ clock

8. The seduction of the saints & rise of the false prophet (2 Thes. 2:1-3, [Matt. 24:9-12](#))

a. War *with* the saints (Rev. 13:7)

b. Mark of the beast issued (Rev. 13 & 14)

c. Way of salvation sealed shut (temple closed, in Heaven — Rev. 15)

d. The seven bowls of God's wrath, poured out (Rev. 16)

glorification

9. Global judgment of false religion (Rev. 17 & 18—destruction of Babylonian trinity)

a. **Sixth trumpet, pt. 1 (The Pale Horse)** → [Matt. 24:29](#))

10. The **sixth seal** (sign of His coming — Rev. 6:12-17, [Matt. 24:30](#))

a. The final "inquisition" (**the fifth seal**)

b. **Sixth trumpet, pt. 2** (Armageddon — after Armageddon → [Matt. 24:29](#))

c. **The sixth seal** (the sign of His coming — Rev. 6:12-17, [Matt. 24:30](#))

i. **The last (seventh) Trump** (1 Cor. 15:52, [Matt. 24:31a](#))

ii. Rapture of the saints (1 Cor. 15:52, 1 Thes. 4:17, [Matt. 24:31b](#))

iii. Christ returns!!

? This article now available online at:

<<http://www.maranatha-min.net/TheUPLOOK/2009-6=Israel%20time%20clock.htm>>

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What Must I Do?

“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved.”
Acts 16:31

How?

*. . . If you will confess with your
mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in your heart that God has
raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.*

*For with the heart man believes unto righteousness; and
with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

Romans 10:9,10

In Other Words

Acknowledge : your need

—as a sinner (Romans 3:23, II Cor. 5:14-15)

Accept: His work on the Cross —to be your Savior

Confess: your acceptance of His lordship over you.

Live for Him with your new life!

*For the scripture says, “Whoever believes on Him will not be
ashamed.”*

Romans 10:11

ENDNOTES;

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