

# The Journal

## News of the Churches of God

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## Speaker challenges Feast audience: Consider peace

**By Dixon Cartwright**  
BIG SANDY, Texas—Christians need to learn to envision a future that includes their enemies. That's the biblical and the only way to peace, advised a speaker at a Feast of Tabernacles observance sponsored by the Church of God Big Sandy.

Church members look to a returned Jesus inspiring and implementing a system to impose peace.

But can there be real peace before the Millennium and the eternity of the Kingdom of God?

Yes, said Reg Killingley of Big Sandy at one of the CGBS's four Feast sites, during the Oct. 6, 2012, service at the Big Sandy site.

But that kind of peace can happen only when people "are able to envisage a future that includes their enemies."

Mr. Killingley, a teacher in a Tyler, Texas, public school, enumerated four points he attributed to John Paul Lederach, author of *The Moral Imagination: The Art and Soul of Building Peace*. Mr. Lederach's, and Mr. Killingley's, advice:

■ "Visualize a future in which you have a relationship with the enemy. If your vision of the future doesn't include the enemy, you're not going

to build peace with the enemy."

■ "Don't fall into a simple dualistic understanding of the options. Don't think either-or: either you're with me or you're against me. Set aside that simplistic approach to conflict."

■ "You have to try to see a solution. You have to take a leap of moral imagination."

■ Accept the risks, including "that you may get killed because other people may not be willing to accept that breakthrough, that relative leap."

Mr. Killingley's example of someone willing to die for peace: President Anwar el-Sadat of Egypt, who was assassinated in 1981.

Thousands of people keep the Feast, rejoicing and singing about peace, yet they cannot envision peace with their own brethren. "Is there not an irony there?" Mr. Killingley asked.

Just as David was clueless in the matter of Uriah, Christians have a blind spot. "We need to accept that life is complex and sometimes there are paradoxes," he said, quoting Matthew 5:44, "Bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you."

The unending peace of Isaiah 9:7 will not come to pass in our time short of a grassroots movement that bypasses church and temporal leaders, Mr. Killingley concluded.

"We don't have to wait for X or Y leader to start the process," he said. "We can start the process."



Reg Killingley



**WHEN IN ROME**—John Verterano, his wife, Terri, and daughter Sabrina, all of New York City, saw something that caught their eye at an airport in Rome, Italy, on the way home from the Feast in October 2012. "We were standing in front of a snack bar/newsstand called News Etc.," Mr. Verterano said. "Sabrina looked up and said, 'Dad, look at that!' Dead center of a window decoration depicting a collection of international periodicals and the store logo was an image of *THE JOURNAL*. We asked each other how did this occur: by chance, by fiat? Or was there a true believer who works in graphics/advertising who took the opportunity to leave this marker?" [Photo courtesy the Verterano family]

## The Journal invites readers' Feast reports

*THE JOURNAL: NEWS OF THE CHURCHES OF GOD* invites readers to send in reports of their 2012 Feast of Tabernacles observances.

Members of the Churches of God and other Sabbatarian fellowships met this year at several hundred Feast sites, with most observances beginning the evening of Sept. 30.

You still have time to get your report in for the next issue of *THE JOURNAL*.

Mail your information to Festival Reports, P.O. Box 1020, Big Sandy, Texas 75755, U.S.A. Or E-mail it to [info@thejournal.org](mailto:info@thejournal.org). Or you may fax it toll-free to 1-888-488-6603.

Photographs as prints or E-mail attachments are also welcomed.

Please mention the dates of your observance and the name of the church fellowship or affiliation, if any, or other sponsors of the site.

## Final appeal: Supreme Court docket church member's challenge of the IRS and income tax

**By Dixon Cartwright**  
The Supreme Court of the United States announced on Sept. 11, 2012, that it would consider hearing the case of a Church of God member who believes the Internal Revenue Service and the U.S. income tax are "applied unconstitutionally" and therefore illegal.

Jeffrey T. Maehr says he felt challenged by the law on IRS taxation back in 2002. So he wrote the IRS seeking clarification.

That started it all for the church member and resident of Pagosa Springs, Colo. The folks at the IRS would not give a straight answer to any of his questions, he says. They would send him form letters or just ignore his questions, he told *THE JOURNAL* in an interview in September 2012.

Dr. Maehr, a 59-year-old chiropractor who left his practice several years ago to begin what he calls a health-and-wellness service, was flabbergasted by what he saw as the IRS's lack of communication.

Because of it he decided to study everything he could about that government bureau and the income tax: their history and the laws and court decisions that have defined them for the last century.

Incredibly, in his journey through seven courtrooms in seven states, he has acted pro se; that is, without benefit of legal counsel. In his arguments before the highest court in the land, he intends to do the same.

If the court hears the case, Donald Verrilli, U.S. solicitor general, or an assistant will represent the United States and the IRS. Jeffrey Thomas Maehr, petitioner, will represent himself.

### Phone interview

The rest of this article is based on a telephone interview with this writer on Sept. 20, 2012. In it Dr. Maehr speaks from Pagosa Springs with the

writer in Big Sandy, Texas. The interview is edited for length and clarity.

### 10 years now

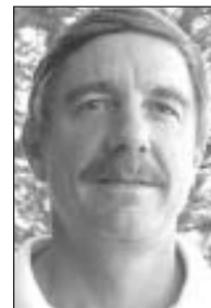
*THE JOURNAL:* Does it look like you might be able to argue your case before the Supreme Court? Can you give us a little information about that?

**Jeffrey Maehr:** It essentially started about 10 years ago. You know, we're expected to know the law, and obviously from a biblical standpoint we've all been studying law and all that kind of thing.

But secularwise I didn't know diddly about anything.

I just wanted to know a little bit more when I was challenged on a few things. So I started digging.

*THE JOURNAL:* So what kind of See **CHURCH OF GOD MEMBER**, page 6



Jeffrey Maehr

## People of the Sign: A tale of a not-so-merry-go-round

Mr. Dickerson attended Ambassador College, Big Sandy, in the late 1960s. He lives with his wife, Cathy, in Arkansas.

**By John Dickerson**  
L INCOLN, Ark.—From the very beginning of *People of the Sign*, a new book by Wade Fransson, I was fascinated by the story.

It starts with the history of the author's father, from Sweden, who migrates to Canada seeking a better life.

His father drifts westward and in Victoria, B.C., meets the woman who would become the author's mother.

Then the narrative traces the dysfunctional family that develops as his father finds success as an ironworker in San Francisco, Calif., and the family seems to have a happy life.

Then his father heads to Alaska seeking employment and leaves the family behind in the state of Washington with disastrous results.

In Alaska the father is enthralled by *The World Tomorrow* on radio with Garner Ted Armstrong as the speaker.

With my background in the Worldwide Church of God and, be-

fore that, the Radio Church of God, I was interested in the story.

I rarely read a book in one sitting but pretty much accomplished it on this one. I was intrigued by Mr. Fransson's tumultuous life, to say the least, and that he became a successful person with the odds against him.

The sign in *People of the Sign* refers to the WCG's belief in the Sabbath. The book speaks of a group that believes it was set aside by God signified by that sign.

Without giving too much away, I'll mention that Mr. Fransson relocates to Alaska, then to Sweden, then back to Washington, then back to Alaska. The story becomes quite a merry-go-round, or we might say a not-so-merry-go-round.

After many unhappy experiences as a teenager and a horribly rebellious attitude, Wade Fransson eventually lands in Ambassador College in Pasadena, Calif. His AC experience shapes the rest of his story for good and bad.

I was impressed by Wade's deep understanding and explanation of the beliefs and the WCG and the behind-the-scenes revealing of the machinations, from his point of view, of the organization.

The book is available for \$15 from major booksellers and, with free shipping to U.S. addresses, from Something or Other Publishing at [soop@gohuman.com](mailto:soop@gohuman.com) or 3537 Mammoth Trail, Madison, Wis. 53719.



Wade Fransson

## 'It's a God Thing' theme of Big Sandy conference

**By Dixon Cartwright**  
BIG SANDY, Texas—Women of several Church of God fellowships met here May 19, 2012, for a conference sponsored each year by the Church of God Big Sandy (CGBS).

The conference's theme this year was "It's a God Thing." It featured three main speakers: Colleen Bailey and Melodee Overton of Big Sandy and Brandi Cartwright of Nacogdoches, Texas.

### Tea for several

Mrs. Bailey's message, titled "Tea for Two or More," included a simple tea party she had set up for the conferees.

She shared stories and life lessons using four teacups to help make her points.

See **HAVE SOME TEA**, page 5

## 'Virtuous Woman' theme of Tulsa conference

The writer and her husband, Josh, live in Avinger, Texas, with their two children. The Webbs are part of the Buckaroo Bob's Neighborhood traveling ministry. They enjoy performing music at churches they visit.

**By Brandy Webb**  
TULSA, Okla.—Presentations at a recent conference for women in Oklahoma included "What Is the Proverbs 31 Woman?," "A Captivating Woman," "Having a Beatitude Attitude," "Beauty Does Matter" and "Forgiveness."

The Tulsa Church of God and the Church of God International, the latter of Tyler, Texas, on June 8-10,

See **LADIES HEAR ABOUT FORGIVENESS**, page 5



Brandy Webb

# Letters from our readers

## Sir Anthony puzzles me

I'm always curious about those who left the WCG back in the '70s because of some "scandals" or some differences, as Anthony Buzzard and so many others did and yet try to teach the rest of us from some learned position.

Shouldn't such persons have stayed with the brethren and been a light and example to influence rather than taking their allegedly more-spiritual positions and going home?

While I agree with Anthony Buzzard's July 2012 *JOURNAL* article on the essentials on the validity of the Bible and believing it, I'm puzzled by his apparent position on the searchable truths in that same Bible regarding the nature of Jesus Christ and His eternal history.

It's hard to discern who is teaching what truth these days.

Jeff Maehr  
Pagosa Springs, Colo.

## Setting dates

I was reading Sir Anthony Buzzard's excellent disquisition on the canon ("Disdain for Real Scholarship Dooms COGs," issue No. 150, dated July 27, 2012) and noticed that he claimed to be part of the WCG from 1956 "until about 1970": 14 years.

He adds that he's not been in the Armstrong circle for 42 years, presumably from 1970 until now, 2012.

I took Hebrew from him at AC in Bricket Wood during the 1973-74 school year, Bricket Wood's last. That suggests that A.B. stayed in the Armstrong circle for at least four more years than he remembered (18 years instead of 14) and that he's been gone from there for no more than 38 years.

Not a big difference, granted, but still perhaps worth noting. Is Sir Anthony perhaps wishing he'd left much sooner than he actually left? After all, 18 years can sound like quite a bit more than 14.

Even the biographical information at the end of his article has him leaving the WCG in 1972. If he did, why did he stay on at B.W. for another two years?

By the way, I understand that as we get older keeping track of time can be more a matter of approximation than precision.

Reg Killingley  
Big Sandy, Texas

Sir Anthony, below, responds to Mr. Killingley's comments.

## Setting updates

Thanks so much for the note from Reg Killingley in regard to the dates [see the preceding letter].

I was at AC from 1960 in Pasadena and, yes, I started teaching at the American School in London in 1974. However, I was not with AC all those years.

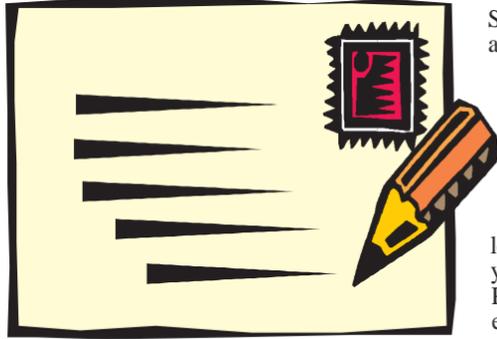
I left the college in Pasadena in 1965 and did not work at AC in Bricket Wood until later, leaving finally in 1974 in the summer. I thank Reg for his good remembering.

It is true that spiritually and doctrinally the break came earlier, following the reexamining of the "born/begotten"-again issue probably around 1970.

By 1972 my wife, Barbara (formerly Arnold), and I had changed our minds quite drastically. But I did direct the choir of the Imperial School in the spring concert in 1974.

I am grateful that Reg took the point about the importance of canon for any reasonable claim that there is such a thing as the original apostolic faith.

Anthony Buzzard  
Fayetteville, Ga.



## Never give up

The Greater Phoenix Church of God, meeting in Scottsdale, Ariz., was recently host of a special Sabbath with guest speaker David Antion, president of Guardian Ministries of Pasadena, Calif.

Sixty-eight were in attendance. Dr. Antion gave the sermon, titled "Hope," which was the ninth annual sermon on these special services for him.

Bob Simpson  
Mesa, Ariz.

## Why not ordain men?

I think this list, attributed to Dr. Ben Witherington, would be of interest to a lot of people. Here are the "Top Ten Reasons Why Men Should Not be Ordained Clergy":

10. A man's place is in the Army.  
9. The pastoral duties of men who have children might distract them from the responsibility of being a parent.

8. The physique of men indicates that they are more suited to such tasks as chopping down trees and wrestling mountain lions. It would be unnatural for them to do ministerial tasks.

7. Man was created before woman, obviously as a prototype. Thus they represent an experiment rather than

Sevierville, Pigeon Forge and Gatlinburg, asking for help for Ralph. *No one responded! Why?*

God plainly says (Matthew 25:35-40), "Verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it to me." Please read carefully verses 41-46 as well.

In case you didn't hear the announcement and can help Ralph, please contact me at (865) 774-4600 or write Ralph Speers, 1965 Chapman Hwy., Sevierville, Tenn. 37876, U.S.A. Thank you, and to God be the glory!

Shirley Timmons  
Sevierville, Tenn.

## Detailed COG information

Detailed information on various Churches of God is openly available from Internet search engines Google and Yahoo.

Thejournal.org provides relevant and thought-provoking COG perspectives in colorful news-media style.

Future Saturday-Sabbath service and holy-day information for Penticton and South Okanagan congregations can be obtained from the Church of God International, cgicanada.org, and United Church of God Penticton and Peachland, ucg.ca.

James Ludvigson  
Penticton, B.C., Canada

## Safe Web site

We appreciated *THE JOURNAL's* notice about the virus warnings from Norton AntiVirus. After many tries, Martin Martinez (our webmaster) has had Norton take off the warnings.

We would appreciate it if you

*'Men are too emotional to be priests or pastors. Their conduct at football and basketball games demonstrates this.'*

the crowning achievement of creation.

6. Men are too emotional to be priests or pastors. Their conduct at football and basketball games demonstrates this.

5. Some men are handsome, and this will distract women worshipers.

4. Pastors need to nurture their congregations. But this is not a traditional male role. Throughout history women have been recognized as not only more skilled than men at nurturing, but more fervently attracted to it. This makes them the obvious choice for ordination.

3. Men are prone to violence. No really masculine man wants to settle disputes except by fighting about them. Thus they would be poor role models as well as dangerously unstable in positions of leadership.

2. The New Testament tells us that Jesus was betrayed by a man. His lack of faith and ensuing punishment remind us of the subordinated position that all men should take.

1. Men can still be involved in church activities, even without being ordained. They can sweep sidewalks, repair the church roof and perhaps even lead the song service on Father's Day. By confining themselves to such traditional male roles, they can still be vitally important in the life of the church.

Tina Engelbart  
Dallas, Texas

## Where's the love?

During the Feast of Tabernacles 2012, Ralph Speers, a brother who has been in God's church for more than 40 years, suffered the loss of his home.

Ralph's house caught fire and burned to the ground, destroying everything he owned and leaving him with nothing but the clothes on his back.

Members of Ralph's local church group knew he needed more help than they could give him and a call was put out to three other Feast sites, in

would let your readers know that our Web site (postponements.com) is safe and always was except for Norton. Norton's Web Safe has proven that there were no viruses on our site.

Thanks for your concern and thanks in advance for letting your readers know we are safe.

James Russell  
Church of God in Truth  
Kimberling City, Mo.

## How often will we die?

Some Christians do not believe it when the Bible says everyone will die *only once*. They will quote correctly that the Bible states that everybody will die just one time. Then, unbelievably, they will go on to say that there is a second death. Is God confused?

Revelation 20:6 says the "second death hath no power." This does not mean humans will die for a second time (Hebrews 9:27). The context tells us what the second death will be.

In verse 14 we read that "death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. *This is the second death.*"

When Jesus in Revelation 21:6 says "It is done," there will no longer be any need for laws about murder, whoremongering, sorcery, idolatry, etc., and those commandments shall also be cast into the lake of fire, "which is the second death" (verse 8).

The one and only important death is the one we accept, believe and experience when it is said in Romans 6:4 that "we are buried with Him [Christ] by baptism into death" for payment of our sins (see also Colossians 2:12).

Now everyone should agree with what God says in Hebrews 9: "It is appointed unto men *once* to die." We shall all die once.

Paul and Micki Herrmann  
Metairie, La.

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## Never look back

In regards to your article in the July 2012 *JOURNAL* about Joseph Kovacs' book, *Shocked by the Bible*. I support the author's goals and intent.

In 1985 I learned that Emperor Constantine had *forced* the church fathers to change from the Saturday Sabbath to Sunday worship *because he was a sun worshiper*, c. A.D. 325.

When I coupled this with Malachi 3:6, Hebrews 13:8 and Matthew 5:17-18, I went to the rectory and had an unfriendly discussion with the pastor that severed all contact with the Catholic Church.

This led to our conversion to baptized seventh-day-Sabbath keepers, and we've never looked back.

Raymond A. Rousseau  
Ceresco, Neb.

## Thanks

I enjoy *THE JOURNAL*. Keep up your good work!

Leonard Sowders  
Warren, Mich.

I have not let a few spoil the love I have for this country.

The longer I am here in the DRC, the more I am reminded of the call to prayer. I am called to pray for the churches and Christians in the DRC, that selfless, sacrificial pastors and leaders will be raised up to shepherd the next generation, that the gospel would take root and corruption would no longer reign, that discipleship would be a way of life for Christians.

I am called to pray for the security of this country, that the cycle of violence would no longer rule in Congo, that child soldiers would be free to be children.

I am called to pray for the work of Samaritan's Purse in the DRC, that we would be more than just another non-government organization doing relief work, that our values of "love, compassion and integrity" would shine above all in our work, that our heart to work with the church would bring transformation, that our staff would be an example to communities.

I invite you to join me in prayer for this country. "If my people, who are called by My name, will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

Lisa Jutsum  
Via the Internet

## Another milestone

The Radio Church of God was incorporated Oct. 21, 1933, slightly longer than seven years after Herbert W. Armstrong first began to see the light spiritually.

Oct. 21, 2012, is the 79th anniversary, or start of the 80th year, since the incorporation.

Geoff Neilson  
Cape Town, South Africa

## The Journal

News of the Churches of God

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## Columns and commentary

# God used the uncalled to preserve the Bible

Mr. Snow, 46, works as an office-facilities coordinator for Lafarge North America. He has attended with the Church of God since 1986 and goes to the United Church of God in Ann Arbor, Mich. Visit Mr. Snow on the Web at [lionofjudah1.org](http://lionofjudah1.org).

By Eric V. Snow

**R**EDFORD, Mich.—Someone writing pseudonymously under the moniker Gun Lap in the July 27, 2012, issue of *THE JOURNAL* attacked the traditional Protestant canon of Scripture. He reasoned that uninspired traditional Christians in past centuries shouldn't be trusted to have chosen the right books.

Mr. Lap's article was headlined "Harlots Can't Be Our Source for God's Word."

But, in reality, God used uncalled men while ensuring that the right

books were placed in the Bible and its correct preservation so we could know His will for humanity.

### Admittedly dependent

Fundamentally, we in the Church of God should admit that we are dependent on the scholarship of traditional Christians, whether Protestant, Catholic or Greek Orthodox, and even that of rabbinical Judaism.

We depend on their translations of Hebrew, Greek and Aramaic. We use their commentaries, concordances, wordbooks, interlinears and other Bible-study tools.

We rely also on their work in defending the faith; i.e., Christian apologetics, such as concerning the flaws in the theory of evolution and archaeological discoveries that favor the Bible's truth.

Further, the Church of God didn't

produce the monks, priests and teachers who copied, recopied and preserved the Greek and Hebrew Bible by hand over the centuries after A.D. 100.

Most of the men who preserved the Greek New Testament were unsaved, yet a detailed analysis of its transmission history shows that it was well preserved.

### Few errors in 1,000 years

Likewise, for almost two millennia the men who preserved the Hebrew Bible denied that Jesus was the Christ.

Yet we can know, by comparing the See **HOW CAN WE KNOW**, page 4



Eric Snow



# Learn the lessons of the 7 congregations

The writer pastors the Church of God Big Sandy and is a regular columnist for *THE JOURNAL*.

By Dave Havir

**B**IG SANDY, Texas—In eight sermons in August and September 2012, I chose to discuss the seven congregations listed in Revelation 2 and 3.

The first sermon was titled "Overview of Revelation 2 and 3." In it I laid the foundation for the sermons of the seven listed congregations.

### Theories that cannot be proven

Various churches (including some within the Churches of God) like to theorize that the seven congregations of Revelation 2 and 3 are seven "church eras" that exist from the time when Jesus Christ walked the earth until His Second Coming.

First I would like to mention that no person can prove the theories about church eras.

Oh, I know people can string together scriptures to make a theory. But that is not proof.

People who promote ludicrous theories often don't realize how ridiculous they appear to other people—let alone how they look to God.

By the way, I know the major church-era theories. How do I know them? I previously believed them. More than that, I previously taught them.

Are you aware of the greatest psychological hook for people promoting their theories? Each of the seven congregations has a phrase that says something like this:

"He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

That is a great phrase. However, it is often used to "prove" any theory that a teacher wants to promote:

■ "If you don't agree with my teaching [which is an unproved theory], that simply means that your ears are not ready to hear what I am saying."

■ "My teaching [which is an unproved theory] is correct, but you are simply not able to comprehend it at this time."

### Dangerous theories

Another concept I mentioned in that initial sermon was that the various theories about church eras promote a dangerous outlook.

In that sermon I read from *Clark's Commentary*. It included the following excerpt:

"The notion of what has been termed the Ephesian state, the Smyrnanian state, the Pergamian state, the Thyatirian state, etc., is unfounded, absurd, and dangerous; and such

expositions should not be entertained by any who wish to arrive at a sober and rational knowledge of the Holy Scriptures."

I agree with Adam Clark. Most notions about church eras are dangerous!

### How are they dangerous?

The theories of "church eras" often lead to sin. How?

■ Many who believe the theories about church eras often have a prideful outlook. They identify themselves as the end-time group exhibiting the positive traits.

■ Many who believe the theories about church eras often have a condescending outlook. They identify others as the end-time groups exhibiting the negative traits.

### Three-pronged pattern

After that initial sermon, I covered each of the seven congregations in seven sermons.

I recommended that each person focus on three general items for each congregation. Here are the three:

■ Focus on the Messenger (Jesus Christ) to the seven congregations.

■ Notice the concept of overcoming—and the description of the blessings mentioned to each of the seven congregations.



Reading them separately gives a wonderful picture of the blessings awaiting repentant believers.

However, try reading them all together and see a magnificent picture of the future.

### Varying characteristics

The middle of each section of the messages to the seven congregations is varied.

A common approach that Christ took with the seven congregations was to mention some qualities, correction and advice. However, He varied His approach with the congregations:

■ To the believers at Ephesus He mentioned many good qualities, one major correction and a few pieces of advice.

■ To the believers at Smyrna He mentioned a few good qualities, no correction and some excellent pieces of advice.

■ To the believers at Pergamos and at Thyatira He mentioned a few good qualities, a number of corrective statements and one piece of advice.

■ To the believers at Sardis He mentioned one good quality, one corrective comment and five pieces of advice.

■ To the believers at Philadelphia He mentioned two good qualities, no correction and one piece of advice.

■ To the believers at Laodicea He mentioned no good qualities, two major points of correction and one piece of advice. He also mentioned some consequences because of their behavior.

■ To the believers at Laodicea He mentioned no good qualities, two major points of correction and one piece of advice. He also mentioned some consequences because of their behavior.

### Access available

If you are interested in hearing the eight sermons, there are two ways to obtain the material.

One way is to go the Web site of the Church of God Big Sandy ([churchofgodbigandy.com](http://churchofgodbigandy.com)). By clicking on the "Archive" icon, you'll find that these sermons are available from August and September 2012. Two sermons were given on each of the four dates: Aug. 11, Aug. 25, Sept. 1 and Sept. 15.

Another way is to contact the Church of God Big Sandy for an audio version in MP3 format on CD. Requests can be sent to P.O. Box 690, Big Sandy, Texas 75755, U.S.A.

# Can't we trust women? Don't they walk in the Spirit?

The writer is a longtime reader and contributor to the letters section of *THE JOURNAL*.

By Phil Griffith

**D**ELIGHT, Ark.—In reading page 3 of issue No. 150 of *THE JOURNAL*, I find Tina Engelbart's situation to be challenging. (See "Tina Engelbart Responds to Critics in Last *JOURNAL* Issue.")

Mrs. Engelbart tries to explain to people that Christian women should not be treated as spiritually inferior.

She cites several scriptures from which vested interests have translated, interpreted and edited out women's rightful place.

Not only that, some apparently don't separate the wheat from the chaff. They consider doctored documents to be the Word of God!

As if that isn't enough of a problem, her preferred Church of God is, like all churches, lax in following the teachings and examples from the book its leaders and scholars claim to be using for that purpose.

### Edited women

Let us look at examples of women being edited and translated out.

In the New Testament, one Greek word translated "men" or "man" is *anthropois* and is used 560 times and means a human being.

It is consistently translated "men" or "man" in the King James Version of the Bible:

■ "And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also" (2 Timothy 2:2, KJV).

But *anthropois* is generic, properly referring to both men and women. Here's the same verse in two modern versions of the Bible:

■ "And what you heard me say in the presence of many others as witnesses entrust to faithful people who will be competent to teach others as well" (New English Translation).

■ "And what you have heard from me through many witnesses entrust to faithful people who will be

able to teach others as well" (New Revised Standard Version).

From what some people are saying, "faithful people" couldn't be referring to women because they aren't reliable and can't be trusted.

### Circular logic

That is a good example of the circular logic, based on flawed assumptions, that some are using.

Did you ever wonder why Jesus never healed blind women?

The blind are referred to in the New Testament Greek with no hint of a reference to their sex. It is interesting to try to discern from the context which blind people were women.

We see examples of tampering by the hundreds, and this is by no means the end of it, but now let's look briefly at a plainly worded scriptural example that Church of God leaders choose not to follow.

The apostles taught the people but did not claim authority over the people like Mrs. Engelbart says her "leaders" do. Even with ordinations, if we want to call them that, the *people* in the Bible accounts chose—if there was any choosing to be done.

This was not like the good-old-boy system that men wield today to secure their ordinations.

The notion that Paul didn't ask members of the congregation who they wanted to be elders is more circular logic based on assumptions.

### The will of Spirit-led people

More than half of all people who claim to be Christians are women. From that fact it is obvious that the pagan priority of religiously keeping women from any position of policy-making is not the will of the people.

If the will of the people is not the will of God, it can only be that the people are not led by the Spirit of God.

If people are walking in the Spirit, it should show in the gracious way they treat others. Is what we need scholarship, honesty or humility?

Keep up the righteous fight, Tina. Men will not stand up for women if they won't stand up for themselves.

Women could use their conferences to organize against these religious chauvinists. It might be more rewarding than pity-partying and acting like chauvinists themselves.

(If the editor feels he is the only male not targeted by these caustic remarks, the oversight was intentional and hopefully acceptable.)



Phil Griffith

**Most notions about church eras are dangerous! How are they dangerous? The theories of church eras often lead to sin.**

**If people are walking in the Spirit, it should show in the gracious way they treat others.**

## Essay

## Churches of God will reunite, longtime member predicts in book

The writer is a longtime Church of God member and author of *Israel and the Covenants* in *New Testament Times*.

By Peter Williams

RUSHDEN, England—Did you know that the widely reported doctrinal shift of the Worldwide Church of God (WCG) was foretold in the Bible nearly 2,000 years ago, or that God actually facilitated the shift to test His people?

This prophecy fulfillment is about to be completed, so it is now late in the final generation before Christ's return, and an exciting if perilous time is right ahead.

It may surprise some that these simple deductions came from placing God's Word alongside my observations as a WCG insider throughout the period from before the death of Herbert Armstrong, in January 1986.

The transition from the Philadelphian to the final Laodicean period of God's church (Revelation 3:7-22) began after Mr. Armstrong's death, and small doctrinal shifts soon occurred.

#### More precipitation

However, WCG membership and income continued to grow until 1991, when more-fundamental changes precipitated the major splits.

During the 1990s I was distressed by longtime WCG friends leaving in droves. Each defection felt like a personal bereavement.

I recall conversations between the so-called old thinkers quoting one set of Bible verses to support a continuing law of Moses, and the new thinkers quoting another set rejecting it.

Surely they all missed something obvious: The Bible is God's Word, so both sets of verses had to be true, with no contradictions.

#### Making prophecy happen

Praying for God's guidance, I immersed myself in Bible study to identify the discrepancy, but a blind spot in my understanding initially blocked it.

As later emerged, I shared this

blind spot with almost every present and past WCG member (of whatever doctrinal persuasion) because the matter had not been correctly addressed in Mr. Armstrong's time.

That had not prevented church members from receiving the Holy Spirit for eternal life, but it now stopped them from satisfactorily answering the new thinkers' arguments, and it left some vulnerable to being turned from the truth, potentially to eternal destruction.

Yet God had to have planned that Mr. Armstrong and the WCG would carry this blind spot: to facilitate prophecy fulfillment and usher in the final part of His firstfruits-harvest plan.

#### An angel explains

The night of June 30, 1998, is indelibly imprinted on my mind. In a dream that night a "man" (surely an angel) carefully explained to me the meaning of a complex, multipart verse. I awoke clearly remembering the explanation and confirmed it as incontrovertibly true by checking in my Bible.

However, my excitement was tempered by the implications because I was now out on a limb from both the old and the new thinkers (and all of Christianity, in fact).

Romans 3:4 came to mind: "Indeed,

My notes kept growing until, finally, I published a 350-page study textbook nearly 14 years later (in February 2012).

Lack of space prevents my explaining the blind spot here, because I would first need to cover foundational material as I do in the book.

I will say that the verse is found within Paul's epistles, uses symbolism and concerns the Old and New Covenants, Holy Spirit baptism and Israel—and it gave rise to my book's topic and title, *Israel and the Covenants in New Testament Times*.

#### The falling away shortly to end

In 2005 I came to realize how this blind spot had facilitated fulfillment of the prophecy (2 Thessalonians 2:1-12).

Some may assume these verses apply to an outside group (e.g., the Roman Catholic Church). But my detailed analysis confirmed (for me) that they refer to *God's church*—the "temple of God" (verse 4)—which is those with the indwelling Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 3:16)—and refer to events during the final generation before Christ's return.

There is a falling away from a starting position of truth and law-keeping into falsehood (Greek *apostasia*) and lawlessness.

material needing to be understood urgently as we enter more-perilous times.

For instance, look closely and you will find that the New Covenant (needed for eternal life) applies only to Israel (more precisely "the Israel of God," Galatians 6:16, which does not equate with the former WCG idea of "spiritual Israel").

Those God has called in this generation are Israelites, and an understanding of this Israel is needed to fully grasp Revelation's teachings.

#### WCG is legitimate

How do you perceive the WCG today? Some may think it no longer even exists because (1) it corporately changed its name to Grace Communion International (GCI) in 2009 and/or (2) it has had an across-the-board official doctrinal shift.

So this WCG U.K. insider's answer may surprise you: The new name is now used in the United States and other countries, but the United Kingdom has not so far dropped the WCG name (although GCI is allowed as an alternative).

#### Reasons for staying with the WCG

Next, a sizable minority of U.K. members did not embrace the doctrinal changes, yet they stayed put. My

authority (Titus 3:1; Romans 13:1) applies inside as well as outside the church and irrespective of any corrupt or misguided leaders. The authorities hold their office only because God allows them to.

One exception is in Acts 5:29, where the apostles said, "We ought to obey God rather than men."

That is, if anyone in authority commands us to go against God's teaching we must refuse because God's authority is higher (and, if we are persecuted for that kind of disobedience, as the apostles were, so be it).

#### Sabbath assembly no problem

Since 38 of the 42 U.K. and Ireland congregations and groups hold Saturday services, Sabbath assembly is hardly an issue.

Pastor General Joseph Tkach once stipulated that accommodation should be made for congregation members wanting to keep the annual feasts of the Lord (Leviticus 23) so most could keep them without traveling excessive distances.

I have kept every single Feast in the WCG ever since I began attending 33 years ago. Pressure on old thinkers to change has sometimes been applied, but most have stood firm.

#### Invitation to critique

On the [wgc.org.uk](http://wgc.org.uk) and [gci.org](http://gci.org) Web sites is the following statement:

"The Bible is the inspired and infallible Word of God that testifies to Jesus Christ. The Bible is fully authoritative for all matters of faith and salvation."

Fully supporting this view, everything I assert in my book I repeatedly back up from the Bible.

WCG leaders should likewise apply this by bringing out any flaws in my book's reasoning using Scripture alone or acknowledging that it is probably correct (to then make changes as needed).

#### Book details

*Israel and the Covenants in New Testament Times*, Paragon Publishing, large format, 352 pages, is available at Amazon.com and other booksellers for about £18, \$27 and €20.

Anyone who cannot afford the book may write me at [pmwpress@hotmail.com](mailto:pmwpress@hotmail.com) for a free copy as a PDF file. Please mention your name and Church of God group, if any.

*The night of June 30, 1998, is indelibly imprinted on my mind. In a dream that night a 'man' (surely an angel) carefully explained to me the meaning of one complex, multipart verse.*

let God be true but every man a liar." And I have since uncovered masses of Bible material reinforcing the explanation as rock-solid truth.

This vital understanding, concerning "the narrow way to eternal life" (Matthew 7:13-14), could have come only from God.

#### Dealing with objections

Unsurprisingly, dozens of biblical objections based around others' understandings were subsequently raised.

Yet, by carefully considering each one in Scripture, I found they consistently supported this instead. In the process this deepened my understanding and guided me into new study areas.

Then, controversially but I believe incontrovertibly from the Bible, I deduced that it was being fulfilled right then within the WCG!

#### We must unite

Around the start of 2012 I further concluded this prophecy would probably end by early next year.

This should be exciting for the Churches of God, with God gathering together His people to be drawn primarily from these churches as well as from the WCG. We must reunite so the bride (God's church) can prepare herself for the bridegroom's (Christ's) coming (Revelation 19:7).

The book covers far more biblical

reasons for that (which I share with others) include:

- A belief that I was guided by God into the WCG and have never since felt God was guiding me to leave. I believe I should wait on God rather than do my own thing.

- By staying in the WCG we old thinkers have strengthened each other and grown closer. If one of us were to leave, it would weaken the bonds with those left behind.

- God says: "I will never leave you nor forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5; Deuteronomy 31:6, 8; Joshua 1:5), a cast-iron guarantee that we have not been abandoned by God just for staying put.

- God's instruction to be subject to

## How can we know whether the right books are in the Bible?

Continued from page 3

main Isaiah scroll found among the Dead Sea Scrolls (c. 100 B.C.) with the earliest medieval Masoretic Hebrew manuscript that includes Isaiah (c. A.D. 900), that very few errors crept in over a period of 1,000 years.

The Rabbinical Jews were staunch unbelievers, yet they verifiably did a remarkably good job of saving Scripture over the centuries before Gutenberg helped to perfect mechanical printing in Europe in the mid-15th century.

So, if we trust these uninspired Jews, Catholics and Orthodox Christians to have correctly copied the original text of Scripture correctly, what's the basic flaw in the reasoning of Gun Lap about the canon?

Consider the basic principle that we can derive from Paul's statement in Romans 3:2-3: "They [the Jews] were entrusted with the oracles of God. What then? If some did not believe their unbelief will not nullify the faithfulness of God, will it?"

Even if someone foolishly buys into Gun Lap's analysis and doubts that Paul wrote this (or wasn't inspired when he wrote it), logically we should still believe that God would make it possible for us humans to be morally responsible to Him.

God will use even the Jews who rejected Jesus as Messiah and Savior to preserve the Hebrew Bible for us,

including which books should be in it and its basic text.

#### God must reveal

After all, God has to reveal His will in some kind of written form in order to make it known to us when we aren't prophets ourselves (i.e., people who literally can hear God talk aloud to them or who have inspired dreams).

So, when Paul was witnessing to the full-blown pagan philosophers on the Areopagus in Athens, he declared (Acts 17:30), "Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is

now declaring to men that all everywhere should repent."

If Gun Lap is right, we can't believe this to be true. If God hasn't preserved fundamentally accurately His revealed will for mankind's moral guidance, we don't need to obey Him since we are ignorant of what He wants us to believe and do.

We would be left only with natural revelation and natural theology (e.g., Romans 1:18-21) in order to know anything about God.

#### How can we know?

So how can we know rationally whether the right books were put into the Bible?

One way we can know this is by comparing the quality of the frequently heretical apocryphal books with the canonical books. The earliest traditional Christians, who sometimes sadly endured the worst kind of persecution and martyrdom at the hands of the Roman state before A.D. 313, were often sincere, zealous men.

They followed implicitly or explicit-

#### Reject the obviously absurd

Further, the literary and historical quality of these later false gospels and letters is so obviously inferior compared to genuine articles that we can easily make that same judgment even today after reading the competition for ourselves directly: It's easy to reject what's so plainly absurd, immoral, or self-contradictory.

Traditional Christian scholars who have read these noncanonical books agree with the analysis made above.

As F.F. Bruce points out: "The

New Testament: They have done that for themselves."

Scholar George Milligan comments: "We have only to compare our New Testament books as a whole with other literature of the kind to realise how wide is the gulf which separates them from it. The uncanonical gospels, it is often said, are in reality the best evidence for the canonical."

And Kurt Aland says: "It cannot be said of a single writing preserved to us from the early period of the church outside the New Testament that it could properly be added today to the Canon."

#### Rack and ruin

My challenge to anyone who doubts the traditional Protestant and Jewish canon of Scripture is to read the supposed missing books of the Bible and then make a plausible written case that they should be added to our Bibles.

By questioning the traditional canon of Scripture, Gun Lap appears to be on a spiritual journey towards deism or even agnosticism.

When there's so much available from nonskeptical traditional Christian scholarship on this matter, it would be criminally spiritually foolish for anyone to join him on his expedition, which can end only in rack and ruin for those on this spiritual quest unless they repent.

*We can know we have the right books by comparing the quality of the frequently heretical apocryphal books with the canonical books.*

ly the procedure of Deuteronomy 13:1-5. That is, if a later purported revelation of God contradicted an earlier one, the former was rejected as false.

If a later gnostic "gospel" claimed Jesus didn't have a body of flesh, the Sunday-keeping church rejected it in favor of an older canonical book that said Jesus died in the flesh.

When a newer book's teachings contradicted the OT, or the older canonical Gospels or Letters, they were rejected as a basis for determining doctrine.

gnostic schools lost because they deserved to lose. A comparison of the New Testament writings with the contents of The Nag Hammadi Library [a collection of ancient gnostic books found in Egypt in 1945] should be instructive, once the novelty of the latter is not allowed to weigh in its favour against the familiarity of the former."

Likewise, Montague Rhodes James remarks: "There is no question of anyone's having excluded them from the

gnostic schools lost because they deserved to lose. A comparison of the New Testament writings with the contents of The Nag Hammadi Library [a collection of ancient gnostic books found in Egypt in 1945] should be instructive, once the novelty of the latter is not allowed to weigh in its favour against the familiarity of the former."

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# Ladies hear about forgiveness, reconciliation, role of women

Continued from page 1

2012, sponsored the conference in the Tulsa congregation's building.

The meetings, possibly one of many conferences to come, was titled "The Virtuous Woman."

## Warm greetings

It all started on Friday evening, June 8, with more than 60 women ages 5 to 85 warmly greeted upon entering the church building.

They received cute name tags and gift bags. One of the special gifts inside of each bag was a handmade necklace with a design that summarized the conference.

The necklace included a circle with the word *strength* to remind us that "our strength comes from the Lord."

Inside the circle was a ruby-red heart, for a virtuous woman is worth more than rubies.

At the bottom of the heart was a tornado to represent the turmoil of the world we live in. But at the top of the heart was a diamond to remind us that we are to seek our true treasure, the Kingdom of God.

Holding all of this together was a chain, because our Father is our chain that holds all of us together.

## Food coordinators

Friday evening after prayer the women enjoyed a barbecue meal catered by Rib Crib. Leftovers were available for consumption all weekend along with other great food.

Amanda Andrews and her mother-in-law, Miriam Andrews, provided a wonderful service in coordinating the food for the conference.

Amanda made sure everything was set out and ready for the women, and Miriam baked muffins, cakes and other yummy desserts.

## Over and over

After the meal Nancy White officially opened the conference and introduced Renée Steele, who led the ladies in a fun and informative personality test.

The women answered many questions about themselves to learn if

they're of the Popular Sanguine, Powerful Choleric, Peaceful Phlegmatic or Perfect Melancholy persuasion.

Afterwards the meeting closed with prayer, and the women left for their homes and hotels for a restful evening.

## Three presentations on Saturday

Saturday brought more great food, hymns and special music. The attendees heard three presentations on Saturday.

The first message of the conference



**TULSA WOMEN'S CONFERENCE**—Attendees at the women's conference sponsored by the Tulsa Church of God and the Church of God International include (from left) Krissy Dennis, Kim Witt, Aletha Dennis and Renée Steele. [Photo by Brandy Webb]

was by Nancy White of Big Sandy, Texas, after breakfast. She presented "What Is the Proverbs 31 Woman?"

Mrs. White kept the audience engaged with her charismatic way of speaking and encouraging the audience to participate.

An important point from the message was that you do not need to be perfect to be a Proverbs 31 woman.

Every woman can be a Proverbs 31 woman even in our imperfect world by allowing God to give her the power, strength and guidance she needs so others can see His light inside her.

Mrs. White noted that *submit* means "yield," and one of the definitions of *to yield* is "to stand beside."

We can visualize a wife standing beside her husband as a way of submitting to him, and, more important, standing beside her Savior, Jesus.

## Vicious cycle

Mrs. Steele's speech was "A Captivating Woman."

What woman out there does not want to be captivating? But how many suffer from the fear that they are not good enough?

Mrs. Steele reminded the women that their striving is one thing that gets in their way of fully being captivating because it shows they do not trust God

to do a wonderful work in them.

She pointed out that humility is captivating to God. When we humbly trust Him we can stop the vicious cycle of striving to be "good enough."

## Buckaroo Bob

During services Wes and Nancy White and their puppet friends presented *The Buckaroo Bob Show*. The message and humor were great. The show was about not burying your talents.

Yankee Dan talked Buckaroo Bob into burying his guitar and told him he was just showing off. But, with the help of Miss Nancy, Suzie Q and Dr. Nelson, Bob realized his God-given talent was valuable.

The lesson for the day: We should always use our talents to do good.

After the show Mr. White gave the sermon, titled "The Role of Women in the Church." The message was true to

God's Word and did not berate the women in any way.

He did not advise women to be doormats at home. Instead, his message was uplifting; showing both men and women where their talents can shine.

## Need for reconciliation

After services Lisa McComb gave her presentation, "Having a Beatitude Attitude." She systematically went through the beatitudes in Matthew 5 while engaging the audience.

She challenged the women to "consider each of the parts of your life—relationships, family, church community, world"—and see if there is a need for reconciliation.

The challenge is to figure out what steps to take "to be a peacemaker" in these situations.

## Beauty matters

Saturday evening ended with more music, food, fellowship, card-making and a movie.

Sunday's schedule was only half a day, since many of the women had to travel many miles back to their homes.

There were two interactive presentations on Sunday. The first was by this writer (Brandy Webb), and the second was given by Pam Nolen, who had come to the conference all the way from South Carolina.

My speech was "Beauty Does Matter." My presentation pointed out that in this world beauty is perceived outwardly, but God is more interested in inner beauty.

Strong women of the Bible, like Sarah, Ruth and Esther, were said to be beautiful during their time, but it is not their outward beauty that we see when we look back at their lives.

## You can be forgiven, but there's a condition

The last presentation, by Mrs. Nolen, was about forgiveness. It was a perfect closing presentation for a conference filled with encouragement to grow and share.

We were reminded that none of the lessons we learned can work if we do

not have forgiveness in our hearts and that one of the definitions of forgiveness is to "let go."

When we let go of pain, resentment and frustrations we can let God come into our hearts and heal us.

Further, we cannot be forgiven unless we forgive (Matthew 6:14-15).

The women realized that not only should we forgive others but we need to forgive ourselves. It is a horrible thing if we cannot forgive because the lack of forgiveness denies the sacrifice the Messiah made for us. He died so we can be forgiven.

## The participants comment

For me the women's conference was an edifying and God-glorifying experience.

The women I spoke with enjoyed the conference and hoped we would do another one next year.

Allie Packard said: "Thank you for all you taught and for all the effort you put into your presentation and for sharing your talent."

Valerie Lehart: "Great weekend. Thanks."

Judy Herman: "Thank you for all your contributions to the conference. I felt I have learned a lot."

Many more thank-yous were heard from the women who attended.

It was especially gratifying to enjoy a spirit of sisterhood in Christ and realize that none of the conversations I heard were about church politics. No one asked me where I attend church.

The conference had a full family atmosphere. There were love, fellowship, sharing and even some crying.

We live in enough strife in this world that we do not need it among God's people. We need more opportunities like this where people can share their talents to glorify God no matter where they attend weekly services.

## Another women's conference

For a report on another recent conference of Church of God women, see "It's a God Thing" Theme of Big Sandy Conference" beginning on page 1 of this issue of *THE JOURNAL*.

# Have some tea. Fear not. Did God create the universe with music?

Continued from page 1

"The everyday cup, a blue-stained one, can feel used," Mrs. Bailey said. "If their stains are from sin, Christians can be washed according to Psalm 51:2. If the stains are from usage in His service, Christians can rejoice."

A second cup, her newest and favorite, encouraged her listeners to avoid pretense, to "be real."

"Live without pretense, love without pretending, listen without depending, and speak without offending," she encouraged.

Mrs. Bailey presented a cup and saucer to "remind us to slow down a bit and reflect. There's no gulping from a delicate teacup handle while balancing its supportive plate."

Reflecting on a humorous exchange with her mother-in-law years earlier, Mrs. Bailey offered a "cup of thanks" to conclude.

During her presentation she read from *Portrait of a Woman and Jesus: A Personal Journey* by Barbara Quillen Egbert and *Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World: Finding Intimacy With God in the Busyness of Life* by Joanna Weaver.

Mrs. Bailey gave the conference ladies "scripture teabags" to "take home for their own quiet time."

## Inspired conferences

In her presentation Melodee Overton began by reading a letter from Linda Hardy White, whose conference in Dallas, Texas, in 2000 inspired the conferences the CGBS holds every year.

Mrs. White, who died in 2003, wrote of the benefits of women fellowship with each other.

"To put it in a nutshell," Mrs. Overton said, "it's to edify, encourage and exhort Christian women in their journey with Christ."

She cited the Bible characters Ruth and Naomi as examples of "loving, godly women setting a great example to all of determination to follow God's way and faith that He will guide you where you need to be."

She said an acronym, FEAR, can stand for "false evidence appearing real."

"There is an undercurrent of fear prevalent in today's society," she said.

She brought several scriptures up for discussion, including Proverbs 1:7; 8:13; 15:33; and 29:25; and 1 John 4:18.

She noted after the conference that "we also discussed that if we based all of our decisions on the one foundational question of 'What is the will of God?' we would be making wiser decisions in all aspects of our life."

Her conclusion acknowledged the "It's a God Thing" theme: "We are all living a God-thing life," she said. "We just all do it differently."

## The melodies of creation

Brandi Cartwright, a homemaker and registered teacher for an early-childhood music-and-movement program called Music Together, presented "Music: The Language of God."

"I mentioned different therapies that are done with music for brain injuries and Parkinson's disease," Mrs. Cartwright said after the conference.

"Various brain injuries can use music to help with speech if the person can't talk, and if they have trouble walking they can use rhythm music.

"Epileptics can use music to help control transitions from fast activities to slow ones."

Victims of strokes can also benefit from music therapies, she said.

In her speech Mrs. Cartwright referred to sources including *This Is Your Brian on Music* by David Levitin, noting that music is unusual among human activities for "both its ubiquity and antiquity."

"No known human culture now or any time in the recorded past lacked music," she credited the book as saying.

A researcher from the Max Planck Institute traveled to Africa to discover if the emotion Westerners hear in music is universal or cultural, she said.

"He found that a remote tribe who had never heard Western music, didn't have radios or go to marketplaces to hear music could distinguish between happy, sad and scary Western music.

"Like there are laws of physics, there are laws of music."

## The language of God

Mrs. Cartwright does "not have a hard time imagining that all of creation is playing music to praise God," she said.

"Psalm 147:1 says, 'Praise you the

Lord, for it is good to sing praises to our God, for it is pleasant, and praise is beautiful."

She quoted Beethoven as saying, "Music is the language of God."

"Whenever humans come together for any reason," she continued, "music is there: weddings, funerals, graduation, men marching off to war, stadium sporting events, a night on the town, prayer, a romantic dinner, moth-



**BIG SANDY WOMEN'S CONFERENCE**—The three featured speakers at the women's conference in Big Sandy are (from left) Colleen Bailey, Melodee Overton and Brandi Cartwright. [Courtesy photo and photos by Dixon Cartwright]

ers rocking their infants to sleep, and college students studying with music as a background."

Mrs. Cartwright speculated that maybe God "created the entire universe with music.

"The equations used to describe the vibrations of the little tiny strings at the heart of matter are close in structure to the equation used to describe the vibrations of the string on a violin.

"So, basically, if string theory is correct the entire universe is made of music."

## God speaks to us

Mrs. Cartwright said she is "starting to believe that music is more than something God gave to us to enjoy and praise Him.

"There is evidence all around us, from a baby crying to a spider spinning her web to the sound of a black hole millions of light years away, that music is in everything, that God is speaking to us through His creation and He is speaking the sound of music.

"We should remember each time we see a sunset or hear a frog croak or hear a beautiful melody that God could be speaking to us. Each time we sing praises to Him we are giving to Him a little of what He gives to us."

## Formal dinner

An estimated 45 women attended the Big Sandy conference, with members of the CGBS serving as hosts of the event.

Joni Pendley was master of ceremonies. Michele Mischnick opened her home to the ladies for breakout sessions. Jeannie Roden and Roxanne West handled check-in and other duties.

Julie Wilkins and her helpers prepared a formal dinner.

For a report on another recent conference of Church of God women, see "Virtuous Woman" Theme of Tulsa Conference" beginning on page 1 of this issue of *THE JOURNAL*.

# Church of God member, 'illegal-tax' protester, appeals 7 losses

Continued from page 1  
questions were you asking?

**Dr. Maehr:** I started sending letters to the IRS asking them to show me, to prove to me, various things. I asked very simple, straightforward questions: Can you show me the law here, can you show me what this means, what's this definition mean?

They just ignored my questions. They would send form letters, but those did not answer my questions.

That seems kind of strange, I thought, and I just kept digging. This was 2003, and the last time I filed a 1040 form was for 2002.

I kept up communication with the IRS, but it was one-sided. I've sent probably a thousand pages of documents to them over the past 10 years, asking them to answer for me the simplest of questions.

They just kept ignoring my questions and sending me their form letters.

## Go to the courts

**THE JOURNAL:** So what eventually happened?

**Dr. Maehr:** Finally they said: Look, if you want any answers you're going to have to get them through the courts. We will not answer any more of your questions.

They tried to get my private financial documents, but it's fairly easy to stop them from doing that. But then they sent summonses demanding records on me to my businesses, my mortgage company, my banks, the vendors that I worked with through my health company.

In my cases in those seven courts, I referred to the Supreme Court cases from the late 1800s on what the courts originally defined as income and related challenges having to do with the way they're taxing people. That is, is it a direct or an indirect tax?

There are only two forms of taxation that are constitutional: direct and indirect. Direct taxes are to be apportioned according to the census. Direct taxes cannot be avoided but *must* be constitutionally applied.

Indirect taxes are taxes that *can* be avoided by choosing not to become involved in a taxable activity, like buying alcohol or tobacco that is so taxed. Indirect taxes could be thought of as fees or privileges.

So in 2008 I filed, in seven different federal courts in seven states—mostly for the practice—motions to quash the IRS's efforts to summons my records, and in doing so I provided the various courts with a plethora of information—all ignored.

There is a principle called default. If the IRS does not respond, does not answer the affidavit that contains your statements of beliefs and truths, then your assumptions in your affidavit are deemed to be accepted as true in law. You can't just ignore challenges.

I put that in the original documents I sent to the IRS. I said if I don't hear back from you, if you don't show me what the law is, then I will presume that what I'm stating here is true.

I stated, based on my own study and research, that I truly believed I am not personally, by law or by the U.S. Constitution, required to file a 1040 form.

So I put all that in there and the courts completely ignored it. I was challenging the standing of the IRS to be bringing those summonses.

## The issue of standing

**THE JOURNAL:** Can you elaborate on standing?

**Dr. Maehr:** Standing is the first issue that they by law are supposed to prove on the record, and there wasn't anything in the record on it. Standing just refers to the IRS's right or lack of the right to challenge somebody before a court or to even *be* in the court doing what they are doing.

In my case, and the case of many millions of others, there is no means to defend yourself in routine IRS procedures.

So the courts completely ignored

the question of standing and just gave the IRS their wins in all the courts, all seven of them. The courts by law are required to prove standing, but they didn't.

## Deficiency notices

**THE JOURNAL:** So then what happened?

**Dr. Maehr:** It was maybe a year later I received deficiency notices in the mail for four years that I hadn't filed: '03, '04, '05 and '06. They wanted me to pay something like \$140,000.

The only recourse I had was to take it to the U.S. Tax Court, and I did that.

Again, the court completely ignored all the evidence, everything, and ignored the issue of standing.

The IRS and their attorneys brought up past cases where the court has stated that, well, that's a frivolous argument. They said it is frivolous to argue that wages and salaries are not income.

Over and over, not just in my cases but down through the last hundred years, the government and the courts have ruled that any challenges to the tax laws are frivolous. They love saying something is frivolous.

When the U.S. Tax Court denied my position, I took my case to the U.S. Court of Appeals in Denver, and they basically did the same thing. They completely ignored everything. They ignored standing and ignored the case law, the substance of it.

So that opened the door to the U.S. Supreme Court. I filed with them on the 6th of September. That's when I mailed them the letter.

Then I got a letter on the 15th stating that my case went onto the docket for review.

## Just what did that mean?

**THE JOURNAL:** Were you surprised?

**Dr. Maehr:** I wasn't quite sure what that meant, so I called the court on the 17th and asked them what does that actually mean. Does that mean they're going to look at my case and see if they're going to take it, or will they hear it?

The clerk told me—I have it recorded—he said that, quote, the justices will review it, and, quote, it has been accepted for conference and review by the justices.

*Even where the courts themselves have said arguments are frivolous,  
no evidence has been presented to demonstrate frivolousness.  
They just simply presume and state that it's frivolous.*

I then asked: "So it has been accepted, basically?"

He answered: "Yes, sir!"

Since they take only about 1 percent of the cases that they receive, I was kind of shocked—and pleased.

## On to Washington

**THE JOURNAL:** So you and your lawyer will go to Washington?

**Dr. Maehr:** Well, what the court clerk told me turned out to be false. It turns out my initial question on whether the case was actually going to be heard was not true, but that they will now read the case and consider taking it.

I challenged him—the same guy who told me the previous info—on what he had told me, and he stated, "I'd never tell you that."

Okay, so what's going on here? He stated he had other things to attend to and ended the call. So they still have to formally accept the case.

**THE JOURNAL:** So if they take it then you and your lawyer will go to Washington?

No lawyer. It's pro se, which means I'm on my own, with no attorney. When I wrote up my case for the court, it was like I was in court arguing the case, opening statement, the

## Four interested justices

**THE JOURNAL:** I read that for the court to agree to put a case on the docket there must be at least four justices who are in favor of hearing it.

**Dr. Maehr:** That's interesting. I'm new to all of this as far as the Supreme Court goes.

## Tax protester?

**THE JOURNAL:** On a philosophical

You trade your labor for your wages. There is no increase, no quote profit unquote, no legally defined income.

## How did the IRS happen?

**THE JOURNAL:** So if Congress didn't authorize the way income tax is calculated and levied today, and it's not in the Constitution, how did it happen?

**Dr. Maehr:** Well, it started essentially regarding the war [the Civil War]. The income tax is a fairly new thing. We went 150 years without an income tax, and the government had plenty of money. It was supposed to be only for a few years and then be canceled.

But, unbeknownst to all, they didn't really cancel it. They just played this smoke-and-mirrors game and juggled things around and began doing things that were never intended and were never legally implemented, and the people didn't notice.

**THE JOURNAL:** Who are they?

**Dr. Maehr:** The government. In 1913 the IRS came into existence and the Federal Reserve came into existence.

**THE JOURNAL:** Who brought them into existence?

**Dr. Maehr:** The government.

**THE JOURNAL:** Who's the government? Who are we talking about? The executive branch, the Congress, who?

**Dr. Maehr:** Yeah, the Congress, the federal government.

## Congress did it

**THE JOURNAL:** So Congress, even though it had originally said you can't do this, Congress itself did it?

**Dr. Maehr:** Yeah.

**THE JOURNAL:** So Congress passed a law saying there's an income tax as we know it today?

**Dr. Maehr:** Not as we know it today but originally as a tax on wealth, which most Americans did *not* have.

The history of the IRS is convoluted. It kind of morphed around. The IRS and the Federal Reserve were both brought into existence because they work for each other.

## Spending money

**THE JOURNAL:** The IRS is government and the Federal Reserve is private, right?

**Dr. Maehr:** Well, that's another question in the case. The IRS declared in one of their own cases that they denied they were an agency of the U.S. government. We, then, need to ask: What are they lawfully?

The Federal Reserve is a private corporate entity, although it's under the Federal Reserve Act, which is basically an illegal thing for Congress to have done because Congress is the one that has authority to coin money and to make the value of it and they cannot delegate that.

Part of the fraud is because the government—Congress—wanted to be able to spend money without the American people knowing where it was coming from.

They can do that through fiat currency [paper money not convertible into intrinsically valuable metal specie] because they're doing it to this day, printing trillions of dollars.

Ronald Reagan commissioned what's called the Grace Commission. He said he wanted to find out where all this tax money was going.

The commission's conclusion was that every single penny of tax money collected from Americans was going to pay the interest on the national debt.

That was it. It's not paying for roads. It's not paying for a school. It's not paying for anything. It's paying the greedy private cartel known as the Federal Reserve. It's paying the interest that we shouldn't have to be paying.

The entire national debt doesn't exist as a legitimate debt. We could just walk away from it, as Ron Paul has stated.

## How do you stay out of prison?

**THE JOURNAL:** I've read of tax protesters going to court, or being hauled in  
See **JURY NULLIFICATION**, page 31

 <b>SUPREME COURT</b> OF THE UNITED STATES		
No. 12-6169		
Title:	Jeffrey Thomas Maehr, Petitioner v. Commissioner of Internal Revenue	
Docketed:	September 11, 2012	
Lower Ct:	United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit	
Case Nos.:	(11-9019)	
Decision Date:	May 17, 2012	
Rehearing	June 8, 2012	
Denied:		
-----Date-----Proceedings and Orders-----		
Sep 6 2012	Petition for a writ of certiorari and motion for leave to proceed in forma pauperis filed. (Response due October 11, 2012)	
Sep 26 2012	Waiver of right of respondent Commissioner of Internal Revenue to respond filed.	
-----Name-----Address-----Phone-----		
<b>Attorneys for Petitioner:</b>		
Jeffrey T. Maehr	924 E. Stollsteimer Road Pagosa Springs, CO 81147	
Party name: Jeffrey Thomas Maehr		
<b>Attorneys for Respondent:</b>		
Donald B. Verrilli Jr.	Solicitor General United States Department of Justice 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Washington, DC 20530-0001 SupremeCtBriefs@USDOJ.gov	(202) 514-2217
Party name: Commissioner of Internal Revenue		

**DOCKET DOCUMENT**—Above is the printer-friendly version of a Web-site page documenting that Jeffrey Maehr's case was added to the docket of the United States Supreme Court. Two versions of this document (with identical wording) were up at [supremecourt.gov](http://supremecourt.gov) as of Oct. 4, 2012.

evidence, closing statement.

The bulk of the standing cases I referred to in my written statement are Supreme Court cases ruled on a long time ago.

The questions I am bringing up have never been properly adjudicated. Even when they're using the frivolous label, where the courts themselves have said arguments are frivolous, there has never been any evidence presented to demonstrate the presumption of frivolousness.

They just simply presume and state that it's frivolous.

In effect they're saying, well, everybody knows dot dot dot.

Everybody knows that if you make

note, do you consider yourself a tax protester?

**Dr. Maehr:** I consider myself an *illegal-tax* protester, not a tax protester, because I pay sales taxes in my business. I pay a lot of taxes when I buy stuff. I'm not claiming that government does not have authority to tax. They certainly do.

## What about the 16th Amendment?

**THE JOURNAL:** Didn't the 16th Amendment to the Constitution back in 1913 establish the legality of the income tax? It states, and I quote:

"The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes on incomes, from whatever source derived, without apportionment among the several states,

and without regard to any census or enumeration."

**Dr. Maehr:** No, that did not establish the income tax as we have it today. That's one of the questions in this case because the 16th Amendment, as the Supreme Court ruled in the Brushaber case, did not authorize any *new* form of taxation.

There was never an intent for Congress to declare that wages and salaries are income and taxable. That's the whole question: What is income? I'm arguing that income is something very specific and is not wages and salaries.

Here's an example. You put \$100 in the bank, you get some interest. That interest is legal income.

Wages, on the other hand, are something you receive in a fair trade.

wages that's income.

That's an empty argument, as courts have ruled and even as congressional testimony has verified.

## Why is this happening?

**THE JOURNAL:** Why do you think the highest court in the land might hear your case?

**Dr. Maehr:** I know the court likes to consider how something affects the population at large. If it's something they think is just somebody's pet peeve, they don't take those.

But if it affects a lot of people, if it's a significant issue, then the court has stated it *will* consider at least some of those cases.

I used the argument that this case affects every man, woman and child in America.

# Connections: Member to Member

Issue No. 139

PUBLISHED BY THE JOURNAL: NEWS OF THE CHURCHES OF GOD

September-October, 2012

## Do you test negative or positive?

By Darlene Warren

**B**IG SANDY, Texas—Since I was very young I've been taught to always "look on the bright side," that "every dark cloud has a silver lining," and "trials build character." Even the apostle James admonishes us to count it all joy whenever we are tested.

Do you look for the good in all things, or are you cynical and pessimistic? Are you a naturally positive or a naturally negative person?

And how can you know for sure?

I've been giving this topic some thought lately, and I'd like to share a little bit of what I've discovered with you.

### No right or wrong answers

I've developed a simple yet comprehensive multiple-choice quiz that is guaranteed to help you finally find the answer to this issue that so clearly affects our day-to-day lives.

I encourage you to move to a quiet room where you will not be distracted by Fox News or talk radio. Please answer the questions as honestly as you can because there are no right or wrong answers, just an illumination of who you really are.

You may select more than one answer. Please begin.

1. You enter a public restroom

whereupon you notice a plunger placed next to the commode. Are you likely to feel (a) disgusted, (b) nervous or (c) comforted?

2. You buy a five-pound bag of lemons that you don't really need because the price was marked down. Times are tough and you don't want anything to go to waste.

Do you (a) make lemonade even though you know the sugar isn't good for you, (b) disinfect your kitchen countertops or (c) break out the tequila and salt?

3. You walk into a convenience store in south Mississippi to pay for your gasoline. You notice there's a sign taped next to the cash register that reads WE NO LONGER ACCEPT MONEY FROM UNDERGARMENTS. (I'm not making this up.)

Do you (a) read it again just to make sure you're not overly tired from driving, (b) use your cell phone to take a picture to show your friends back home, (c) quickly survey the patrons looking for anyone behaving suspiciously, (d) laugh uncontrollably or (e) casually stroll to a back corner of the store and remove your money discreetly?

4. You are lying on a beautiful white-sand beach without a care in the world. You smile just thinking about what a wonderful time you're having. Suddenly a gust of wind blows sand in your teeth.

Are you likely to (a) rush back inside your condo to rinse your mouth, (b) spit and sputter and disgust other beachgoers near you, (c) immediately place your index finger on your teeth and scrub vigorously, taking advantage of the deep cleansing, or (d) keep smiling and break out the tequila and salt?

### Count it all joy

Put your pencils down, please. Of course the examples I used were so bizarre, the chances are pretty remote that they actually happened, right?

As difficult as testing can be, I hope this one didn't stress you out too much. In no way is the above quiz meant to make light of the trials and difficulties each of us faces every day.

Rather, may it be a reminder to us that, just like we were taught as youngsters, sometimes we do take life too seriously and we should look at the bright side a little more often.

Now, where did I put that Cuervo?



## Annual East Texas Barn Dance & Chili Social

And Buckaroo Bob's Puppet Show



Morris and Linda Foster and friends invite you to the **2012 Annual East Texas Barn Dance & Chili Social!** Come kick up your heels and enjoy a fun night with dear friends! **Barn Dance Music** and activities for everyone! **Chili Supper, Live Dance Bands, Square Dancing, Children's Activities, Hay Rides, Wienie Roast** and ya just gotta see the **Puppet Show!** This event is not organized by any church organization but personally by Morris and Linda Foster and friends on neutral ground for our dear Church of God family and friends. **Saturday Night, November 24, 2012, 6:00 P.M.,** just two nights after Thanksgiving at **Shepperd Ranch in Gladewater,** on the west side of U.S. 271 S., just south of the intersection with Texas 135. (Gladewater is 10 miles east of Big Sandy on U.S. 80.) **Admission is FREE!** Donations accepted but not required.

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## Did Paul Correct Moses' History?

**P**aul says: "Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made . . . And this I say, that the law, which was four hundred and thirty years later, cannot annul the covenant that was confirmed before by God . . ." (Gal 3:16a, 17). This puts 'the law' on the scene at about the time of the exodus (Ex 12:40-41, LXX).

What does Hebrews say? "Therefore, if perfection were through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need [was there] that another priest should rise according to the order of Melchizedek . . ." (Heb 7:11).

The Levitical priesthood is certainly fundamental to the Law. Actually the Greek word translated 'under' primarily means 'upon.' The Law was hung upon Levi. They administered it. This is reflected in the NASB, NIV, Emphasized Bible and other translations. However, Moses indicates, the Levitical priesthood has no connection with the departure from Egypt. Levi was chosen at earliest after the golden calf (Deu 10:5, 8).

The law that established Levi was confirmed with Deuteronomy: "If a matter arises which is too hard for you to judge . . . you

shall come to the priests, the Levites, and to the judge there in those days, and inquire of them; they shall pronounce upon you the sentence of judgment" (Deu 17:8-9). "So Moses wrote this law and delivered it to the priests, the sons of Levi" (Deu 31:9a).

Moses testified among them the words of Deuteronomy. Deuteronomy did not exist until he wrote it and gave it to the Levites. It is the Law of Moses (Josh 8:31-32, Deu 27:2-8). It is based on the administration of Levi. The law confirmed in Exodus 20-24 is not.

Deuteronomy records the confirmation of Moses' words as a second covenant, a second law. "These are the words of the covenant which the LORD commanded Moses to make with the children of Israel in the land of Moab, besides the covenant which He made with them in Horeb . . ." (Deu 29:1). (One covenant beside another covenant is not one covenant, but two jointly applicable.) ". . . that you may enter into covenant with the LORD your God, and into His oath, which the LORD your God makes with you today" (Deu 29:12).

The law is a covenant. For all practical purposes it did not exist until it was con-

firmed between God and Israel. That happened "in the fortieth year, in the eleventh month, on the first day of the month" (Deu 1:3a) almost 40 years after the exodus.

Paul knew the Law was added (Gal 3:19). Deuteronomy 31:26 makes it apparent when and to what the Law was added. It was added to the covenant of the Lord that had been in the ark for about 39 years. "Take this Book of the Law, and put it beside the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God" (Deu 31:26ab). The covenant of the Lord confirmed at Sinai was agreed shortly after the exodus (Ex 19:1, 10-11).

One does not change a covenant (Gal 3:15). The covenant at Sinai did not include anything about the tribe of Levi being the judges and priests in Israel. That and other things couldn't be added to the Sinai covenant. So a second covenant was made.

The Sinai covenant was also a law, but it was not what became known as 'the Law.' It predated 'the Law.' It did not come to Israel through Levi, but directly from God and His servant scribe Moses. Moses was not a mediator of that covenant, since he was a party to it (Ex 34:27-28).

The Law was added because Israel proved incapable of keeping the law that was confirmed in Exodus 20-24. The Sinai law is part of 'the Law' since it is recorded in 'the Law,' but it is also a separate law that stands on its own. The covenant of the Lord is not diminished even if the book Moses set beside it deteriorates. His covenant is forever (Ps. 111:9).

Paul in Galatians 3:17 is not rewriting history, but clarifying to which law he is referring. He is referring to 'the law which was four hundred and thirty years' after the promises. We have been confused because we haven't recognized Moses' clear record describing the confirmation of two laws.

'His Law' that must be written in the heart of a believer (Heb 8:10) is not 'The Law.' There are other choices. The covenant of the Lord is the basis for what must be written in the heart of anyone wanting to grasp the New Covenant (Ps 105:8).

Don't wait for someone ordained of men to look into this for you. Develop your own relationship with your Creator through an in-depth study of His word. This just highlights the tip of the iceberg of misunderstanding holding back the churches of God.

★ [www.creators covenant.org](http://www.creators covenant.org) or [www.creators covenant.com](http://www.creators covenant.com) ★

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This page is part of CONNECTIONS: MEMBER TO MEMBER, the advertising section of THE JOURNAL

# Come Out of Her, My People

In the last issue of *The Journal*, we looked at Revelation 14 as a key chapter we missed in understanding the last seven years. This article relates the biblical flow of end time events concerning the Church of God and, specifically, God's people who are American and British [physically descended from Israel]. Only now, as we near the time of the end, are these darkly seen events being revealed by God. Daniel 12:9, **'And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.'**

Chapter 17 of Revelation is about a great false church—spiritual Babylon. Chapter 18 is about the fall of the Greatest Trading nation on earth—physical and commercial Babylon. As we saw in Revelation 14 last time, before God brings about its fall He will send an angel with a message which reaches all around the world in order that His people may know that the last seven years have arrived, Daniel 9:27, **'And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease . . .'**

That angel's message is found in Revelation 14:6-7 and announces Jesus Christ's soon return and the need of all mankind to repent, before the Tribulation.

It will be given in dreams and visions, the most graphic visual preview, to all men and women on earth (associated articles are 'End Time Dreams and Visions' and 'The Tribulation, How Long?' on the Ozwitness website). This amazing event will have worldwide impact, and will usher in the start of the last seven years leading up to the establishment of Christ's Kingdom here on earth.

The 1st seal of Revelation 6, the first of the seven seals which cover the events of those last seven years, parallels the events of Matthew 24. Verse 14 of that chapter warns that the end time will be preceded by that miraculous preaching, by the angel, of the same gospel brought by Jesus Christ and John the Baptist—the gospel of good news of the coming kingdom of God and the return of Jesus Christ, **'And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations, and then shall the end come.'** God's Church has never been able to reach **'all the world!'**

Christ accompanied that, in Matthew 24:4-5, with the warning that many will then be deceived by those who claim to be the returned Christ, starting from soon after the angel's message, and that warning will be published worldwide by God's Church; because the most successful deceiver will be the Beast. **'And Jesus answered and said unto them, take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.'**

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4, **'Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.'**

The worldwide reaction to those miraculous dreams and visions will be dramatic. The mainstream 'Christian' world, will rejoice—much less so the other religions! Many 'Christians' will look forward to soon being raptured away to heaven, while the remaining 'sinners' are punished in the tribulation!

Serious Bible students, however, will have quite a different reaction. They are well aware that, continuing on from Revelation 14:6-7, the rest of the same chapter mentions the work of several other angels, and the announcement of the **second** angel, in verse 8, is about anything but peace and safety. It is about **Babylon's fall**, the fall of those nations whose actions most epitomize the evil system of dominion over men by the projection of both military and commercial power around the globe, which was first invented and practiced by Nimrod, King of Babylon, long ago (read our article

about Babylon). Though we Israelites have long recognized our sins, we have not recognized that, in God's eyes, we have become the Babylon of Revelation 18, as opposed to the 'spiritual Babylon,' of Revelation 17, which, as we know, falls only towards the end.

The United States is only part of this evil system. Britain, too, was once powerful enough to most epitomize its faults and still does! Together, these two great nations are descended from the patriarch Joseph and became the two leading tribes in Israel, the nation chosen by God to represent His way to the world. That they should have so far despised and rejected His way, denied His Commandments, and failed to fulfill their God given role has deeply angered their Creator, who intends to fulfill the warnings plainly given to them in Deuteronomy 28:15-68. Destruction and slavery for their sins are to fall upon Israel, which also includes Britain's one-time colonies Australia, New Zealand and Canada. But what about the other tribes of Israel? They too have failed God and departed from His Law. God has no favorites, and punishment will fall upon the nations of NW Europe too and upon the Jews; in fact, upon all 12 tribes of Ancient Israel!

Today, you are being warned that God's words show that when that first angel delivers his dreams and visions it is the signal for His people to escape from 'Babylon,' to fulfill His Plan. God's people will obediently prepare to leave those nations to carry out His further instructions, Revelation 18:4-5, **'And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.'** Do the scriptures really mean 'pack up and go'?

Not all of God's people will flee. Some may be too old or sick and will rely upon God's great mercy. Those who wish to, but are unable, He will gather from wherever they are at the resurrection (Matthew 24:31). Fully half, though, are so spiritually unprepared and not biblically diligent enough to understand the need to avoid the coming disaster (see Matthew 25:1-10). So they will stay put in their nations and fail to take advantage of the 6-7 months after the dreams and visions, before Babylon's evil system finally brings about Israel's downfall (see the timeline on our website).

When first the USA (the world's policeman) is brought low by God, probably by several cataclysmic, 'natural disasters' (cf. Jeremiah 51:55, Revelation 18:21), chaos, war and invasion will follow so that international travel will rapidly become impossible for civilians.

Jeremiah 50:41-42, **'Behold, a people shall come from the north, and a great nation, and many kings shall be raised up from the coasts of the earth. They shall hold the bow and the lance: they are cruel, and will not shew mercy: their voice shall roar like the sea, and they shall ride upon horses, every one put in array, like a man to the battle, against thee, O daughter of Babylon.'**

Isaiah 10:5-6, **'O Assyrian, the rod of mine anger, and the staff in their hand is mine indignation. I will send him against an hypocritical nation, and against the people of my wrath will I give him a charge, to take the spoil, and to take the prey, and to tread them down like the mire of the streets.'**

So only the forewarned and faithful will come out of Babylon while they can.

But where should they go? Do not be deceived by anyone claiming to have received a vision telling you to go anywhere other than where God's word **plainly instructs you**. Satan would dearly like you to lose your life in defiance of God's given instructions, which are quite clear and specific!

1 Corinthians 14:37, **'If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord.'** (No adding to God's written word!)

The book of Jeremiah refers to both Zion and

Jerusalem as geographical places, as we can easily see from Jeremiah 50:4-5, **'In those days, and in that time, saith the Lord, the children of Israel shall come, they and the children of Judah together, going and weeping: they shall go, and seek the Lord their God. They shall ask the way to Zion with their faces thitherward, saying, Come, and let us join ourselves to the Lord in a perpetual covenant that shall not be forgotten.'**

This describes the **final** regathering of the remnant of Israel **when all the tribulation is over**. However, God's people in Israel will escape from 'Babylon' just **before** He brings both Israel and Judah into their deep trouble!

Over the final seven years, all Israelites will be oppressed together, something that has not happened in history before. Jeremiah 50:33, **'Thus saith the Lord of hosts; The children of Israel and the children of Judah were oppressed together: and all that took them captives held them fast; they refused to let them go.'**

Jeremiah 51:6-8, **'Flee out of the midst of Babylon, and deliver every man his soul: be not cut off in her iniquity; for this is the time of the Lord's vengeance; he will render unto her a recompense. Babylon hath been a golden cup in the Lord's hand, that made all the earth drunken: the nations have drunken of her wine; therefore the nations are mad. Babylon is suddenly fallen and destroyed: howl for her; take balm for her pain, if so be she may be healed'** (an obvious end time reference!) **'Deliver thyself, O Zion, that dwellest with the daughter of Babylon,'** Zechariah 2:7 ('in line with the scope of all his other night visions **about the end time,**' Unger).

So now let's notice exactly **where** God's people should go when they flee from 'Babylon' before its fall!

Jeremiah 50:28, **'The voice of them that FLEE AND ESCAPE OUT OF THE LAND OF BABYLON, TO DECLARE IN ZION the vengeance of the Lord our God, the vengeance of his temple.'**

Could anything be clearer or more specific? God has given us a job to do **in Zion!**

And again, Jeremiah 51:10, **'The Lord hath brought forth our righteousness: come, and let us declare in Zion the work of the Lord our God.'** He confirms that our destination is indeed Jerusalem, so that we may have no doubt! Jeremiah 51:50, **'Ye that have escaped the sword, go away, stand not still: remember the Lord afar off, and let Jerusalem come into your mind.'**

Who is to tell God's people in His Church these things, for most have been given a false scenario of the last days?

Jeremiah 31:6-7, **'For there shall be a day, that the watchmen upon the mount Ephraim shall cry, Arise ye, and let us go up to Zion unto the Lord our God. For thus saith the Lord; Sing with gladness for Jacob, and shout among the chief of the nations: publish ye, praise ye, and say, O Lord, save thy people, the remnant of Israel.'** The watchmen upon Mount Ephraim are today bringing you this warning message!

As we can also see from Ezekiel chapter 36, the church's message is to be broadcast not just to Judah but to the people of Israel worldwide. When we reach Jerusalem we are to act as watchmen for that city and to the world, giving warning of what is to happen through the next almost seven years, until the establishment of God's Kingdom.

Isaiah 62:6-7, **'I have set watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem, which shall never hold their peace day nor night: ye that make mention of the Lord, keep not silence, And give him no rest, till he establish, and till he make Jerusalem a praise in the earth.'**

Verses 11-12, **'Behold, the Lord hath proclaimed unto the end of the world, Say ye to the daughter of Zion, Behold, thy salvation cometh; behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him. And they**

**shall call them, The holy people, The redeemed of the Lord: and thou shalt be called, Sought out, A city not forsaken.'**

Our message is further detailed in Isaiah 40:9-10 (NIV), **'You who bring good tidings to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Sovereign Lord comes with power, and his arm [the saints—Revelation 20:4] rules for him. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him.'**

In fact, this is basically the same message John the Baptist brought, as described in verses 1-3 of Isaiah 40, as well as Jesus Christ, and Joel (cf. Matthew 3:1-2, 4:17, **Joel 2:1, 13**), **'Blow you the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the Lord cometh, for it is nigh at hand . . . And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the Lord your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil.'**

Today, God has given us additional information in the Book of Revelation, and we will also warn against involvement with, or worship of the ascendant Beast who then will begin to emerge in Europe and come to full power after the first 3½ years—Revelation 13:4-5, **'And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? Who is able to make war with him? And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months.'**

His arrival in Israel (Judah), on the invitation of its government when their protector America falls, with just a token force of troops at first, is designed to discourage further invasion by the surrounding Arab nations, but the Beast has his own agenda! **'And after the league made with him he shall work deceitfully: for he shall come up, and shall become strong with a small people'** (Daniel 11:23).

He gradually seeks more power and control in the nation, and attempts to silence the broadcasts of God's Church, which is warning the world against him as the Anti-Christ. In this, after many months, he is eventually successful, bringing about the persecution of the 5th seal in verse 33, in which many of God's people are killed, **'And they that understand among the people shall instruct many: yet they shall fall by the sword, and by flame, by captivity, and by spoil, many days.'**

In conclusion, the unprepared who failed to flee will hear of the warnings preached by God's Church from Jerusalem, and, after the fall of 'Babylon' comes about, some will try to join them, while others will recognize their mistake and determine to witness in their captivity, or under the very nose of the Beast's government in the Israelite countries of Europe. Matthew 10:23, **'But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another: for verily I say unto you, Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come.'**

The result of all this brave witness to the world will be a very large number who 'wash their robes' **during the Great Tribulation**, the final 3½ years (Revelation 7), **after the resurrection**, as we saw from Revelation 14:15, plainly before the Great Tribulation—verse 19!

God's word tells us to 'prove all things,' by accepting only that which is written in the word of God. There are, however, many who combine parts of God's word with unbiblical scenarios of dangerous origin. Such deception will be betrayed by lack of biblical backup in every step, so please check carefully with your Bible that every part of this scenario matches God's Word.

**To be continued.**

<http://ozwitness.net/>

Click on the 'Media' tab for the Abib film about the Firstfruit harvest

# HEROES: From Whence Cometh Thou?

*The writer, Don Henderson, alias Don the Heretic, has little formal education. He never graduated from high school but has been given many titles from ministers of the Churches of God during the last 53 years. To name a few: Don the Troublemaker, the Dis-fellowshipped, the Marked the Preacher of Heresy, the Servant of Satan, etc., etc. He continues his wayward ways.*

**M**rs. Engelbart states in *The Journal*, July 27, 2012, “I don’t see any weak men (or women, for that matter) listed with the heroes of faith. These are all people of courage. Barak is compared to Gideon, Samson and David; all brave warriors. (See Hebrews 11:32.)”

Mrs. Engelbart seems to indicate that a person cannot believe that Barak was too weak to lead Israel prior to Deborah leading him into battle. I believe that Mrs. Engelbart should reconsider her statement. Mrs. Engelbart didn’t mention Hebrews 11:34, “Out of weakness were made strong.” I suggest that this scripture should be kept in mind when considering brave warriors, heroes, great men and women of faith, listed in the Bible. They were not that way from birth. Most went through a transition or ‘conversion’ period.

Let’s consider the story of Gideon. Gideon was hiding from the Midianites while he threshed wheat in the winepress. This initial introduction to Gideon doesn’t indicate that he is a brave warrior. Even though the Angel of the Lord said to Gideon, Judges 6:12, “The Lord is with you, you mighty man of valor!” I don’t believe that Gideon believed the Angel or that the Angel was speaking of Gideon’s past actions, in which Gideon demonstrated that he was a mighty man of valor. I believe that it was a way of encouraging Gideon to become a mighty man of valor.

Gideon then asks the Angel, “Why has the Lord forsaken us and delivered us to the Midianites?” Verse 7 says, “The children of Israel cried out to the Lord because of the Midianites.” Verse 10 shows why the Lord did not help them: “But you have not obeyed My voice.” I believe it’s possible that the Lord decided to save them through Gideon because there were enough of them with a repentant attitude that it moved God to help them.

It seems clear that the Lord knew that it would take a little time to convince Gideon that he could rely on the Lord to guide him and back him up. Verses 14, 15: “The Lord turned to Gideon and said, ‘Go in this might of yours and you shall save Israel from the hand of the Midianites. Have I not sent you?’ So Gideon said to Him, ‘Oh my Lord, how can I save Israel? Indeed my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father’s house.’” (Not quite the sign of a brave warrior.)

Again to help Gideon gain confidence, verse 16: “The Lord said to him, ‘Surely I will be with you and you shall defeat the Midianites as one man.’”

In verse 17, Gideon asks for a sign that it is indeed the Angel of the Lord who he is talking to. Eventually the Angel of the Lord, with His staff, brought fire out of the rock and consumed the offering Gideon prepared. Verse 22: “Now Gideon perceived that He was an Angel of the Lord, so Gideon said, ‘Alas, O Lord God, for I have seen the Angel of the Lord face to face!’”

Verse 23: “Then the Lord said to him, ‘Peace be with you; do not fear,

you shall not die.’” It seems clear that the Lord believed that Gideon thought that the next thing that was going to happen was that death was imminent and not leading Israel to victory over the Midianites.

In verses 25, 26, the Lord then directs Gideon to tear down the altar of Baal and build an altar to the Lord.

Verse 27, because Gideon feared his father’s household and the men of the city too much to do it by day, he did it by night. Gideon is still not feeling all that confident but is stepping out on faith, destroying the altar of Baal.

Verse 30, Gideon would not come out to face the men of the city who wanted to kill him. Verse 31, Joash, Gideon’s father steps in and faces the men, and threatens anyone who will plead for Baal with imminent death. Verse 32, then all the Midianites and Amalekites, the people of the East, gathered together in the Valley of Jezreel. Verse 34, The Spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon. He gathered the people behind him.

Verse 36, Gideon, still lacking confidence, faith, assurance, says to God, If You will save Israel by my hand as You have said, then have the fleece be wet and the land dry and the opposite the next night. The Lord grants Gideon’s wish.

In chapter 7, the Lord works with Gideon in organizing the army of 300. Verse 9, the Lord instructs Gideon to go down to the camp of the Midianites. Gideon was afraid, so the Lord says, verse 10, “If you are afraid to go down, go down to the camp with Purah your servant.” Verse 15, when Gideon heard the Midianite soldier telling the dream he had, he returned to the camp of Israel and said, “Arise, for the Lord has delivered Midian into your hand.”

Eventually, Israel went back to their old ways with help from Gideon who, chapter 8:27, made a golden ephod and set it up in his city, Ophrah and all Israel played the harlot, and it became a snare to Gideon and his house.

Mrs. Engelbart states, “Ah, but some would say Barak was too weak also.”

She seems to believe that the idea that Barak and Gideon went through a transition or conversion period, from being weak to strong, as did a great many individuals throughout the Bible, is not an issue to consider. Mrs. Engelbart says that God could have used a rock. If, as she states, “He could have used a rock,” then He could have used a weak human, which Barak could very well have been.

Again, Hebrews 11:34, “Out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle.”

Also, if God used a rock, it would have to be changed to something dramatically different. It wouldn’t have remained a rock if it were to be used instead of Deborah or Barak.

It’s hard to understand how Mrs. Engelbart can read and quote Hebrews 11:32 and then completely miss a very important scripture, Hebrews 11:34. Surely she read it and the story of Gideon many times. She was a minister’s wife for 32 years.

I have seen this situation happen hundreds of times. A person, often a so-called teacher or minister, uses a scripture to make his or her personal point. They often know of the other scriptures that if brought into the subject would challenge or question their point of view, but they don’t want to be challenged so they don’t use them.

Also they know that most people

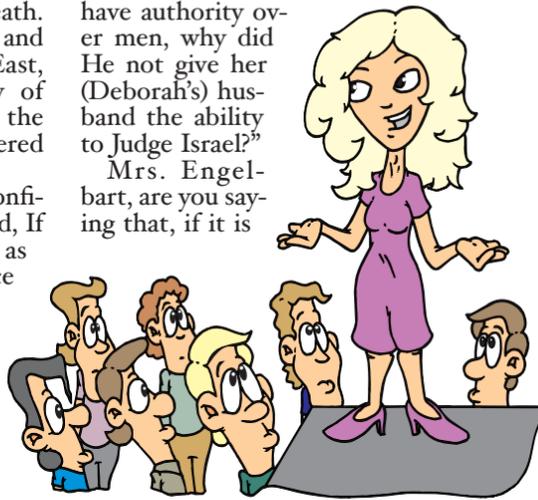
who hear or read their statements won’t challenge, look, or study into the subject and inform the teacher or minister of the problems in their story or study. Many are sycophants. I believe that Mrs. Engelbart full well knew that Hebrews 11:34 is directly connected to Hebrews 11:32 and that it would question the logic, sensibility and use of her statement, which was, “I don’t see any weak men (or women for that matter) listed with the heroes of faith.”

Didn’t they all have their weaknesses until they died? Even Job, blameless and upright, who no one could compare to, had his weaknesses.

Mrs. Engelbart states, “Even though it is supposedly His will that women not

have authority over men, why did He not give her (Deborah’s) husband the ability to judge Israel?”

Mrs. Engelbart, are you saying that, if it is



God’s will that women not have authority over men, He would have given her husband the ability to judge Israel; but since He did not do it, we can therefore conclude that women can have the authority over men?

Try this: Can God state that women are not to rule over men and also put a woman in the position of rulership or leadership over men?

More to the point: Who makes the rules? Who can make exceptions to the rules? Who can change the rules? It’s a rule that a donkey can’t carry on a verbal conversation with a human. It’s a rule that the sun always sets at a precise time. It’s a rule that seas don’t split and millions of people walk across dry land. It’s a rule that a man can’t be swallowed by a great fish and live inside it for three days. David said that it is a rule that he should be killed for what he did. God instead killed his son and later punished his family.

We can go on and on. Mrs. Engelbart asks, “Does God make exceptions to His own rules?” Yes, Mrs. Engelbart, He can and does. He is the Rule Maker and plainly states so throughout the Bible.

Mrs. Engelbart seems to take offense at the statement made by Miss Delorey: “Finally, if Mrs. Engelbart and her daughter are so unfulfilled in their lives that they just cannot do without preaching, I might recommend the T.C.G.C.I.” though I and others believe that the statement by Mrs. Delorey was appropriate, based upon what Mrs. Engelbart said.

The T.C.G.C.I. seems to have a belief closer to Mrs. Engelbart’s than any organization I know of, and she can keep the Sabbath. Mrs. Engelbart states, “If Mrs. Delorey has such a problem with women speaking, I am wondering why is she attending with the G.C.I.”

Isn’t Mrs. Engelbart doing what she accuses Mrs. Delorey of doing? Unjustly making a judgment about what she should do in regards to attending

her church? The difference seems to be that, unlike Mrs. Delorey, Mrs. Engelbart can’t justify why she made the statement. Could it be that it was payback time?

Consider: For a 22-year-old, Mrs. Delorey seems to be dealing with her situation very well.

Mrs. Engelbart says: “I don’t have a need to preach. I am concerned for the talented women in our churches who are not permitted to use their God-given gifts just because they are women. I am concerned for the new women coming into our churches that teach the truth of the New Testament church except that women are second-class Christians. I know of many cases around the country where young women started coming to church, found out what we taught about women and left. I am concerned that my granddaughters growing up in the church will leave because of this. Not all women should teach, just as not all men should teach. But those to whom God has given the gift of teaching by His Spirit—which both men and women received equally—should absolutely be allowed to teach.”

Even though Mrs. Engelbart states that she doesn’t have a need to preach, this statement and others that she has made seem to indicate that she does indeed have a need to preach, and is demonstrating it in statements that she makes. If Mrs. Engelbart has had all these concerns for at least the 32 years that she was a minister’s wife and maybe longer, perhaps Miss Delorey’s suggestion should be reconsidered. I wonder what Mrs. Engelbart’s minister husband advised her on these subjects, or did they even talk about them during their 32 years together?

Another suggestion is that Mrs. Engelbart doesn’t have long to wait. I believe that there will be a breakaway church from United that will be more to her liking. But, from what I have observed in past breakaways, there will surely be other issues that will be there. All churches for the most part are based upon human ideas, and in the end there is little difference. I have no doubt that God has a church, but only God knows where it is located and which individuals make it up. I believe that it will come together at a time and in a way that no human understands.

I wonder: Can anyone out there say to a person with no religious understanding that if they attend your church or one you know of, or listen to you and follow your example, you can guarantee them a happier and fuller life; that the money, time and effort that they spend will have good, positive, fulfilling results and lead them and their families into the Kingdom of God? I sure can’t.

Mrs. Engelbart mentions iron sharpening iron, as many others have done. Could the problem be that we tend to be using stubble to sharpen stubble? Maybe we should think on the need for The Refining Fire of God.

Enough said. So much for my opinion, and the more I say the more I’m charged. Anyway, I have to get back to rereading *Beat to Quarters* by Forester. Interestingly, a lot of it is about the relationship between a wealthy, attractive and very intelligent British lady of Title who has demanded passage from Panama to Britain on the British frigate *Lydia*, commanded by Captain Horatio Hornblower, which was against his will. She easily gains passage, and the challenge of understanding what their proper roles are begins.

—Don the Heretic Henderson, Edmonds,

# Two Observations from Jeremiah

**W**hen I was in the PCG, our regional director (who was also our assigned pastor) visited on a somewhat regular basis. Typically after services when he visited we would all go to the local buffet for lunch. They had a back room that we could usually get and have a bit of privacy.

I remember one specific occasion in which one of the newer members (Mr. A for this discussion) was sitting across from me and asked the Director 'how' we should be praying for those outside the PCG. We had just heard a sermon concerning those who were not in the PCG but who were at one time baptized in the WCG and were now considered disfellowshipped because of their refusal to follow the true church. (I'm just quoting; don't get all bent out of shape.)

Mr. A accepted the directive that he was not to fellowship with them, but he also realized that the Bible admonishes us to pray for our brethren.

The Director commenced to go into a bit of a lecture on the lack of wisdom of those not in the PCG, as well as the lack of spirituality they were exhibiting. His final answer was a quote from Jeremiah 7:16: "Therefore pray not for this people, neither lift up cry nor prayer for them, neither make intercession to me: for I will not hear thee."

My buddy, Mr. A, nearly choked on his food and started to contradict the Director. I kicked him under the table, and later told him discretion is sometimes the better part of valor (which also concerns my next observation).

I had heard this verse before, specifically in the PCG, but had not really looked into it. From that point on, I have wrestled with this verse. I'm not going to pretend to tell you I have it figured out. But I have noticed that even some in mainstream churches are starting to reference this verse. Granted, those that do are pretty far to the right, and this is not a popular verse in the local "Come as you are and give your heart to Jesus" Baptist church, but there are rumblings out there that some in Christendom are seeing that our country is offending God in a gross sense, and will reap the consequences.

While I believe that my ex-Director was incorrect, and that we are to pray for and correct a brother we see sinning, I will admit that this verse and all of Jeremiah is a stark commentary on how fed up God can become with constant disobedience.

That said, I also *very well* remember the logic Mr. Armstrong used when he pointed out that all of mankind (with the exception of the saints) is deceived. And that by definition a deceived person does not know they are deceived.

Example: You want to buy a different used car because yours has nearly half a million miles from driving to the Feast every year for the last three decades. God has blessed you with some cash, and you drop in on Easy Credit Uncle Ernie's Used Car Emporium and Brain Washing Sanatorium, just south of town on wide, wide Dixie Highway.

Ernie meets you as you get out of your tumble bus and you tell him of your desire to buy something easy on gas, low mileage and hopefully well maintained.

Ernie has *just* the car for you. "It was owned by a little old lady who only drove it to church on Sundays, and her husband, God rest his soul, was

insistent on always taking it to the dealer to have it serviced just like the owner's manual said."

So you ask to take it out for a test drive. Ernie jumps in the back seat and you and your lovely bride get in front. You wonder just a little when you start it and the radio comes on full blast on the local rap station, and the seats are leaned all the way back so that you can barely see out the windshield. Ernie assures you that the lot boy is just a little wild. "Not a thing to worry about!"

Well, as I think you can see from this example, Ernie is not being completely honest. In fact, he's lying through his teeth. But, as a trusting person, you believe him. You are *deceived*. You don't *know* you are deceived. But you are. Therefore, you might be naïve, but if you have not dealt with used-car dealers much, you might be forgiven for trusting what you were told. If the car blows up right after you drive it off the lot, a judge *might* side with you and force Ernie to make it good, *if* you could prove that Ernie said what he did.

Now, maybe I'm off base here, but from what I *think* I understand, God will not hold those who are deceived *totally* accountable for their actions *because* they *are* deceived.

Here is my quandary. *If* the people of our nation are deceived, and *if* they have not had their minds opened, then why does God say what He does in Jeremiah 7:16?

Does this apply to the US and British Commonwealth nations *now*? Or was it only applicable to those people then *because* they had no excuse to be deceived? Does it apply to people who have had their minds opened and then reject the truth *NOW*? *Was the PCG right?*

I'm throwing this out now for discussion. I do not pretend to know the whole answer. I *do* know that there are some ministers from the old WCG who *do* claim to know the answer, and at least one has publicly stated that this *does* apply to the US and British Commonwealth nations.

However, in my opinion he does not ade-

quately explain how they can be held accountable when they have not had God's truth shown to them. The claim may be that HWA and the WCG preached the gospel to our nations, therefore they are without excuse. I also know another minister makes this exact claim.

quately explain how they can be held accountable when they have not had God's truth shown to them. The claim may be that HWA and the WCG preached the gospel to our nations, therefore they are without excuse. I also know another minister makes this exact claim.

But even at the height of the *PT* distribution, at eight million copies a month, and three people reading each copy, that's 24 million readers—only about 8% to 10% of the population of the nation at that time. And we all know from our personal examples of trying to convert family members that, unless God has opened their mind, it is a closed, steel trap. They simply *cannot* understand.

So does Jeremiah 7:16 apply to the US now? Are we to take it literally and *not* pray for our

nation? That's not what I thought I was taught, but maybe I'm wrong.

The next observation I made is from Jeremiah 9:8: "Their tongue is an arrow shot out; it speaketh deceit: one speaketh peaceably to his neighbor with his mouth, but in heart he layeth his wait."

Pretty straightforward. Sort of like many think business dealings work. You tell them what you want them to think, and then you do what you need to do. Unfortunately, there is some truth to what people think.

I also remember years ago hearing more than one minister use the verse . . . be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves" (Matthew 10:16) to justify not always being fully honest with others.

The classic example is when your wife asks if her dress looks good. The reasoning I heard was that one should never lie, but one did not always have to reveal everything they knew.

*Using that reasoning*, our legislators, who we now know use 'inside' information to make their fortunes, are perfectly within their moral rights to do so. After all, they 'just are not telling everything they know.'

I have a *really big* problem with that rationale. In my opinion, it's the same as lying. They know the ground they are buying will someday have an interstate interchange next to it, and it's

the only place that businesses would be able to build. So the poor guy who needs the cash now, and has no idea about the future highway access, sells for next to nothing.

Again, in my opinion, he was taken advantage of, not by being *directly* lied to, but being lied to by omission.

There are sins of commission, and sins of omission. I believe God addresses both. Unfortunately, I believe the ministry let us get just a little too close to the world so we could feel good about ourselves.

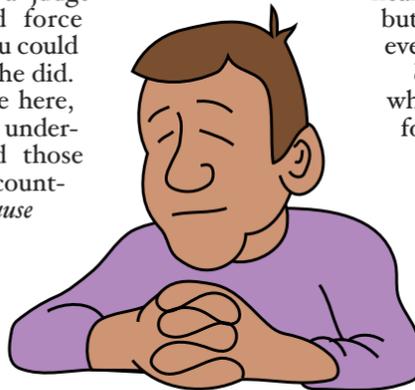
Earlier I mentioned about how I cautioned a friend to not contradict the ministry or he could be kicked out. Would that be the same as me telling him to not speak out with information he knew? If he knew that the Director was wrong to use Jeremiah 7:16 to justify the PCG's fear tactics, was I contributing to hiding a situation that needed to be brought to light?

I look back now and think I was wrong. I should have let him bring it up. And I should have supported him morally and scripturally if possible. And, if we were wrong, the minister would have been able to show us from God's word. If he couldn't, then *he* would have been wrong.

It takes a great deal of wisdom to deal with these things. When do we intercede with God for others? How can we *know* God is willing to help them and it's then okay to pray for them?

Jeremiah 7:16 can be taken to say that when a person is sinning they should not benefit from prayer from others on their behalf.

When is withholding information okay? Would you want your wife to embarrass herself in a badly fitting dress simply because you didn't want to tell her it looks bad? Is that a lie? Or is it being merciful? Do we pray for our leaders and our people? Or do we let them wallow in their ignorance?



**Years ago I heard more than one minister use Matthew 10:16 to justify not always being fully honest with others.**

**bill.hawkins1@gmail.com**

# Connections runs classifieds

**C**ONNECTIONS runs classifieds: help wanted, for sale, pen pals, prayer requests and more. Send ads (including prayer requests and obituaries) to CONNECTIONS (see the address and more information in the box elsewhere in CONNECTIONS). You may also send prayer requests to Rosy Halley at 24 Jumilla Ln., Hot Springs Village, Ark. 71909, U.S.A., telephone

(501) 915-8843. Her E-mail addresses are prayerlines@sdco.org and prayerlines@earthlink.net. As space is available, requests to Mrs. Halley will also be printed in CONNECTIONS each issue.

When submitting prayer requests on behalf of others (whether you send them directly to CONNECTIONS or to Mrs. Halley), please do so with their permission.

## Judges in the Old Testament

I F R D K T X C E H I A F W K I K B R N  
 V T A Y H C Z G H O B J J Z Y M Y C O A  
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Abdon	Eli	Jepthah	Samuel
Abimelech	Elon	Othniel	Shagmar
Deborah	Gideon		Tola
Ehud	Ibzan	Samson	Yair

## Resources

Put excitement back into your Bible studies. (Free instructions on how to do a concordance Bible study with friendly, knowledgeable people.) Write to Paul Robinson, 10 Jackson St., Umatilla, OR 97882. Or E-mail wildriverflowers@yahoo.com.

Virtual Church, Ken Westby, every Sabbath, 11 a.m. Pacific, 1 p.m. Central, 2 p.m. Eastern, (916) 233-0562, www.godward.org.

Www.creators covenant.org., P.O. Box 1002, South Pasadena, CA 91030.

ICy, P.O. 208, Pocahontas, AR 72455.

Jan Aaron Young, jan\_aaron\_young@q.com; articles: http://23jan.spaces.live.com.

The Ezekiel Watchman, P.O. Box 8819, Modesto, CA 95357, ezekeielwatchman.org, (209) 772-0737 or (209) 524-1304.

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Henk Jens, P.O. Box 121, Belmore, N.S.W. 2192, Australia. www.rightly-dividing.net.

Radio4Living.com, whatnextmedia.com, whatnext@pobox.com.

Art Mocarow, P.O. Box 1197, Montgomery, TX 77356, art@mocarow.com, www.GodsPuzzleSolved.com.

Building Bridges Not Walls, www.ReconciliationGroup.org.

The Church of God is not prepared, www.ChildrenofGod.net, P.O. Box 30332, Little Rock, AR 72260.

Church of God Big Sandy, www.churchofgodbig sandy.com.

## Announcements

Is the creed of Jesus in Mark 12:29 (when he agreed with a Jew) a unitarian or binitarian or Trinitarian creed? The text reads in the Greek and the LXX "The Lord our God is one Lord." We are finding that question to be quite thought-provoking! Answers can be E-mailed to me at anthonybuzzard@mindspring.com.

## Personals

Widower, retired teacher, conservative, fit, longtime COG member, seeks single COG lady 50-62 for long-term relationship. Friendship first. Write Gordon Winkelman, 9571 E. 5th St., Tucson, AZ 85748. Pictures, please.

## Free/trade

Free: About 20 copies of the Ambassador College yearbook, *The Envoy*, from the 1970s through the 1990s. I'm giving them away, but you will need to pay postage. Mrs. Clyde Mottin, 514 Milan Ave., Ravenna, NE 68869. Phone (308) 452-3340.

## Pen pals

Sabbath-keeping Christian from India (68), would appreciate pen pals from all over the world. Hobbies: reading Christian books and literature. P.V. Henry, Pulickal House, Njaralloor Kara, Kizhakkambalam, Kerala-683 562 India.

## Obituaries

Melvin J. "Mel" Hershberger, 65, of Kent, Ohio, passed away Saturday May 26, 2012, at his home surrounded by his loved ones after a long struggle with pulmonary fibrosis. He was born Dec. 9, 1946, in Parkman to John and Sadie (Hershberger) Hershberger. He grew up Amish but left the order in 1967. (That same year he was baptized and began attending the Worldwide Church of God. He attended the United Church of God from 1995 to 1999, when he helped found the Akron Fellowship.) In 1970, while living in Alabama, he met his loving wife, Betty Lou, and they married Sept. 16, 1972. After the birth of their second son, Daryl, they returned to Ohio. Melvin dedicated his life to his Church and his beliefs. He worked



Mel Hershberger

hard as a carpenter until he retired in December 2011. He was kind and strong-willed. He is survived by his wife, Betty Lou Johnson Hershberger; sons Daniel Hershberger of Austin, Texas, and Robert Hershberger of Kent; daughter Cheryl Hershberger of Kent; three grandchildren; brothers Enos Hershberger of Garrettsville, Lester Hershberger of Lancaster, Mich.; and sisters Ellen Hershberger of Parkman and Barbara Yutzky of Parkman. He was preceded in death by his parents, John and Sadie Hershberger, son Daryl Hershberger and brothers Levi and John Hershberger.

April Cowan Hammer, 52, of Gladewater, Texas, died Aug. 1, 2012, after a lingering illness. She was born May 27, 1960, in Auburn, Calif. She was a property manager. April is survived by her husband, Kerry "Buck" Hammer of Gladewater; parents James and Tena Cowan of Big Sandy; brother Troy Cowan of Big Sandy; sister and brother-in-law Crystal and Bill Gable of Longview; brothers-in-law Scott Hammer and Eddie Shuttlesworth; sisters-in-law Toni Cox, Becky Simpson, Terrie Hammer, Barbara Husbands and Robin Shuttlesworth; and several nieces and nephews.



April Hammer

## Obituaries

Dr. David Priestley Wainwright of Vacaville, Calif., died peacefully in his sleep on Sept. 15, 2012, after a five-year trial with pulmonary fibrosis. He would have turned 77 later that month and would have celebrated in October the 49th anniversary of his marriage to his wife, Sarah. David was hired at the Ambassador College campus in Bricklet Wood, England, in 1959. He later served on the faculty there and pastored churches in the U.K. After the Bricklet Wood campus closed, he transferred to Ambassador College in Big Sandy in 1976. When the college there closed in 1977, he transferred to Pasadena, and then, when AC in Pasadena closed in 1990, he transferred back to Big Sandy. He then retired from active employment with Ambassador University in 1996. Cards may be sent to Sarah Wainwright, 236 Bartlett Ln., Vacaville, CA 95687, U.S.A. Born Sept. 24, 1935, in Macclesfield, Cheshire, David's formative years were spent in England. After completing military service in the Royal Signals, he attended Oxford University, graduating in 1959 with an honors degree in modern languages. In 1985 he received a Ph.D. in French from the University of Southern California. For 36 years, 1960-1996, David served in teaching, ministerial and administrative posts on Ambassador College/University's English and American campuses. It was on the English campus in 1963 that he met and married the love of his life, Sarah J. Hanson, a Texan and transfer student from the Pasadena campus. David not only enjoyed Americans, he became one himself in 1980, four years after emigrating to the United States with Sarah and their two children. Raising and nurturing a happy and integrated family was always a major goal and prayer. Close to that was his love of teaching and encouraging his students. When he retired from the Texas campus in 1996, he had chaired the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures for more than eight years, during which period he always found time to continue teaching several French classes. David will be lovingly remembered by his wife, Sarah; daughter Elizabeth; son Matthew; son-in-law Richard; daughter-in-law Deborah; grandchildren Andrew, Kaitlin and Taylor; and nieces, nephews and close friends.



David Wainwright

## Obituaries

Robert Ham Sr., 80, of Big Sandy, Texas, passed away Sept. 22, 2012, in a Longview hospital. Mr. Ham was born Oct. 19, 1931, in Pine View, Ga., to John Warren and Martha Edna Dennard Ham. He was a veteran of the Army, owner of Ham Insurance Agency, had lived in Dawson, Ga., for 45 years before moving to Big Sandy two years ago and was a member of the Intercontinental Church of God. He is survived by his wife, Charlotte, of Big Sandy; daughters and sons-in-law Connie and Larry Ellison of Big Sandy and Robin and Klaus Rothe of Bloomington, Ind.; sister Janie Lou McDuffey of Douglasville, Ga.; grandchildren Jessica Ellison and Matthew Ellison; and great-grandchildren Nathan Ellison, Isla Ellison and August Ellison. Mr. Ham was preceded in death by son Bobby Ham. Graveside services were in Pine View, Ga., with Grady Selph officiating.



Robert Ham

Michael Brady "Mike" Smith, 54, loving husband, son, father, grandfather and friend, of Mounds, Okla., died at his home on Oct. 5, 2012. He was born in Claremore, Okla., on July 10, 1958, to Stoke Smith Jr. and Lucille McElhaney Smith. Mike was a proud member of the Cherokee Nation. He worked as a cable-television line technician. On May 12, 1997, in Las Vegas, Nev., he married Derinda Hope. Mike was preceded in death by his father and a brother, Roger Allen Smith. He is survived by his wife; his mother, Lucille Smith of Tulsa, Okla.; a son, Kyle Perkins, and his wife, Kristin, of Broken Arrow, Okla.; daughters Bereana Dubois and Mariah Hope, both of Mounds; and four grandchildren, Kyle Nathan Perkins II, Colton Dean Perkins, Emma Louise Perkins and Leilani Rayne Dubois. The funeral was Oct. 10 at the Tulsa Church of God with Dale Murphy officiating. Pallbearers were Jax Britton, Cliff Hope, Kyle Perkins, Arthur Lala, Clifford McElhaney and Elvin Still. Condolences, photos and life stories may be posted at garykelleyfunerals.com. See also "Church of God Member Survives Chronic Cardiomyopathy With a Heart Transplant," THE JOURNAL, Oct. 31, 2003.



Mike Smith

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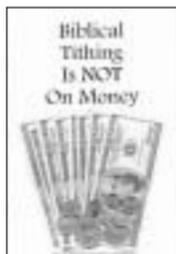
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## Why do you tithe on money?



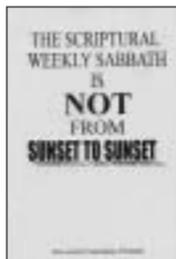
Few of us have taken a closer look at the Scriptures to see what it really says about tithing. Honestly, where does the Bible say, or even hint, that we are to tithe on the money we earn? What truly is Biblical "increase"? Few doctrines have been as badly misrepresented as the doctrine of tithing. If you now tithe on money, on your paycheck, then you owe it to yourself and your family to get the facts. Read this detailed

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# Now and New World Order

## Part 18

### Jim Marrs' Fourth Reich

He wrote that big US companies aided Hitler before war was declared and continued to profit in the war. After the war, over 200 Nazi corporations started worldwide and succeeded on the loot of Europe. Much of what the Nazis learned in war was used in business ventures. Marrs and others note the Nazi mentality was infused in the US this way and in spying, NASA, mind control and militarily with preemptive strikes. With patriotic fervor claimed for democracy, but really naked aggression, torture and regime change for imperialism. [Recent US news tells of US troops torturing, urinating on dead enemy bodies, burning Korans (by mistake?) and killing civilians on purpose.]

Marrs cited Charles Higham's *Trading with the Enemy* that said "Ford supplied tanks to Hitler, the Chase Bank financed the Nazis in Paris, ITT built rocket bombs for Goering and Standard Oil fueled U-boats . . . We have watched American pre-emptive war and genocide for decades . . . [US] has promoted slavery, genocide and murder throughout the world. Every American oil company in Darfur involved in stealing land from indigenous people, every auto company and armaments company who armed both sides of every war, is oppressing us as surely as they are the rest of the world. Every pharmaceutical company that uses South Africa and the gay community as its concentration camp for drug testing . . . USA was practicing sanctioned slavery while claiming to be a democracy for over 200 years."

"The suits occupying the White House are criminal corporate thugs who answer to no one. The mainstream media has protected the Bush crime family for over three decades, hiding the truth buried in the National Archives that shows Bush involvement in war from the Merchants of Death in WWI to today."

"We lost WWII. We lost it to Nazi corporations and individuals who were never prosecuted . . . Isn't that the root of most of the evil in the world today—the unprotected behavior of US criminal corporations, and the families like the Bushes who have been an integral part of every war?"

The US claims Iran is meddling in Iraq and Afghanistan, while the US invaded and occupies them "illegally, immorally and genocidally (shock and awe bombing in a country with no air force to defend itself)."

Those who opposed corporations trading with the enemy were accused in smear campaigns by the House American Activities Committee as Communist agents. Senator McCarthy was vilified for hunting Commies in the government, but was trying to root out the problem since the elite are Communists (as Jews took over Russia and China).

### Chema-Kill DVD

Shows videos of news, local and some national reports: The History Channel stated in one program "Chemtrails are deliberately sprayed by high flying US Air Force tankers dispersing chemicals into the atmosphere." The US military denies chemtrails but a news weather forecaster, a former military man, while on the air admitted they exist. Weather modification may be one use.

Contraails are exhaust of jets that dissipate within 30 seconds. Chemtrails can last many hours and may crisscross, even form a checkerboard effect of repeated flyovers at intervals.

Various areas reported yellow slime falling with eye infections and nose bleeds, especially in children. Or gelatinous goop causing flu-like symptoms lasting over 10 weeks, with some cats and dogs dead after six falls in several weeks.

Would the US government experiment on US citizens? These tests were found out eventually: Operation Big City—Chemicals were dispersed out a tailpipe of a car in NY City. The US Army busted light bulbs with bacteria inside in front of trains and in subways to test dispersal distances. Similar trials were conducted in 30 US cities. In 1977 Congress found out that 239 populated US areas were contaminated with biological agents 1949-69. Hundreds of thousands of US troops were guinea pigs in tests for 60 years. Not told about what was being tested or the risks; or told what agent but could not tell doctors later who treated the side effects.

Other nations are sprayed: A German news-cast told about some German chemtrails over Germans, not knowing what was dispersed. One news report in Britain admitted the British

government sprayed cadmium in Britain, and one reporter joked that at least they knew it was not al-Qaeda! [Their own government was the terrorist!]

### HAARP DVD (2011)

*Ultimate Weapon of the Globalists Exposed*—contains info on weather and mind control, plus: Some in the military who became extremely unsatisfied with the spraying allowed the scam to be exposed with actual photos of the spraying equipment and tanks for dispersal. Commercial airliners can be used with half an airliner's seats taken out and the back half fitted with chemtrail apparatus. Various orifices or spray nozzles can be seen on the outside of a craft. Bags of barium are shown stacked ready for use.

The chemtrails may be shut off and on at intervals as seen in the sky like dashed lines, while contraails would not be. Some are in crisscross or tic-tac-toe patterns. A clear sky can become hazy within an hour. The planes have no markings below. They can be seen parked at airports from satellite views. The chemicals sprayed end up in drinking water.

Former FBI Chief Ted Gunderson spoke out against the crap in the air (see online video and aircrap.org). Saying he knew the planes spraying chemtrails were coming from Air Force bases using bombers. Massive bird kills have been traced to chemtrails, and thousands of dead fish washed up on shores. [Affecting bee colonies, too.]

### John Daniel's Scarlet and the Beast

Jer 51:13 describes the location of end-time spiritual Babylon: "O you who dwell by many waters, abundant in treasures [tops in finance]." Great Britain is wealthy and surrounded by water.

"Freemasonry Has Named Queen Elizabeth Queen of Babylon"—Queen Elizabeth II is Patroness of English Freemasonry . . . Her consort, Prince Philip, is a [top] Mason . . . the Queen [met at] Bohemian Club . . . a West Coast center for the inner elite of Templar Scottish Rite Freemasonry in the U.S."

On 2-3-1983 the 3 TV networks aired 5 minutes of the club's gala in her honor breaking secrecy briefly. She sat on top of a pyramid. Two dancers wore huge hats on cables. One symbolized a walled city with pyramid or ziggurat in the middle, thus Babylon. Two doors kept flapping open and shut showing her successor, Prince Charles. The 2nd dancer's hat showed the City of London with Big Ben. "A voice bellowed *Oh Queen, you have traversed the ages from Babylon to London!* . . . Queen Elizabeth nodded in agreement."

Daniel claims: "The headquarters of Mystery Babylon cannot be Rome. It should be obvious that if Rome were obliterated by a nuclear bomb today, the world economic system would not suffer. Conversely, if London, the financial capital of the world, were likewise destroyed, the world economic system would suddenly halt."

Well-known 33° French Grand Lodge Mason Oswald Wirth confirms in his book *The Ideal Initiate* (1927) that the act of taking the Masonic oath is selling one's soul to the Devil: "It is a serious matter to ask for Initiation, for one has to sign a pact . . . [it] demands that the man's soul be truly committed in the act . . . and there is no escape from its clauses . . . paying with your very soul."

Rev 18:11, 13 confirm that Mystery Babylon buys the souls of men. This purchase is made by Satan through the initiate's own blood when he takes the Masonic oath."

"Volume III of *Scarlet and the Beast* is devoted entirely to tracing the Whore of Babylon's universal control of growing, manufacturing, distributing and financing illegal drugs for deceiving the world into accepting her New Age Antichrist. English Freemasonry's involvement with illicit drugs may be the strongest evidence that today London is home for Mystery Babylon." [The word *sorcery* of Rev 18:23 is *pharmakeia* or pharmacy, medication or drugs.]

"The religion of English Freemasonry is identical to that of Nimrod's Babylon, including the use of drugs, the practice of free sex and the performing of pagan ritual human sacrifice."

Mason's Solomon was not son of David but the combination of 3 god names Sol-Om-On from 3 religions' sun gods. Even Mackey claims Hiram was not really the Temple builder but was a Syrian god that the followers of God strove against, the pagan sun god.

### Solving the Mystery of Babylon the Great

By Edward Hendrie (2011): Martin Luther and others protested, becoming Protestants, and thought the Roman Catholic pope was the Antichrist, but failed to see Protestants as her daughters, not that much different. [Though Mystery Babylon is mother of most all religions, not just Catholics and its daughters.]

By usury, Jews took over governments. "This is what happened to Rome, which was economically and materially subjugated to the Jews, as were all the major cities of the nations of Europe." And took over the finances of the Vatican.

Rome has been known as the city with 7 hills or mountains before the book of Revelation was written. "Hislop quotes Aurelius Propertius who describes Rome as the lofty city on seven hills which governs the whole world . . . The Catholic Encyclopedia states that "it is within Rome, called the city of seven hills, that the entire Vatican State is now confined."

Jews in Ezekiel's day thought their evil worship was hidden from God (Eze 8:11-12). The leaders were practicing Satanism, the 70 were members of the Sanhedrin, plus one as high priest.

The Jews (such as Theudas) tried to insert their gnostic philosophy into the newly formed Christian church (Acts 5:36), to make salvation by works alone, as the Roman Catholic church later. The *Jewish Encyclopedia* states "heads of gnostic schools and founders of gnostic systems are designated as Jews by the Church Fathers. Some derive all heresies including those of gnosticism, from Judaism . . . Hebrew words and names of God provide the skeleton for several gnostic systems."

Emperor Constantine claimed to become Christian and organized the Council of Nicea based on the Roman Senate according to their ranks. He then declared two weeks off from legal processes for everyone to keep Easter for the old Queen of Heaven, now known as Mary (Jer 7:18).

Jews in nations lent money upon usury to gain advantage (John 2:13-16). Rep. Louis McFadden said in his 1934 radio address "for nigh sixty years, the Jews have surely and rapidly though almost invisibly climbed to the heights of government where from the masses are ruled. Politically, financially and economically they have seized the reigns of government of all nations and their invasion in the realm of social, educational and religious fields not less important."

As House of Representatives Banking and Currency Committee Chairman he knew the Federal Reserve Bank actually caused the Great Depression. He addressed the House in 1932 stating that Federal Reserve Banks are not US government institutions, but "private credit monopolies which prey upon the people of the U.S. for benefit of themselves and their foreign and domestic swindlers and rich and predatory money lenders." He claimed the revolution in Russia was financed by the Federal Reserve, and huge amounts of gold were sent to fund the Nazis [so the US funded those who shed innocent blood]. He tried to end the Federal Reserve monopoly and was finally assassinated.

[Senator George Malone spoke before Congress in 1957 alluding to the families that secretly own the Federal Reserve and control Congress: "I believe that if the people of this nation fully understood what Congress has done to them over the last 49 years, they would move on Washington; they would not wait for an election. . . . (Their plan is) to destroy the economic and social independence of the United States!"]

Talmud influence is noted when Alan Greenspan, an atheist Jew, took an oath of office swearing on the vile book of the Talmud, and was later appointed Chairman of the Federal Reserve.

Nesta Webster told in *Secret Societies and Subversive Movements* how the Jewish Cabala was inserted into the Roman Catholic church by Pope Sixtus IV (1471-84). He had writings of the Cabala translated into Latin for divinity students.

Jesus said to the Pharisees they did not believe Moses so they would not believe Him either (John 5:46-47). Since the Cabala rejects the Bible for oral tradition. Jews attract proselytes by the Old Testament but then substitute their oral law.

During the Middle Ages many Jews seemed to convert to Catholicism due to its Inquisition torture, becoming Conversos but kept Cabalistic ways at home. Other Jews called Marranos actually became clergy and taught the

Cabala as Catholic Catechism. So the Catholics became even more Cabalistic, subverted by Mystery Babylon bent on destroying true Christianity.

The Catholic order of the Jesuits was founded by Jews, though allows some Gentiles to appear universal, while destroying Christianity. Former Prime Minister of England Benjamin Disraeli was a Jew and admitted that Jews started the Jesuits. A crypto-Jew appears to embrace another religion while practicing the Cabala, as Ignatius Loyola who was an Illuminati member who founded the Jesuit Order (Society of Jesus). Seemingly for Catholicism but actually subverting it.

"Many of the Jesuit doctrines are similar to those found in the Cabala and Babylonian Talmud. It is possible that the second beast in the book of Revelation is the Jesuit General who is known as the black pope [for color of his robe]."

Pope Benedict XVI (Ratzinger) issued an official Catholic doctrine mirroring the Jewish view that the Messiah has not come, but will, thus not believing Jesus. "In ancient Palestine the Jews worked hand in hand with the Romans to crucify Christ. Now the Jews work hand in glove with the Roman Catholic church in their effort to eradicate Christ's gospel."

The Jesuits are the pope's militia. *The Extreme Oath of the Jesuits* is the oath a Jesuit priest takes. He graphically swears destruction to infidels, as to rip up pregnant women and crush infants' heads. The Black Pope can absolve any crime committed, as long as it is not widely known. Jesuits were given control of Catholic commerce and banking by Pope Gregory XII.

Three years after two popes tried to suppress the Jesuits, the Jesuit General Lorenzo Ricci had Weishaupt (a Jesuit) renew the Illuminati order in 1776 which linked with the powerful Rothschild bankers. "To avenge the papal suppression . . . and overturn the governments of the world, bringing them under a single world government, controlled by the Illuminati, under the authority of their god . . . The New World Order. The god of the Illuminati is Satan."

The Jesuits linked with Freemasons, and Napoleon was one, helping to punish Jesuit enemies. Until they became established again by Pope Pius XVII. The French Revolution was massacre of 300,000, culminating in capture of Pope Pius XVI by Napoleon's general.

Pope John Paul II was born of a Jewish mother. His chief confidant claimed he also was a Jew and was later made a cardinal despite this claim.

John Whitley wrote about Jewish control of the media. "Seven Jewish Americans run the vast majority of US television networks, the printed press, the Hollywood movie, book publishing and recording industries."

The Jewish Illuminati set up the CFR to control governments, as in the US. Admiral Chester Ward was a member 16 years then quit, saying he did not realize it will disarm and surrender the US for world government.

Crypto-Jews of Heinrich Himmler, Joseph Goebbels and Hitler (a Rothschild) were also Roman Catholic. "Himmler modeled the SS after the crypto-Jewish Jesuit order." They with Zionists got Jews to emigrate to Israel. Jewish scholar Israel Shahak found that the Israeli government bribed Iraq to strip Iraqi Jews of citizenship and confiscate their property to force them to flee. Israeli military intelligence of Mossad was established and trained by Nazi Reinhard Gehlen [aiding US spying, too].

Zionists in the US worked to emigrate Jews to Israel; 52 of 75 closest advisers to FDR were Jews and he was one, too. He was quoted in the *NY Times* in 1935 as having Jewish ancestry. As other Zionists, he denied fleeing Jews access to the US so they would go to Palestine.

How real were the found *Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, of plans of Jews to rule the world? All known copies were destroyed in Russia, and anyone having a copy was punished by death (since Jews instigated the Russian Revolution, part of world domination). Henry Ford agreed that the *Protocols* fit in with what was happening globally. They are also banned in Israel. [Ford's book was *The International Jew: The World's Problem* (1920).]

"Former Israeli government official Shulamit Aloni succinctly describes the epithet anti-Semite as a trick, we (Jews) always use. She explained that Jews hide behind it like a smokescreen, which is used to conceal evidence of Jewish malediction."

Smear the accuser to attack his motives. In an interview with Amy Goodman, she said "Well it's a trick, we always use it. When from Europe somebody is criticizing Israel, then we bring up the Holocaust. When in this country [US] people are criticizing Israel, then they are anti-Semitic."

Theodor Herzl (1860-1904) founded modern Zionism and wrote that Zionism offered the world a welcome final solution to the Jewish question. In his *Diaries* Herzl stated *Anti-Semites will become our surest friends, anti-*

Continued on next page

# Now and New World Order

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

*Semite countries our allies.*" He wrote this before any Germans took up *the final solution*. The term originated from Zionists Jews who wanted to portray Jewish extinction to make Jews flee to Palestine and begin the state of Israel.

Some Neo-Nazi hate groups are founded by Jews to support anti-Semitism. Frank Collin led the National Socialist Party of America marching in mostly Jewish Skokie, Illinois, to gain media attention. He was really the Jew Frank Cohen and formerly a member of another US Nazi group, with another Jewish leader, Leonard Holstein. If ousted, the leader is described by the Jewish-controlled media as self-hating.

Anti-Semitism is spread by Jews posing as al-Qaeda terrorists bent on Israel's destruction. If such a leader is found out to be Jewish, the Jewish media claims he converted to Islam.

"The Jewish religious hierarchy engenders fear among the common Jews." As in Jesus' day when they were afraid to talk about Him in public (John 7:13). Jews vary, from Karaites who adhere to the Old Testament and avoid the Talmud. To Reformed Jews who embrace both. To Orthodox and Hasidic Jews who follow the Talmud and not the OT, and persecute Karaites.

Of 556 conspirators to take over Russia, 457 were Jewish, including Lenin and Trotsky. It was not an insurrection by Russians, but a Jewish invasion setting up Communism, and planned to rule the world, as China's Communism. Christian churches were destroyed and mainstream Christians persecuted, tortured, even crucified. While Jewish synagogues flourished. Lenin is quoted as saying about himself "The clever Russian is almost always a Jew or has Jewish blood in him."

"Bourgeoisie was a Bolshevik code-word for Gentile." Karl Marx was a Jew and Satanist, a member of the League of the Just, an Illuminati branch. He wrote the *Communist Manifesto* in 1847 after being told to do so by the Illuminati. They knew Communism would work after Jesuits practiced it in Paraguay for 150 years enriching Jewish masters.

Most Jews embrace Judaism, Babylonian Talmudism—Mystery Babylon. Khazar Jews were not real Jews but pagan idol worshippers who feigned belief in Judaism when forced to, now called Yiddish or Talmudic Ashkenazi Jews (Rev 2:9; 3:9). They claim no allegiance to any nation and want to rule the world.

In an 1879 letter from Baruch Levy to Karl Marx: "The Jewish people as a whole will be its own messiah. It will attain world dominion by the dissolution of other races, by the abolition of frontiers, the annihilation of monarchy, and by the establishment of a world republic in which the Jews will everywhere exercise the privilege of citizenship. In this new world order the children of Israel will furnish all the leaders without encountering opposition. The governments of the different peoples forming the world republic will fall without difficulty into the hands of the Jews. It will then be possible for the Jewish rulers to abolish private property, and everywhere to make use of the resources of the state. Thus will the promise of the Talmud be fulfilled, in which is said that when the messianic time is come, the Jews will have all the property of the whole world in their hands."

The US Ashkenazi Jew Jack Bernstein moved to Israel after its founding in 1948 but returned in disgust. "He revealed the aboriginal Jews of Palestine, who are called Sephardic Jews, are discriminated against in modern Israel. They are second class citizens at the bottom strata of society in Israel, along with Christians and Muslims." He noted Israel is Communist in its core, witnessed in the kibbutzim of communal living. Israel has been cited as a conduit for nuclear weaponry from the US to China's Communism.

Benjamin Disraeli in 1852 told the English House of Commons of global control by Talmudic Jews: "The natural equality of men and the abrogation of property are proclaimed by the secret societies who form provisional governments and men of Jewish race are found at the head of every one of them."

Merovingian Jews are crypto-Jews believing they are descended from fallen angels, and the myth of descent from Jesus and Mary Magdalene.

Buddha began Buddhism in 523 BC, a few years after many Jews returned from Babylonian exile. The *Catholic Encyclopedia* claims Buddhism shares many similarities with the Catholics because they were the source, but the

opposite is true since Buddhism predates it. Jews infiltrated Catholicism and Buddhism so about one third of the Buddhist leaders in the West are Jews. And most of the street signs in Dharmasala (Buddha chief city) sport Hebrew letters.

Pharisees cursed Jews who listened to Jesus instead of respecting their law or oral tradition, the Talmud (John 7:49). They go to great lengths to get proselytes, children of hell (Mat 23:15, 23-33). A 'good' Orthodox Jew curses Christians 6 times a day, and 8 times on special days. They claim Gentiles (non-Jews) are evil animals and have no legal rights. Baruch Goldstein massacred 40 Palestinian men, women and children and wounded 125 others in 1994 and was killed by survivors. He got praises from rabbis referring to him as a martyr. The Talmud popular version has coded words to hide the meaning of the original text which shows hatred toward Christ, Christians and non-Jews.

Races are not referred to in the Bible. Darwin spread the idea some races are better than others, but the difference in people is trivial, only .012% of human variation, so all are basically the same. The US Supreme Court in the Saint Francis College case ruled "It has been found that differences between individuals of the same race are often greater than the differences between the 'average' individuals of different races. These observations and others have led some, but not all, scientists to conclude that racial classifications are for the most part sociopolitical, rather than biological in nature."

Former Talmudic Jew Benjamin Freedman stated "there have never been recorded more vicious and vile blasphemies of Jesus, of Christians and the Christian faith than you will find between the covers of the 64 books of the Talmud which forms the basis of Jewish religious law, as well as being the textbook used in the training of rabbis." Many gross examples he cites in detail.

The most popular version of new Bibles is the NIV, 45% of all sales. One of its editors was a lesbian, another favored sodomites. Rupert Murdoch is a pornographer who owns the NIV and much of the media, and Harper Collins which publishes the Satanic Bible. Murdoch is a Jew and a front man for powerful Zionists Jews.

The Talmud urges the New Testament be burned. *USA Today* reported 5-21-08 "Orthodox Jews set fire to hundreds of copies of the New Testament in the latest act of violence against Christian missionaries in the Holy Land." (This despite them aiding Israel.)

Catholic leaders and Jews wear skull caps, against the Bible, while praying or prophesying (preaching, 1 Cor 11:4). The skull cap idea was injected into their teaching by crypto-Jews. The tonsure or shaved head was for Babylonian pagan rites which became rites of Catholic monks and into Buddhism when Buddha shaved his head completely. Warned against in the Bible (Eze 44:20).

Jews almost completely control the porn industry to vent hatred against Christianity and obtain great profit. Many Rabbis practice sexual perversions that are stated in the Talmud which exonerates such activity. Similar to sexual abuse by Catholic priests, who claim to be celibate but practice illicit sex or other perversions. As Rome in 1490 had thousands of registered prostitutes to serve the clergy. Many popes were illegitimate sons of such affairs. Today, a known Catholic priest and pedophile just relocates to cover up the problem. The Roman Catholic religious order of the Christian Brothers of Ireland in Canada used orphanages to molest and torture children. A court finally dissolved the order, but its assets did not compensate victims, only the law firm.

On 3-16-62 the Vatican sent a secret gag order to excommunicate any priest speaking out against another for sexual abuse. In a 1990 speech Bishop A. James Quinn urged all unsigned letters of alleged misconduct be purged to show no such documentation of sexual abuse.

Rabbis claim they cannot do wrong, since popes claim infallibility. But some popes criticized other popes, as one criticized Joan of Arc, while another claimed her a saint.

"The Israeli government secretly funded and encouraged the growth and activities of the rabidly anti-Jewish terrorist organization Hamas. That thwarts efforts of Arabs to form a Palestinian state."

[Original sinning Jews were Sephardic, exiled in Babylon. Later, those who claimed to be Jews, who were not, took over.]

## America, The Babylon CD (2002)

By R.A. Coombes: Many wonder why the USA is not mentioned in the Bible. He heard a TV evangelist speak out against US sins as Mystery Babylon, rampant sexual behavior on TV, radio and movies. Cited the Statue of Liberty as idol harlot. He did see how she might depict the Rev 17 woman, but had thought Babylon was Rome and the Catholic church. "I went out of my way to try to bend the data to at least give a benefit of doubt in favor of America's innocence. It couldn't be done."

He cites 100 reasons the US is Babylon. [Though it is most likely the Beast controlled by "The City" of London as Mystery Babylon, yet both are much alike.] The strongest reasons are listed here renumbered:

#1—Since Jews were exiled in Babylon, it continued to be where most Jews lived, until 400 AD. Now, more Jews dwell in NY City than in the state of Israel. "One of the suburbs of NY City is named Babylon because so many Jews settled there that it reminded them of Jews exiled in ancient Babylon." [People of God would have avoided using the name!] Most Jews did not leave Babylon after the exile to go back to Jerusalem (only a remnant did). Rather like today's Jews in the US desire other Jews go to Israel, while they want to remain cozy in the US.

#2—Where world leaders meet (at the UN; Jer 51: 44; as nations to flow to the New Jerusalem in Isa 2:2). "Just a stone's throw from the U.N. building on Long Island [is] the city of Babylon! This author's research shows it is the only location on the face of the earth which uses that name, Babylon!"

#3—Jer. 50:23 hammer of the whole earth (51:20) describes the US as the world's lone super-power (Rev 13:4). "Militarily the U.S. is secretly more powerful than all the rest of the world put together and multiplied. There are secret military projects that are known as *black* projects so superior technologically that it makes what is publicly visible today look like *cave-man* technology . . . the U.S. has the technology to stop any war before it starts . . . [plus a] military program with UFO capabilities."

#4—Abundant in treasures and dwells upon many waters (Jer 51:13).

#5—Continues old Babylonian religion (Jer 50:2 Bel same as Baal [Baal's shaft or obelisk of NY City, and Washington Monument]). "The Roman Catholic church picked up much of it and modified it concerning Christmas and Easter and traditions copied from Babylon." [Celebrated with Christmas tree lighting and Easter egg hunt at White House.]

"Richard Hoagland has uncovered evidence that the entire NASA space program is connected to Masonic symbolism . . . links of these symbols back to Egyptian mysticism . . . and borrowed from Babylon, and most Founding Fathers were Masons and many presidents."

#6—Future Babylon seems to be connected to outer space (Jer 51:53; just as ancient Babylon with its Tower of Babel, and maybe more than just simply observing the stars. Nothing would be restrained from them (Gen 11:6, now with UFO capabilities).

#7—Babylon is sensual, materialistic, with luxurious lifestyles like US with highest living standard. US leads in exploitation of sex and pornography, that is expected of the Mother of Harlots and abominations (Rev 17:5).

#8—Noted for its graven images (Jer 50:38). American idols most everywhere, as at cemeteries, state and national statutory and buildings.

#9—Mystery Babylon and the US have many occult practices, from astrology to witchcraft and alliances to evil forces (Isa 47:9,12-13). Separation of church and state means any religion allowed.

#10—Key commercial nation (Isa 47:15; Rev 18:11-19), idolized by other nations.

#11—Future Babylon is a golden cup in God's hands, as He allows Satan to deceive (Jer 51:7; Rev 17: 4; 18:4 a prodigal life style emulated by all nations). Worship things, materialism.

#12—Jer 50:15 as she has done to others (regime change, economic coercion, naked aggression), so do to her. Movie, TV and rock stars urge in their media and own lives divorce, illicit sex and prodigal lifestyles (Jer 51:7 earth gets drunken mad on her elixir).

#13—"Isa 14:12 another reason for destruction . . . for weakening the nations . . . promoting a world government and a New World Order . . . where nations lose sovereignty." US leads, forming League of Nations, then UN and NWO.

#14—US has the largest statue resembling Mystery Babylon. The Statue of Liberty overlooks the UN where kings of the earth meet. Bartholdi was going to have the woman draped in a scarlet robe but it was too costly. His original design featured a golden cup and it was made, yet NY Port authorities wanted a light-house so it was changed to a torch. But the torch resembles ancient cups used for drinking with a stick. The original golden cup was sold to Czar Nicholas of Russia.

#15—The US dollar has been the international currency standard, and \$1 bills proclaim New World Order. Liberty's image or name is on most US coins. "Her original name was Ishtar, the goddess of harlots or also the mother of the harlots. Rome also minted coins with the image of the goddess . . . Ishtar never actually married . . . she was not a mother goddess to an infant son. Instead, she was a wanton woman who promoted not only heterosexual promiscuity but also homosexuality, as well as other perversions like incest and even bestiality." [Represents Semiramis who married her son.]

#16—Modern Babylon should have many pagan temples. US national buildings copied pagan temples [as Jefferson suggested the Roman Pantheon to all gods for the Capitol, and Capitol derives from the temple of Jupiter in Rome.]

#17—US conquered Iraq, old Babylon. (Babylon is not just one city as NY City, but includes other cities, too Jer 50:32; 51:43).

#18—US is the modern tribe of Manasseh, and king Manasseh caused Judah to err worse than the heathen, shedding innocent blood in Jerusalem from one end to the other (2 K 21:1-16, worshipping the host of heaven as US star symbols). Even setting up a kind of abomination of desolation in God's Temple. So he was taken captive, but repented and was returned (2 Chr 33:1-20; a prophecy of USA's fate.)

"The song *New York* was made popular by Frank Sinatra, glorifying it as the city at the top of the heap . . . What city/state/nation promotes and exports idolatry?" And made merchants wax rich through her delicacies (Rev 18:3)? [US is a hypocritical nation (Isa 10:6)—Bible in most every home and given free to other nations, but not really lived by it.]

Bible symbols for Babylon: eagle (Eze 17:3 USA); head of gold (Dan 2:32,37-38 English crown); lion (Dan 7:4 England, used much in heraldry).

"Critics charge this could not apply to USA: *And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.* America indeed has bloody hands from the Holocaust and the purges within Russia and China [by Ashkenazi Jews]. In fact, if these sources are correct, the secret or shadow government [The City of London as head] of the USA may be responsible for more innocent blood being shed than all the other evil Empires combined!" The City has ruled the US secretly. Jesus charged Pharisees [Sephardic Jews] in Mat 23:35 of shedding all the righteous blood. And many other millions in persecutions and the Inquisition later. Also, Lucifer is Babylon's king, Satan responsible for all slayings.

Writers compare USA with the Roman Empire: "Economically dominant, it enjoys military and cultural power unrivalled since the days of the Roman emperors."

"Isa 14:11 Patriotism . . . your pomp and your music sounds to me like God is not real happy with the National Anthem. [Mason-composed, from tune of pagan god song of drunkards, and touts US flag (for sun worship or Satan). *Pledge Allegiance to the Flag* actually urges Satan's flag worship.]

Appendix XV is about Project Blue Beam developed by NASA, consists of: earthquakes created to uncover artifacts; reinterpreted religious doctrines and prophecies; holographic and mind control technology to convey fake return of a savior speaking in each language as within their soul, targeted to each area combined with computer animation to display a scene in the sky. Antichrist will appear as a combination of saviors.

#19—US-Rothschild Great Seal. The magazine *Progress for All Jan.* 1991 had an interview about the Eye and pyramid on US \$1 bills: "The seal of the pyramid was created by the Rothschild family and brought to North America by Benjamin Franklin and Alexander Hamilton before 1776. The Rothschild family is the head of the organization in which I entered in Colorado. All the Occult Brotherhoods are part of it. It is a Lucifer Organization to install his reign in the whole world. The eye on the pyramid is the eye of Lucifer. Supposedly the Rothschilds have personal dealings with the Devil. I have personally been in his villa and have experienced it. And I know it is true." [So points to the US led by the Devil before its conception.]

—Mr. Jan Young

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# What Is a Husband?

By Art Mokarow

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To understand what is “a husband” is to understand God. Humans tend to think and comprehend in general ways. Your mind from birth has to grow from a state of consciousness responding to your five senses. Maturity is a process and not an instinctive act. Your genetic reality varies from individual to individual, no matter how close your family might be generationally. Even twins cannot be considered the same.



Art Mokarow

## Part of a Whole

Biblically, Christ is considered to be The Groom waiting for His Bride to become His Wife. John, The Baptist, knew his commission was to announce The Coming of The Bridegroom choosing His Bride (John 3:29).

John then speaks and tells you Christ, The Groom, must increase (grow) while John must decrease (to become less) (John 3:30). What does Jesus bring that was not known before? “For he whom God has sent speaks the words of God: for God gives not the Spirit by measure to him” (John 3:34).

Jesus was born to be a Son of Man commissioned by The Holy Spirit of God to be filled without measure as The Complete Word of God.

The English “word” in Greek is *rema*. It is not *logos* as “a Power of God.” II Timothy refers to The Holy Spirit of God as His “power,” “love” and “sound mind.”

*Rema* in Greek is personalizing The Words of God as His “very private and personal words” from The Mouth of God. Then John tells you why: “The Father loves the Son and has given all things to his hand” (John 3:35). Christ inherited Every Word of God.

The Words of God are “a treasure chest” completely filled with The Total Knowledge and Wisdom of God (Colossians 2:3). The Mind of God was given without limit with all The Thoughts and Eternal Wisdom of God. That is why Paul wrote to The Philippians, “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 2:5).

Christ “in total” was “the *logos*,” which included The Complete Knowledge and Wisdom of God.

If your Groom has The Mind of God, then both God and Christ think alike. Christ has The Mind of God, which defines what a husband is to be like when He takes His vows.

## The Husbandry of God

God is *The Alpha* and *The Omega*. Once again what was in the beginning is also at the end (Revelation 21:6). Everything that God was, is or will be comes from His “mind.”

Christ is a duplicate of The Father. The beginning of Creation reveals The Husbandry of God.

You must remember what God told Adam and Eve in the beginning: “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him: male and female created he them” (Genesis 1:27). Amazingly, from the start God reproduced Himself in Adam and Eve. They were equals. “What therefore God has joined together, let not man put asunder” (Matthew 19:6).

Just as it was from the very beginning, God married Adam and his bride (Genesis 1). Adam was a figure or type of Christ (Romans 5:14).

God continues with this newly married couple and presents how they should carry out their married life. God first blessed and married them. Then he

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told them both to have dominion (royalty—rulership) to rule the world and everything in it. They were to conquer, control and take care of the entire earth. They were to multiply everything on it.

Adam and Eve in the beginning were as a King and a Queen. They were the earth's rulers. This dominion, government, was to make the earth fruitful and profitable. This marriage, which was The

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

# God Is the First and Original Husband

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CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

First Command of God to them, was to grow the inheritance they received and multiply it. Adam was the husband and Eve his wife. Both held the same command to build everything on earth. This is what marriage is all about. His wife came from Adam and she should honor him as her husband. She came out of Adam's body and they were to be equals in mind and body as their talents would determine.

## God's Husbandry

God viewed all His "Creation" on The Seventh Day and it was seen as "very good" (Genesis 1:31). The Creation of God and His "works" were "very good" so that day everything was considered "Holy." God "rested."

In Hebrew, the word "husbandry" refers to a farmer or "rancher." He provides food to exist so all life can continue to sustain itself.

God is the first and original husband. Your Father from "the beginning," *The Alpha* to "the end," *The Omega*, was married to His "dwelling place and land": "And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband" (Revelation 21:2). It is the property which God marries.

There are two husbands. One is Christ with His Bride—The True Christians who are alive and in "a twinkling of an eye" become "spirit."

The second is The Guests, the unconverted and the incorrigible ones who will have their turn at repentance. They will have their chance to be The Children of The Groom and The Bride as Sons of God—never to be The Bride of Christ. The First Group is those who were dead, but are worthy to be raised from the dead.

They will meet Christ in the clouds and will become The Bride of Christ. Those who have died—"In Christ"—will arise from The Dead when they hear Christ saying, "Your Groom is coming—arise."

This is The First Resurrection, which reveals The Bride of Christ. The Second Resurrection will not occur until after The Millennium. All of the remaining individuals can become Sons of God only.

God is married to everything—His property, the universe, the earth, the birds, fish, insects, animals, plants and every human ever born. God specifies Jerusalem as a special place because Jerusalem was where The Garden of Eden was. It started in The Garden of Eden (in the beginning) and Jerusalem (at the end). "The end" is "the beginning."

Paul extended what *The Bride* would do as The Wife of God, "but Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us [you] all" (Galatians 4:26).

This New Jerusalem which God built in heaven replaces the old divorced adulterous wife who died (Revelation 21:1). The Old Jerusalem passes away—to be resurrected—and later God will be ready to make all things new (Revelation 21:3-5). With New Jerusalem as The Wife of God, she is ready to be The Mother of All. God is ready as her Husband to produce Sons of God just like Christ (Revelation 21:6-7).

## What is a husband?

A wise husband builds a house for His Bride. When the home is completed, they marry and have children to help build the husband's estate. They become fruitful and continue to prosper Eternally in The Garden of Eden. All in The Estate and Mansion of God is a pleasant land of eternal peace in Paradise. God, as The Husband, and His "ever-growing family" inherit all of The Blessings of God with Christ and their Wives who are The Temple (Revelation 21:22).

Perhaps you do not understand all the ramifications God and Christ have planned for you—but, my friend, do not turn your back on God. If you do, you will cry many tears.

**There are two husbands. One is Christ. The other is the unconverted, who will have their turn at repentance.**

# Where Is the... True Church today?



Jesus Christ said, "I will build My Church." He did not say "Churches," denominations, "sects." He said the gates of hell would not prevail against that Church. Somewhere that original true Church exists today. But WHERE? WHICH? . . ." (*WHERE Is the True Church* booklet, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong).

## The Master Plan of God

**“ . . . [They] NEVER give thought to the PLAN of God (Master Plan), and take no note of what He is designing” (Isaiah 5:12, NJPS).**

Dear Brethren,  
The aura of the Fall Holy Day Season is here. An anticipated eight-day period of great rejoicing and excitement by the many thousands of families soon to be traveling to their favorite Feast sites; members looking forward to fellowshiping with friends, dining in the best restaurants, buying gifts for one another, attending social activities, all jam-packed together during those eight days.

**Serious Questions:** Is this all there is to attending what should be—“*God’s Feast of Tabernacles?*” Is there nothing more? Is there priority room over and above all the other events for real given thought to the “*Master Plan of God*” that is made known by the Gospel message that Jesus Christ, God’s Messenger, brought to mankind?

**Further**—is there ever any heartfelt thanksgiving thought given to God with joyous anticipation for what *He is designing* for His true people—the forethought and planning of His soon-coming new world that will have been created for His faithful and enduring expanded family in which all will live joyously happy forever and ever?

**A Preview of the “New Heavens and the New Earth”**—“Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth . . . then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven, saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God” (Revelation 21:1-3).

**The Advance Good News**—Jesus Christ revealed through the writings of His Prophets and His Apostles the advance Good News of what His Master Plan pictures through the understanding of what each of the Fall Holy Days pictures:

“ . . . And the Lord God of the Holy Prophets sent His angel to show His servants the things which MUST SHORTLY take place. Behold! I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who KEEPS (in his understanding) the words of the prophecy of this book” (Revelation 22:6-7).

Those anticipated events for enjoying the Feast by ministers and members alike are not wrong in themselves as long as there is first a seeking of God’s soon-coming Kingdom in which will dwell love and righteousness (Matthew 6:13; Psalm 16:11; Zechariah 8:8).

However, first and foremost one should be attending the Feast with the realization that—if it is a Feast Site God has chosen, and headed by His true and faithful ministers giving messages focusing on the soon-coming millennial world that will be ruled by Jesus Christ—there is the awesome and joyous blessing of knowing one is appearing before the invisible and awesome presence of God our Father and Jesus Christ.

Do we love God our Father and Jesus Christ with all of our very hearts (Matthew 22:37)? If

so, we will be going there to worship Them for all of the right reasons, and happily conversing with one another about the messages in between services. This is very meaningful to God and Jesus Christ as the following Scriptures make known:

“Then those who FEARED the LORD spoke to one another (the Elect people of God), and the LORD listened and heard them (speaking to one another about God, reassuring one another with words of faith and trust in God and His purpose, His Master Plan and Design for His people); so a book of remembrance was written before Him for those who FEAR (reverent fear) the LORD and who MEDITATE on His Name (His perfect character, goodness of love, His faithfulness). “They shall be Mine,” says the LORD of hosts, “on the day that I make them My jewels (special possession, His Bride). And I will spare them as a man spares his own son who serves him (from the soon-coming horrors).” Then you shall again DISCERN between the RIGHTEOUS one who SERVES God (dutiful toward Him and His Work, Revelation 3:7-13) and one who does NOT serve Him” (Malachi 3:16-18).

There should be an inward excitement together with humility due to the assurance from Jesus Christ based on His promises of knowing what the world does not know that in spite of all the terrible things that are now being witnessed on the national and international scene there is a wonderful future just ahead for the true and faithful people of God.

**The Destructive End of the Nations of Israel**—There are many prominent and astute men who continue to voice and write of the rapid destruction of the House of Joseph, but due to the lack of caring and responsible leadership they are helpless to turn off the valve of the massive flooding of abominable sins that are spewing forth from a society that has lost their moral bearings.

It is a society thumbing their nose and flaunting themselves before Their Creator God (Ezekiel 8:17-18); and even though it is witnessing and experiencing the resulting curse from God by the fury of nature, they are living in a dream world, unseeing, and, in reality, uncaring!

A society being misled by their leaders (Isaiah 3:11-12; 1:4-7); leaders who refuse to deal with the major problems that are tearing the House of Joseph apart due to the reign of political correctness and fear of losing face and office!

**In view of this convulsing, dying age**—it is all the more needful and important to make sure you will be attending a Feast site where God has placed His Name (Deuteronomy 16:16). Are the ministers at the site where you are going truly of God? Though you may have known them for years in WWCG, have you TESTED them by their fruits—by what they now believe and teach (Matthew 7:15-20)? What kind of sermons will they be giving during the Feast?

**The astute and discerning member**—can come to know who are God’s true and faithful ministers by their fruits, as opposed to those

who are not, by whether they are clinging to and teaching ALL of the doctrinal teachings of Jesus Christ that He used His late apostle, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong to restore within the true Church of God without any changes—along with the Makeup Ruling.

Notice once again the indictment of God against His people who have gone off-track from His true teachings and as the result will suffer horribly in a very short time to come:

“Assuredly, My people will suffer exile (captivity) for NOT giving heed (to God’s plan and what He is designing), its multitudes (will be) victims of hunger and its masses parched with thirst (famine)” (Isaiah 5:13).

### God’s Counsel to His people

Thus says the LORD: “Stand in the ways and see, and ASK for the old paths, where the Good Way is, and WALK in it . . .” (Jeremiah 6:16).

What are the old paths? The Apostle Jude makes this clearly known: “The faith (true teachings), which was once for all delivered to His saints” (Jude 3). The very same true teachings delivered by Jesus Christ through His early apostles, and restored in the Church of God through His promised Elijah of the end-time (Malachi 4:5; Matthew 17:10-11). If these are being clung to—then blessings follow:

“THEN you will find REST for your souls. But they said, ‘We will NOT walk in it’” (Jeremiah 6:16). Their minds are stubbornly resistant against God’s true teachings: “. . . I gave her (the recalcitrant ministers and members—His Church) time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she would not to repent!” (Revelation 2:20-21).

A respite to see and repent of her spiritual sexual immorality—and return to the “Faith that once for all delivered and entrusted to His saints,” while repenting of the erroneous pagan teachings by which His Churches have gone off-track with apostate ministers who have been seduced into accepting part or in whole the pagan teachings of Jezebel, spiritually representing the Catholic and Protestant Churches, and teaching them to their membership.

**The Watchman of God**—“Also, I set WATCHMEN over you, saying, ‘Listen to the sound of the trumpet!’” (Jeremiah 6:17; Ezekiel 33:7-9). Jesus Christ used His Watchman of the end-time, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, to sound the Trumpet of Warning for over 50 years during his lifetime!

And, though deceased, the very same Watchman is continuing to be used by Jesus Christ to sound the Trumpet Warning via of the very Recorded Works that Jesus Christ inspired and led him to speak and write during his life-time years are on our websites; the Watchman hard-

ly anyone pays any attention to anymore.

“But they said, ‘We will NOT listen.’ Therefore HEAR, you nations (of Israel), and KNOW, O Congregations (Churches of God), what is (occurring) among them. Hear, O earth! Behold I will certainly bring CALAMITY on this people (Famine, Disease Epidemics, Great Tribulation, martyrdom)—the fruit of their thoughts, because they have NOT heeded My words NOR My law, but REJECTED it” (Jeremiah 6:16-17).

As the result, God’s wrath will soon be experienced: “For the great day of Their WRATH has come, and who is able to stand?” Revelation 6:17; Matthew 24:21; Revelation 12:12.

**Preparation**—are your ministers preparing you for the extremely difficult and trying times just ahead of us? Will you be given messages of hope and faith based on the Holy Scriptures for a wonderful millennial future; that is now so very close that it could be compared to the sunrise at the break of dawn—a new age that is only promised to His faithful and enduring true flock?

It is sad to realize that virtually all of the corporate Churches of God are off-track! As the result they give no real God-inspired thought to the wonderful future that is prepared by God as made known by His Holy Days:

“ . . . [They] NEVER give thought to the PLAN of God (Master Plan, owing to their objective of fame and gain), and take no note of what He is designing. Assuredly, My people will suffer exile (captivity) for NOT giving heed, its multitudes victims of hunger and its masses parched with thirst (famine)” (Isaiah 5:12-13, NJPS).

**An Awaiting Awesome and Wonderful Future**—“Say to the righteous, that it shall be well with them, for they shall eat the fruit of their doings” (Isaiah 3:10).

Please—ask yourself the serious and needful questions where you should be while praying for Jesus Christ to guide your mind by His Holy Spirit to the correct answers. To fulfill that need, He has already provided each of us with His Holy Scriptures along with the Book your leaders do not want you to read, *The Mystery of the Ages!* They fear the reading of that book by the membership!

Soon it will be too late to be PROTECTED from the soon-coming prophesied horrors, for the door to safety will be shut except for the true and faithful people of God (Matthew 25:10-13; Revelation 3:7-13). However, as always, the decision is yours to make; no one else can do it for you or me (I Corinthians 11:31; Deuteronomy 30:15-19). I do pray for you.

Your caring and entreating friend and servant in Christ Jesus our Lord and Savior,

—Don Billingsley

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# The Ezekiel WATCHMAN

## God's *Warning* Message

**“. . . The end has come it has DAWNED for you; Behold it has come! . . . a day of trouble is near; . . . Now upon you, I will soon pour out My fury . . . So you, son of man: I have made you A WATCHMAN for the house of Israel; therefore you shall hear a word from My mouth and WARN them for Me” (Ezekiel 7:6-8; 33:7).**

**“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet **BEFORE** the coming of the great and dreadful Day of the LORD” (Malachi 4:5).**

By Alton B. (Don) Billingsley,  
Church of God, Faithful Flock

### **The Promised Curse from God now Befalling His People Israel for Their Abominable Sins!**

**M**any end-time prophecies speak of the terrible times we are now entering. Though there have been similar problems during the past few years, they were only a prelude to what we are now seeing—the ending of this present age now coming into sight! And, because of the pervasive and accelerating evils of Judah and Israel now being witnessed, God speaks of terrible and tragic times to befall them—

“The iniquity of the House of Judah and Israel is very great; the land is full of crime and the city (Jerusalem, London, Washington, D.C.) is full of corruption. And as for Me also, My eye will neither spare, nor will I have pity, but I will recompense their deeds on their own head” (Ezekiel 9:9-10).

The following news articles clearly make known the promised curse from God is coming down with much greater intensity upon this country and very probably now leading this country into the prophesied *severe famine*:

#### **Drought Crop Damage Worsens, Ethanol Waiver Urged**

By Charles Abbott

WASHINGTON | Fri Aug 10, 2012 7:32pm EDT (Reuters)—The worst drought in more than 50 years has caused more damage than expected to corn and soybean crops, the government said on Friday, heightening calls for a suspension of ethanol quotas to head off another global food crisis.

#### **The Mississippi River Is Drying Up As Food Prices Continue to Surge**

ETF Daily News (Internet)

August 15, 2012—Michael Snyder:

The worst drought in more than 50 years is having a devastating impact on the Mississippi River. The Mississippi has become very thin and very narrow, and if it keeps on dropping there is a very real possibility that all river traffic could get shut down. And considering the fact that approximately 60 percent of our grain (NYSEARCA:JG), 22 percent of our oil (NYSEARCA:USO) and natural gas (NYSEARCA:UNG), and one-fifth of our coal travel down the Mississippi River, that would be absolutely crippling for our economy. It has been estimated that if all Mississippi River traffic was stopped it would cost the U.S. economy 300 million dollars a day. So far most of the media coverage of this historic drought has focused on the impact that it is having on farmers and ranchers, but the health of the Mississippi River is also absolutely crucial to the economic success of this nation, and right now the Mississippi is in incredibly bad shape. In some areas the river is already 20 feet below normal and the water is expected to continue to drop. If we have another 12 months of weather ahead of us similar to what we have seen over the last 12 months, then the mighty Mississippi is going to be a complete and total disaster zone by this time next year.

Most Americans simply do not understand how vitally important the Mississippi River is to all of us. If the Mississippi River continues drying up to the point where commercial travel is no longer possible, it would be an absolutely devastating blow to the U.S. economy.

Unfortunately, vast stretches of the Mississippi are already dangerously low. The following is an excerpt from a transcript of a CNN report that aired on August 14 . . .

You might think this is some kind of desert just outside of Memphis. It's not. I'm actually standing on the exposed bottom of the Mississippi River. That's how dramatic the drought impact is being felt here. Hard to believe, a year ago we were talking about record flooding. Now, they are worried about a new kind of record: a record low. The river was three miles wide here, it's now down to three tenths of a mile. And that's causing all kinds of problems . . .

A lot of stuff we use goes up and down the Mississippi River. We are talking steel, coal, ore, grain. The problem is now a lot of those barges have had to lighten their loads, and even doing that, they are still running aground. There is a real fear that there could be a possibility of closing the Mississippi River. If that happens, well, all that product that used to be carried cheaply by barge is now going to be carried more expensively by truck or train. And guess who is going to pay for all of that.

And considering the fact that we are already facing a potential food crisis due to the drought, the last thing we need for the Mississippi River to dry up. So is there any hope on the horizon for the Mississippi? Unfortunately, things do not look promising. The U.S. economy is already in bad enough shape. We don't need any more major problems on top of what we are already dealing with.”

Though the recent hurricane Isaac flooded the Mississippi River in part, it will not be lasting. Aside from the drought, the curse continues to fall upon this once great country in virtually every other way as can be seen by the following article:

[www.trendsresearch.com/gerald](http://www.trendsresearch.com/gerald)—Gerald Celente has accurately forecast hundreds of social, business, consumer, environmental, economic, political, entertainment and technology trends.

ETF Daily News (Internet), August 16, 2012—Gerald Celente: My Bones Tell Me This Thing Is

Coming Down Fast (GLD, SLV)—“The world is headed for the Great Depression, Greatest Depression.” Trends Research Institute Founder Gerald Celente tells *Lew Rockwell* Tuesday. “This will be much worse than the 1930s Depression. We're in the global age, and it's spreading globally.”

Celente goes on to explain that, depending upon the estimates one uses, the Fed has injected between \$18 trillion and \$25 trillion to prop up the “too big to fails” and the “corrupt banking system.”

And the result? Nothing but poor unemployment numbers, according to him, including 750,000 more jobs lost since March to offset any alleged gains in employment reported by the U.S. Department of Labor so far this year.

After all those trillions of dollars thrown into the system, there is no recovery. “America is turning into a plantation economy,” says Celente.

Just as the Great Depression of the 1930s ushered in high crime rates, alcoholism and suicides, today's start of the “Greater Depression,” according to Celente, already reveals a nation repeating the social ills of a past economic nightmare.

“Look at the crime rates. Look at the insanity that is happening,” says Celente. “Every day you pick up the newspaper. You listen to the television,” Celente continues. “Whether it's the *Batman* psycho, the Sikh crazy guy, or some guy walking into a hospital room and blowing his wife to pieces, or killing a mother-in-law and two kids, every day is another chapter in cold blood. Society is unraveling around us.”

And the craziness isn't just a U.S. phenomenon; it's global . . . “Are we going into war? Is history repeating itself?” Celente asks rhetorically. “Play back the tape. The Crash of '29—Great Depression—currency wars—trade wars—world war. The Panic of '08—Great Recession—currency wars are happening.”

“The rial is sinking; the rupee is in the toilet; the euro's going down. There are bank runs now in Slovenia. In Hungary, the sys-

tem has collapsed . . . They just had another recall election in Romania” . . .

So “is the world at war? Yes, it is,” says Celente. “World War III is on the horizon. Actually, it's at the cusp.” He adds, “And I believe we're facing another 9-11 moment of some sort. Whether it's false-flag [or] real. Whether it's economic or geopolitical, something in my bones is telling me that you better be prepared now, because this thing is coming down fast.”

**Indeed—the whole house of Israel is coming down fast!** And the whole of society, including many thousands of church members, are going to be caught asleep and entrapped, *with no escape*—“**Horror comes, and they shall seek safety, but there shall be none. Calamity shall follow calamity . . . The king shall mourn, the prince shall clothe himself with desolation, and the hands of the people shall tremble. I will treat them in accordance with their own ways and judge them according to their deserts. And they shall (come to) know that I am the LORD” (Ezekiel 7:25-27, NJPS Translation).**

Safety from these horrors is promised only to the true and faithful remnant of the Philadelphia Church of God Era:

**“I know your works. See I have set before you an Open Door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have KEPT My Word and NOT denied MY Name . . . Because you have KEPT My command to persevere, I also will KEEP YOU from the Hour of Trial (Great Tribulation) which shall come upon the whole world, to TEST those who dwell on the earth. Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that NO ONE may take your crown . . . He who has an ear to hear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the Churches” (Revelation 3:8, 10-11, 13).**

To have God's good blessings, Scripture teaches: “**Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith**”—*test yourselves! (II Corinthians 13:5)*. How? By your relationship with God and whether you are still faithfully keeping God's word, His true teachings as restored by Jesus Christ within His Church by His true and faithful Apostle, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong (*Malachi 4:5; Matthew 17:10-11*).

Do you have an ear to hear what Christ said to His Philadelphia Church Era? Time will tell, and soon.

#### **The MYSTERY OF THE AGES**

Jesus Christ led His apostle and the promised Elijah—His teacher—to write the last book of his life, **THE MYSTERY OF THE AGES**, to be A REMINDER of all of the doctrinal teachings Christ RESTORED within His Church through him. By the use of this original *unedited* book with the Holy Bible, His people should be enabled to recognize the strong deception that is now on His Church by Satan the devil and keep themselves from it.

#### **The Philadelphia Remnant**

To be kept informed from a Biblical perspective the meaning of the continued *record breaking disasters* in the nations of Israel and other major problems that are now coming closer together, we offer freely a subscription to our magazine. It can also be read on our website ([www.cog-ff.com](http://www.cog-ff.com)).

#### **The Three Elijahs**

The book of *The Three Elijahs* can now be read on our website ([www.cog-ff.com](http://www.cog-ff.com)) or downloaded from it. **This book makes known how these THREE MEN were used by God to perform basically the same responsibilities and for the same reasons.**

God had ample reason for these three men to have the same name as Elijah. And though John and Mr. Armstrong had their own names, they were “. . . to go forth before Him (Jesus Christ) in the spirit and power of Elijah” (Luke 1:16-17). The identity of the end-time Elijah is established with Biblical proof and by his fruits.

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## JUSTIFICATION FOR THE THREE CALENDAR RESTRICTIONS OF JUDAISM

This article is based on Section 3.8 of paper P4, *On Sivan 7 Pentecost Was Fully Come!*, which essays that Pentecost falls always on the seventh day of the third month (Sivan 7) and is available at my Internet home page ([www.rightly-dividing.net](http://www.rightly-dividing.net)). Readers may find it helpful to first read there article A5, *Will You Wait Till Pentecost Is Fully Come?*, which was published on page 18 of Issue 147 (January 31, 2012) of *The Journal, News of the Churches of God*.

The Jewish calendar has three restrictions which have the effect of preventing the biblical new-year day (Abib 1) falling on even-numbered weekdays (Monday, Wednesday and Friday). Therefore the Abib-1 biblical new-year day can only fall on odd-numbered week days (Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday). This is shown in column (1) of the table below. Note that in this table all entries for the three disallowed years are recorded in struck-through font mode in rows (2), (4) and (6).

The first two of these restrictions are for Abib-1-Monday years—row (2)—and Abib-1-Wednesday years—row (4). These two restrictions prevent Atonement (Tisri 10) falling on a Friday—see the intersection of row (2) and column (8) and falling on a Sunday—see the intersection of row (4) and column (8). These two restrictions prevent a juxtaposition of the Tisri-10 fast with a weekly Sabbath. Such a juxtaposition of either a Friday-fast or a Sunday-fast with a weekly Sabbath is likely to cause distress to the young, the sick, the elderly and their carers should they need to prepare food for the infirm on the fast day. Therefore the first two restrictions seem reasonable despite there being no biblical justification for them but were probably revealed by God through Moses to the Levitical calendar stewards.

The third restriction for Abib-1-Friday years is usually justified as preventing a similar juxtaposition of the Tisri-15 and Tisri-22 holy days with a weekly

Sabbath—see intersection of row (6) with columns (9) and (10). However, that seems an unlikely justification because first it is not a juxtaposition with a fast day and there are precedents for holy day juxtapositions with a weekly Sabbath for permitted years. The first of these being the Sunday Abib-15 holy day for Abib-1-Sunday years—see intersection of row (1) and column (3) and the second being the Friday Abib-21 holy day for Abib-1-Saturday years—see intersection of row (7) and column (5).

The real explanation for the Abib-1 Friday calendar year restriction appears to have been forgotten by Judaism. Paper P4, *On Sivan 7 Pentecost Was Fully Come!*, shows that the Abib-1-Friday year restriction prevents the Abib-16 Wave Sheaf Offer day falling on a weekly Sabbath, which would be the case without this restriction—see the table following where row (6) intersects column (4).

If the Abib-16 Wave Sheaf Offer day were permitted to fall on a weekly Sabbath, then this would mean, that not only the Wave Sheaf would be gathered on a weekly Sabbath but also that enough fresh corn would have to be harvested to feed all people of Israel fresh corn on that Wave Sheaf Offer weekly Sabbath. Since Israel was not permitted to gather manna on the weekly Sabbath (Exod 16:23-30), it is inconceivable they would be required to harvest fresh corn on a weekly Sabbath and therefore this Abib-1-Friday year restriction is a clearly justified calendar restriction.

### Day of Week for Three Special Days and Seven Holy Days for Allowed and Disallowed Jewish Calendar Years

	Start of Year	Passover	1FUB	WSO	7FUB	Pentecost	Trumpets	Atonement	1TAB	LGD
	Abib 1	Abib 14	Abib 15	Abib 16	Abib 21	Sivan 7	Tisri 1	Tisri 10	Tisri 15	Tisri 22
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
(1)	SUN	SAT	SUN	MON	SAT	TUE	TUE	THU	TUE	TUE
(2)	<del>MON</del>	SUN	<del>MON</del>	TUE	SUN	<del>WED</del>	<del>WED</del>	<del>FRI</del>	<del>WED</del>	<del>WED</del>
(3)	TUE	MON	TUE	WED	MON	THU	THU	SAT	THU	THU
(4)	<del>WED</del>	TUE	<del>WED</del>	THU	TUE	FRI	FRI	SUN	FRI	FRI
(5)	THU	WED	THU	FRI	WED	SAT	SAT	MON	SAT	SAT
(6)	FRI	THU	FRI	SAT	THU	SUN	SUN	TUE	SUN	SUN
(7)	SAT	FRI	SAT	SUN	FRI	MON	MON	WED	MON	MON

#### Legend:

- The table's row and column numbers are identified by (1), (2), (3), . . . etc,
- Struck-through rows (2), (4) and (6) denote disallowed years,
- Shaded cells mark justification for the disallowed years,
- For convenience secular day names have been used in the table but it should be remembered these coincide only notionally with biblical week days as follows:—
  - SUN = 1st day of the week—Saturday sunset to Sunday sunset,
  - MON = 2nd day of the week—Sunday sunset to Monday sunset,
  - TUE = 3rd day of the week—Monday sunset to Tuesday sunset,
  - WED = 4th day of the week—Tuesday sunset to Wednesday sunset,
  - THU = 5th day of the week—Wednesday sunset to Thursday sunset,
  - FRI = 6th day of the week—Thursday sunset to Friday sunset,
  - SAT = 7th day of the week—Friday sunset to Saturday sunset.

- Abib is the 1st month of the sacred year (Exodus 12:2 with 13:4) and is also known as Nisan (Neh 2:1, Est 3:7),
- Tisri is the 7th month of the sacred year and is also known as Ethanim (1 Kings 8:2),
- 1FUB = 1st day of Feast of Unleavened Bread (Abib-15 holy day),
- WSO = Wave Sheaf Offer day (Abib 16),
- 7FUB = 7th day of Feast of Unleavened Bread (Abib-21 holy day),
- Passover with all its rites and rituals is to be observed wholly on Abib 14 (Numbers 9:1-3): none of it belongs to Abib 15!—See paper P7, *Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread*, at my home page, for a detailed explanation.
- 1TAB = 1st day of Feast of Tabernacles (Tisri-15 holy day),
- LGD = Last Great Day (Tisri-22 holy day).

It has been shown that the three calendar restrictions are necessary and therefore let us not wrest from the Jews (Levites) their God-given calendar stewardship and cancel these calendar restrictions as some in the churches of God are urging. My paper P6, *Noah's 365 Days in the Ark*, shows that today's Jewish calendar is compatible with the biblical dates given for the Noachian Flood (Exodus chapters 7 and 8) and therefore there can be no justification for anyone to invent their own "sacred" calendar because the Bible, despite claims to the contrary, does not contain the necessary information: besides very few in the churches of God have the ability to verify the correctness of any privately designed "sacred" calendar.

Free copies of the papers mentioned above are available at my Internet home page [www.rightly-dividing.net](http://www.rightly-dividing.net) or by writing to Henk Jens, P.O. Box 121, Belmore, NSW, 2192, Australia.

# The Unpardonable Sin and Eternal Judgment

Happy Sabbath! • July 28, 2012

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## Our Peace We Give to You

Dear Brethren,

**W**e hope things are well with you and that the knowledge and grace of God are abounding in your lives. Today I want to focus on a question. Can a human being be subject to eternal judgment (the second death) based on the premise that they had the spirit in man as a guide for them to know the difference between right and wrong?

What, if anything, does the Bible have to say about it? Is there a very clear pattern of instruction given to us in Scripture to answer this question? Is the plan of salvation interwoven with the answer?

Eternal judgment is one of the seven elementary or basic doctrines of Christ found in Hebrews 6:1-2. The context of the preceding verses tells us that they are some of the very first doctrines we are to understand after our calling. They in fact are the substance of the milk of the word, which is consumed by a babe in Christ. They are threshold understandings that we are to internalize through the instructions we receive as infants (when we are being bottle-fed, one might say) by another who is mature in the faith, one who is a teacher.

One who is at the infant level of understanding is incapable of teaching others, in fact, and is described in one of the seven elementary doctrines in Hebrews 6:1-2.

There is really nothing very difficult in the seven basic tenants for one newly endowed with the holy spirit to comprehend. They are the necessary nourishment a babe in Christ needs to develop the strength to move on to solid food and take the first spiritual steps in the right direction in the body of Christ and not walking into a wall or tumbling down a flight of stairs.

The preceding verses in Hebrews 5:12-14 are very easy to understand in this context as they are a vital part of the understanding of what is actually being taught and stressed here:

“For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the principles of the oracles (scriptures) of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age (mature), those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to

discern both good and evil” (according to God’s wisdom).

An infant can’t do that. Keep in mind who we are talking about here. These are people who were baptized, had hands laid on, had received the holy spirit and who were expected to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The scriptures here confirm that these seven doctrines of Hebrews 6 are not solid food, or the deep things of God. Verse 1 states they are elementary understandings. One who eats of just them will not be skilled in the word of righteousness. That requires much more effort and an alert mind willing to put their understandings to the test and knowing what their purposes are in the plan of salvation.

Simply put, these doctrines are the

**The seven doctrines of Christ are the milk of the word, threshold understandings that we are to internalize when we are being bottle-fed, one might say.**

baby-stage food of the called of God. That is very, very important, for it is up to God whether we will move beyond them or beyond this infant stage of growth. Hebrews 6:3 tells us, “And this we will do if God permits.”

If God permits what? That the individual moves beyond the milk of the word, the very basic initial teachings of Christ unto conversion. Why would God not allow an individual to go beyond this point or level of understanding after being called, baptized, and receiving the holy spirit? Because our Father and Brother are merciful and true and just.

Judgment is on the house of the Lord at this time, brethren. If They believe we do not possess the ability to grow sufficiently in grace and knowledge and remain faithful, then They will not permit us to grow beyond the milk of the word, for we are talking about the penalty of eternal death, the second death for one who falls away who possessed an understanding of the deeper things of God. If you don’t think so, continue reading here in verses 4-6:

“For those being once enlightened, and having tasted of the heavenly gift, and become partakers of the holy spirit, and having tasted the good word of God, and

the works of the power of the coming age, and falling away, it is impossible for them again to renew to repentance, for they again will be crucifying to themselves the Son of God, and putting Him to open shame” (Interlinear Bible).

That, my dear friends, is the mercy of a loving Father and devoted big Brother. They don’t want to lose a single person to the second death. They do not hold an infant accountable for their actions. That is a biblical fact established by a seemingly never-ending pattern of scriptures under both covenants, as we will cover later.

We have all known others over the years who could not seem to grasp anything of biblical substance. Think back as to how many brethren you have known who could not, and would not, enter into a

of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and a fiery indignation, which will devour the adversaries.”

This is a very strong warning to all who have accepted conversion, repented, been baptized, had hands laid on, and received the holy spirit. This would be the unpardonable sin for one who had journeyed long down the converted road. We will get to the unconverted unpardonable sin shortly, for it too is clearly spelled out in scripture.

So what is this basic doctrine of eternal judgment mentioned here in Hebrews 6:2?

The Greek word translated eternal here is #166 *aiōnios* and means (according to *Strong’s*) “perpetual (also used of past time, or past and future as well). *Vine’s* says of it: “describes duration, either undefined but not endless, as in Romans 16:25; 2 Tim 1:9; Titus 1:2; or undefined because of being endless as in Romans 16:26, and the other sixty-six places in the NT. The predominant meaning of *aiōnios*, that in which it is used everywhere in the NT, save the places noted above, may be seen in 2 Corinthians 4:18, where it is set in contrast with *proskairos*, literally for a season, and in Philemon 15, where only in the NT it is used without a noun. Moreover it is used of persons and things which are in their nature endless . . . *Aiōnios* is also used of the sin that hath no forgiveness, Mark 3:29, and of the judgment of God from which there is no appeal, Hebrews 6:2, and the fire which is one of its instruments Matthew 18:8; 25:41 . . .”

I think we all can easily get the point of the word as to its meaning.

Judgment is #2917 *krima*. *Strong’s* says it is from #1919: “a decision the function or effect, for or against . . .”

*Vine’s* says it denotes “the result of the action signified by the verb *krino*, to judge; for the general use see condemnation B, No. 1. That says Condemnation denotes a) the sentence pronounced, a verdict, a condemnation, the decision resulting from an investigation. B) the process of judgment leading to a decision . . .”

What these Greek words tell us here is of a final judgment with absolutely no appeal, no chance of ever changing! This is very simple to understand and is easy to digest and thus included in the knowledge of the milk of the word just like repentance

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

# The Unpardonable Sin and Eternal Judgment

## CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

from dead works, faith towards God, baptisms, teaching, laying on of hands, and the resurrection of the dead—really basic, totally connected teachings when accompanied by the spirit of God to discern them.

However, I am sure there are many who try to paint them with a different brush as to being the deep things of God for many reasons, one of which would be that a teacher is required to prepare and dish them out, and that is music to many ears that are subject to the disease of dominion and self-importance over others.

*Teacher* does not mean “follow me.” A teacher is to nourish another with good food until they can learn to feed themselves and eat at the table with Christ. That is why teaching is one of the seven basic doctrines of Christ. That one is completely abused in this day and age, in and out of the churches.

We read earlier that eternal judgment is a decision which would apply to an individual who had been allowed to go beyond the milk of the word and who would at some time later fall away or reject the truth of God and become an adversary. That action results in no mechanism in the plan of salvation to repent again so that the blood of Christ would be applied to the individual. That sacrifice is a one-time offer and application. It is limited to that, as Hebrews 6:6 clearly tells us.

We often and repeatedly use the expression “the blood of Christ will wash us clean.” That is not an accurate use of the meaning of Christ’s sacrifice, for He died once for all for mankind, His creation. After baptism it becomes the water of the Word. That is why there is so much concern as to whom God allows or permits to move into that phase of conversion.

An infant has not reached the age of reason and can’t be held accountable for their actions of ignorance or stupidity, thus not subject to the second death. Ignorance and stupidity, or maybe better put as carelessness, were covered under the Levitical sacrificial system of the first covenant.

**Leviticus 4:27-28:** “And if any person of the land sins through ignorance, by doing that which is not to be done, against one of the commandments of Jehovah, and is guilty; or his sin which he has sinned is made known to him, then he shall bring his offering, a ewe of the goats, a perfect one, a female, for his sin which he has sinned.”

Now, there is a lot to be said here, but sticking to the point of this discussion, it is obvious this is not the Passover sacrifice being applied here. Far from it! The sacrifice being applied is specific to ignorance and carelessness. During the millennial rule of Christ there will even be a special day in the month, whether just the first or all of them, when this will also take place.

**Ezekiel 45:20:** “And you shall do on the seventh of the month for each man who goes astray, and for the simple. And you shall atone for the house” (Interlinear).

No mercy and forgiveness in the age to come? Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

## Unconverted Unpardonable Sin

Now, is there any scriptural basis to say an unconverted (uncalled) individual can be subject to the second death/eternal judgment?

Absolutely, and we will call this the unconverted unpardonable sin case. This is a very specific classification of people. It is important we get this right to understand the mercy of God extended towards mankind who are not **adversaries**, who will be the vast majority of people, in my simple opinion, based on the patterns found in the scriptures.

**Mark 3:20-30:** “And the multitude came together again, so that they could not so much as eat bread. But when His own people heard, they went out to lay hold of Him for they said He is out of His mind. And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said (to the crowd of peo-

Don’t just read by these last words, brethren: “it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come.” Hallelujah, that clearly tells us there is forgiveness of sins in both ages, the present and the one yet to come. But it also tells us very soberly that if one denies (blasphemes against) the holy spirit in this age there is no hope in the next one to come.

We need to shout that out loud and clear and incorporate that biblical fact from Christ’s own mouth into whatever teaching we have of the plan of salvation. Forgiveness of sin in this age and in the age to come can’t be denied. This is very important to our understanding of the plan of salvation and its timeline written in the pages of the Bible. Each segment or phase of it is encapsulated in justice, mercy, and faith.

So what is so very important about speaking against the holy spirit that would merit eternal death and no chance to enter the family of God by an unconverted individual?

Matthew and Mark have clearly articu-

Remember, these folks were the leaders of the people, and they were politicians to the core. The devil is in the details. They had as a group decided to take a specific course of action publicly, which we have read about in Matthew and Mark: publicly proclaim that Christ was not of God but the devil and thus received His power from him. They wanted the people to follow them, and they would go to all ends to keep them under their dominion. They were not called of God and not converted.

However, they made a conscious decision to reject the obvious power of God working through Christ and present a lie to the people to confuse them and place a stumbling block before them.

How do we know this?

**John 3:1-2:** “There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with Him.”

Do we understand how serious this is? They came to Christ secretly and admitted they knew He was from God, but publicly denied that through their insidious claim that He and His abilities were from the devil. They publicly denied the obvious workings and manifestation of God’s holy spirit, knowing it was a lie. There is no repentance for a mind that will do such a thing. They did not need God’s spirit dwelling in them to know that was a very bad thing to do. They attempted to separate the people from the visible attributes of God, all the while knowing it not to be true. That is pure evil! That is clearly an adversary-of-God mind-set, just like Satan’s. God will not work with such a mind.

However, God will use such people just like He does Satan in the process of perfecting those whom He calls. Any individual who functions in that mind-set will meet his end in the lake of fire, no appeal pending.

Let’s look at a possible example of such briefly.

**Revelation 19:19-21:** “And I saw the Beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. Then the Beast was captured, and with him the False Prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the Beast and those who worshipped His image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.”

It should be noted that only the Beast and False Prophet were thrown into the lake of fire. Why not everyone else? Hmmmmmm! They had all come to make war with the Lamb of God and His bride who was with Him. The scriptures are

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**Is there any scriptural basis to say an unconverted (uncalled) individual can be subject to the second death/eternal judgment? Absolutely.**

ple) He has Beelzebub, and by the ruler of the demons He casts out demons.”

In verses 23-27 Christ explains to all that that type of thinking is completely flawed. Now let’s listen well to what Christ says to the crowds around Him as to what the scribes had accused Him of, even to the point of denying the obvious.

**Verses 28-30:** “Assuredly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the sons of man (if repented of) and whatever blasphemies they may utter; but he who blasphemes against the holy spirit **never** has forgiveness, but is subject to eternal condemnation (second death) because they said, He has an unclean spirit.”

In Matthew 12:22-23 we can read this same account. In Matthew’s account in verse 24 it is recorded that it was the Pharisees who made the accusation. Most, I trust, understand the scribes and Pharisees were of the same persuasion politically. And in verses 31-32 Christ once again clearly articulates what the outcome of such will be; that is, those who deny the obvious workings of the spirit of God. Keep in mind these individuals were the leaders of the people politically, and the religious wannabes.

**Matthew 12:31-32:** “Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the spirit will not be forgiven men. Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the holy spirit, it will not be forgiven him, **either in this age or the age to come.**”

lated to us Christ’s words, that **EVERY** sin will be forgiven men except that committed against the holy spirit. We read earlier that if a converted individual, one who had received the holy spirit of God, then, after having tasted of the deep things of God, rejected it, he would perish in the lake of fire at the Judgment Day.

Our God is a God of justice, mercy, and faith. We must never lose sight of this in any of our doctrines. Repentance is a mind-boggling act and tool we have use of in dealing within our relationships with God the Father and Jesus Christ. It was a very big part of the commission given to the disciples as well as the rest of us.

We will cover that in detail later. However, we have been reading here in Matthew and Mark that there is no mechanism available for forgiveness if we speak against the holy spirit. Why would that be the case? The holy spirit is not a being, but the power by which God functions and accomplishes things. Let’s see what Christ was talking about.

The gospel of John holds the key to it all, here a little there a little, line upon line, and precept upon precept. In both Matthew and Mark we have seen where the scribes and Pharisees publicly proclaimed to the people that Jesus receives His power to perform miracles from the devil. They could not deny the actual miracles, for they were obvious to all, be it casting out demons or healing people or taking a few loaves and fish and feeding thousands. If they had done so, the crowds would have stoned them for sure.

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going to tell us why over and over again.

**Psalm 138:4:** “All the kings of the earth shall praise You, O LORD, when they hear the words of Your mouth.”

The timeline of the plan of salvation tells us that will be later on and not when He comes to make war.

Remember, all sins and blasphemies will be forgiven men in this age and the age to come if they are repented of and if one does not become a true adversary of God. If one is deceived, they are not a true adversary, now are they? Eve was deceived in the garden. Was she then a true adversary of God? Not likely. All the same, she sinned and had a penalty attached to it. Remember, our God is a God of justice as well as of mercy and faith. Could she pay the penalty for her actions? No, she could not. She could forfeit her life but that would not have covered the transgression. The only one who could was her Creator. It just so happens her Creator is also her Judge, Savior, and Redeemer.

So we have covered two avenues and circumstances of the unpardonable sin, one for converted individuals and one for unconverted individuals. The two are tied together by their rejection of the holy spirit. These are two separate and distinct groups of people who suffer the same fate, the second death.

Is the likelihood of eternal death facing every human being who has lived? Not in God’s mind or plan, and it certainly should not be in ours either. From before the foundation of the world the Word has been ready to be our sacrifice. God has placed far too many mechanisms in the plan for repentance and mercy for that to happen. However, some will end up in the lake of fire just like the Beast and the False Prophet. Have you ever given any thought to which one they committed? Converted or unconverted? Just thinking out loud here. Time will provide the answer.

Brethren, the short answer to much of what we face is simply this: We have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. We are all guilty of sin, period, and are subject to death if we do not repent. Our Savior/Judge/Sacrifice has paid the penalty for us as only He could. But that kicks in only under a specific set of rules and circumstances. Each and every human being who has ever lived will be judged by the same set of rules. That will not change.

To understand those rules we need to have the spirit of God working with us. If an individual willingly decides to reject that opportunity, they will simply not be allowed to live in such a state of mind. That also is the mercy of God. God’s kingdom has no place for adversaries, and to reject God is to be an adversary once you have seen or tasted the awesome truth of His spirit at work. It is still hard for me to believe that some in this physical life will in fact completely and willingly reject the goodness of the Father and the Son, but I know it is a reality.

On the other hand, it is easy for me to believe and understand that the vast majority of mankind will embrace the calling of God when it is their time in the plan. The incredible opportunity of eternal life through the plan of salvation is an awesome gift from God to all who will love Him in this age and the one to come.

## Opportunity to All—Eventually

Let’s get some real basic understanding from the patterns in scripture, the doctrines of the Father, which will help us to better understand it all.

We have read in very clear terms that there are sins which lead to death—no reprieve, rebuttal, plea deal, etc. Christ told us that Himself. As well, in the same breath He also told us, “Assuredly I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the sons of men and whatever blasphemies they utter, but he who blasphemes against the holy spirit never has forgiveness, but is subject to eternal condemnation.”

That’s Mark 3:28-29. Matthew 12: 31-

**We are instructed not to pray for a brother who is sinning unto death. God will not even hear such a prayer.**

32 tells us the same thing but also adds “either in this age or the age to come.”

I cannot repeat that enough. Those are the words of Jesus Christ, to whom all judgment has been committed. Did Jesus’ apostles teach the same thing? Yes, they did in painstaking detail over and over again. Let’s start with John.

**1 John 5:16-17:** “If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin which does not lead to death, he will ask, and He will give him life for those who commit sin not leading to death. There is sin leading to death. I do not say that he should pray about that. All unrighteousness is sin, and there is sin not leading to death.”

That is exactly what Christ told us in Matthew and Mark. John here tells us it is good to pray for those sinning not unto death but it is not good to pray for those who have committed sin unto death.

There is a lot here, brethren. We take it for granted we are to pray for one another. We are told to pray for our neighbors and for those who rule over us. That is a norm for us, for we understand we have all fallen short and have sinned.

But here John instructs us it is a waste of time to pray to God for someone who has sinned unto death. (That means we will be able to know the difference between the two.) We don’t hear that kind of thing often, but it does have a record throughout scripture. Let’s look at a few examples.

When God has made His mind up on such a thing, it is done and He says I am not going to change. The circumstances are different but the message is clear in

the following.

**Jeremiah 7:16:** “Therefore do not pray for them, nor make intercession to Me, for I will not hear you.”

We can read Jeremiah repeat this command of God in chapter 14 as well.

**Jeremiah 14:11:** “Then the LORD said to me, do not pray for this people for their good.”

That is really serious, considering we are our brother’s keeper. Just think how heinous an activity it must take for God to say such a thing. We are told to pray for those who rule over us in the civil governments but not for these folks, in these very specific circumstances and settings. That can be confusing to some, but it should not be to us. Back to 1 John 5.

**1 John 5:17:** “All unrighteousness is sin!”

That is very clear and easy for us to understand. John has told us in 3:4 that sin is the breaking of the law. But! He tells us in his same letter of instruction that “there is sin not leading to death.”

We are going to review why and how that is from the scriptures. We are going to do so with the understanding that we are also instructed not to pray for a brother who is sinning unto death. We all know that James teaches us that “the effective fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much,” but God will not even hear this prayer when it comes to the unpardonable sin which leads to death eternal.

While James is on our minds, let’s listen to him sum up a fundamental and eternal precept about the plan of salvation and the mind-set of God.

**James 2:8-13:** “If you really fulfill the Royal Law according to the scripture, you shall love your neighbor as yourself, you do well; but if you show partiality you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of it all. For He who said, do not commit adultery, also said, do not murder. Now if you do not commit adultery but you do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so do as those who will be judged by the law of liberty. **For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.**”

That is the mind-set of God almighty and a foundational doctrine of the Father. It is an understanding which is inseparable from the plan of salvation, and, without it as a basis for our personal understanding and teachings, we will err and confuse the word of God to others in doing so.

Mercy is first and foremost, something

that is given. Without it being given, it does not really exist, for it needs to be used. It triumphs **over** judgment, for there is no mercy **in** judgment if we truly understand what judgment is. You are either guilty or not of breaking the law whether in one point or many. The sentence is death!

However, it is up to the Judge whether the sentence will be carried out or not. Our Judge is also our Savior. He is full of mercy, as the scriptures tell us. If we are of His body we will be enveloped with that same mind-set and attribute. Remember all sin, if repented of, will be forgiven men except for a very specific sin, the unpardonable sin, which is limited in scope as we have been taught from the scriptures today.

The unpardonable sin does not extend to the Royal Law or any other for it is limited to denying the holy spirit in action, whether called of the Father or not, for the one who does this becomes an **adversary** of God. God is not going to allow any more of that behavior in the age to come. Adversaries at this time are here to be used as tools in our being perfected through testing and trials.

Let’s see God in action on all this. Bring to remembrance that scripture tells us Jesus Christ is the same yesterday (first covenant), today (second covenant), and forever (the kingdom).

**Jeremiah 3:1:** “They say, if a man divorces his wife, and she goes from him and becomes another man’s, may he return to her again? (The legal answer is no, for it is against the law: Deuteronomy 24:1-4.) Would not the land be greatly polluted? But you have played the harlot with many lovers, **YET RETURN TO ME, SAYS THE LORD.**”

Then we read a rhetorical question.

**Jeremiah 3:5:** “Will He remain angry forever? Will He keep it to the end?”

**The answer is NO!**

**Psalm 99:8:** “You answered them, O LORD our God; You were to them, God-Who-Forgives, though You took vengeance on their deeds.”

**MERCY TRIUMPHS OVER JUDGMENT!** Was Israel absolutely and completely guilty of breaking the law? Yes, she was. But God says if she returns to Him He will take her back. Scripture after scripture tells us the very same thing throughout the Bible. It is all predicated on repentance first and then the forgiveness and mercy of God being given.

We are not to be “sons of thunder” reigning down judgment and destruction on others. But at the same time we are commanded to deal with sin and not to be tolerant of it in one who calls himself a brother. Paul could not be any clearer on this point in his instruction to us via the Corinthians.

**1 Corinthians 5:11-13:** “But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a

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reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner, not even to eat with such a person. For what have I to do with judging those also who are outside? Do you not judge those who are inside? But those who are outside God judges. Therefore put away from yourselves that wicked person."

Do we think we know more than God? Our Savior died for us while we were yet sinners. That atoning sacrifice is not applied to everyone at this time in the timeline of the plan of salvation but will be at a future time as depicted by the rehearsals and hidden truths of the annual holy days. At this time it is applied only to those who are called of the Father, for we are now spiritually begotten and of the Father's seed so that we can be of the same kind as the Elohim and thus able to marry the Son of God, after the example of Abraham seeking a wife for his son and the foundation of such between kinds described in Genesis the 1st chapter.

Once Christ's sacrifice is applied to us, we are washed clean and bright of all our PAST sins. The death penalty for them has been covered and removed by Christ Himself. But we will still sin again after our repenting, baptism, and laying on of hands. That is a fact!

So does that mean the first time we sin after that we will be a candidate for the lake of fire? Not according to scripture. If we commit the unpardonable sin, that of a converted being who has tasted the fullness of the spirit and the age to come, then, yes, we will have no reprieve from it. Hebrews 6:4-6 and Hebrews 10:26-27 are clear as can be. We must not willingly sin after baptism. We will stumble and fall at times, but Our Beloved will wash us clean if we continue in growing in His grace and knowledge. Look at Ephesians 5.

**Ephesians 5:26-27:** "That He might sanctify and cleanse it (His body, the church, His bride) with the washing of water by the word, that He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that it should be holy and without blemish."

Our Savior and Judge continues to cleanse us and wash us if we do not turn our backs on Him and the Father and walk away from the faith once delivered. We believe and trust in Them. We are all still flesh and blood with the seed of the Father in us to help us through this calling, this transition of begetting to a full born member of the God family and, specifically, to being the bride in that family.

However, we must not willfully sin. We have a mechanism in our calling, put in place by Christ at His last Passover with the disciples, which takes place once a year. We conduct a mini-version of our original baptism. Mini, because we are not in need of a full washing anymore. If we should enter that state, we are "out of luck," as the saying goes. There is no doubt that we will have acquired some

sin, not unto death, during the time frame from one Passover to another. We are to examine ourselves prior to the Passover as we are taught in 1 Corinthians 11.

**1 Corinthians 11:27-29:** "Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord unworthily will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. (We can't do that again!) But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread and drink of that cup. For he who eats and drinks unworthily eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body."

This is not a light thing here, brethren. Many try to second-guess God here and water down the importance of what is being said. Remember, judgment is on us at this time. This is our age of being judged. That is made clear here and elsewhere.

**Verses 30-33:** "For this reason MANY are weak, and sick among you and many are dead. (All in spiritual terms here, brethren) For if we would judge ourselves (examine, acknowledge, and then repent of what we have erred in during the year) then we

flesh, and He has provided for that.

**Psalms 103:14:** "For He knows our frame (understands our constitution); He remembers that we are dust."

That Greek word translated baptisms in Hebrews 6:2 is #909 *baptismos*. It is best translated as "washings." We have covered this basic of teachings often in past studies. These washings, be they total or subsequent partials, are one of the reasons we are told in the second covenant scriptures that we are under a "better covenant" which is established with "better promises." Christ has told us He will never leave nor forsake us if we keep the pattern He has given us to follow.

Let's once again jump back to Jeremiah for a moment to read more how mercy triumphs over judgment.

**Jeremiah 3:20-22:** "Surely as a wife treacherously departs from her husband, so you have dealt with Me, O house of Israel, says the LORD. A voice was heard in the desolate heights weeping and supplications of the children of Israel; for

much information on this subject. To date today we have just scratched its surface. So let's look a little deeper into the process. We are going to cover only some of the real easy highlights as to this subject. Maybe I should say the critical facts so we will not be dissuaded from the mind-set of God on the subject: you know, the very clear scriptures which define those that may not be so clear.

## We Need God's Spirit to Overcome!

The first biblical fact we need to come to grips with is that we cannot of ourselves meet even the simplest requirements of fulfilling the law without the spirit of God working in us. We would all fall far short. The law I am talking about is the Royal Law, the Ten Commandments, for in breaking one we would be guilty as if we had broken them all. The apostle Paul pounded this home time after time so that we will be without excuse.

**Romans 7:7-12:** "What shall we say then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the law. (What law? The one given to Israel at Mount Sinai.) For I would not have known covetousness unless the law said, You shall not covet. But sin taking opportunity by the commandment, produced in me all desire. For apart from the law sin is dead. I was alive once without the law, but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died. (Just examine what Paul just told us. He is stating that unless he had come to an understanding of the law he was not accountable for breaking it. But when he became aware of it, he was convicted by it, for he understood he was a true transgressor.) And the commandment which was to life, I found to death. For sin finding occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it (I) killed. Therefore the law is holy and the commandment holy and just and good."

We are all taught here that we can't know what sin (against God) is except through the law. The law defines sin. He specifically tells us that law is the one given at Mount Sinai when He specifically ties it to one of the ten.

There are some who profess that all mankind will be thrown into the lake of fire, having never been given the opportunity to understand these rules of the household of God and being given the ability to be able to live in them. They state that the "spirit in man" is sufficient to be able to understand them, when in fact the scriptures tell us it is not over and over again. These laws are holy from God. 1 Corinthians tells us the following:

**1 Corinthians 2:11:** "For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him. Even so no one knows the things of God except the spirit of God."

**Verse 14:** "But the natural man does not receive the things of the spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he

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**Baptism is a one-time function. There is no mechanism in place for it to be applied again, no atoning for that degree of willful sin again.**

would not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world."

Just imagine that. Many are either weak, sick, or dead who have been called of God because they have not continued in a repentant mind-set after baptism. Three stages we do not want to enter for they are sequential. Do not let anyone water this truth down. Once saved always saved is a lie from the devil, the first adversary of God. Brethren we need to be instant in repentant prayer when we come to our senses after tripping over sin, and then, prior to Passover (and the wonderful tool given us called the foot-washing), we must examine ourselves and renew our commitment to our Savior.

It is incredibly personal. The foot-washing function is a blessing to each and every one of us who have taken up the calling and journey to the family of God.

Baptism or total immersion is a one-time function. As I mentioned earlier, if we get to needing it again due to our sloppy and willful conduct in sin, then there is no mechanism in place for it to be applied again, no atoning for that degree of willful sin again.

Hebrews 6:2 tells us about a fundamental and basic doctrine called "baptisms." It is incredible how many do not understand that doctrine of the milk of the word in the churches today. That doctrine is plural for a reason and is basic, for it gives us hope and not fear. All we have to do is follow it. If we stumble, we have hope and not despair.

Even with His spirit in us, our merciful Savior understands our weaknesses in the

they have perverted their way, they have forgotten the LORD their God. Return (through repentance), you backsliding children, and I will heal your backslidings. Indeed we do come to You, for You are the LORD our God."

**Jeremiah 4:1:** "If you will return O Israel, says the LORD, return to Me; and I will put away your abominations out of My sight, then you shall be moved."

**Joel 2:12-13:** "Now therefore, says the LORD, turn to Me with all your heart, and with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning. So rend your heart, and not your garments; return to the LORD your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness; and He relents from doing harm."

We could go on and on with scripture after scripture telling us the very same thing about our God's willingness to take us back if we repent of our transgressions. Yes, mercy does triumph over judgment. If that point of fact is not part of the reader's mind-set by now, you may not want to bother reading on any further for we are going to cover that in much more depth.

We all need to understand that, even though Israel committed more heinous crimes and sins against God than all the nations around them, God will still take them back if they repent. That is the mind-set of God the Father and the Son, and it will be likewise of all who are of Their seed.

We will cover that shortly. We need to cover what we are to be, and being judged on, and the outcomes of it. There is so

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know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”

Man understands “natural laws” such as why an apple falls to the ground instead of floating upwards. Man does not understand the spiritual laws, for he can’t unless the spirit is in him or at the least leading him.

Man has a semblance of some of the spiritual laws, but the understanding is based on the knowledge of the tree of good and evil and not on the tree of life. Is Eve guilty of the second death because she was deceived and took for herself the knowledge of what is good and what is evil? Scripture tells us she is guilty of transgression but was deceived into doing so. She left her husband’s instruction on the subject and took it upon herself to make the decision when she allowed another to come between herself and her husband Adam.

However, I do fear for Adam for he was not deceived. He received instruction in righteousness directly from the Creator. So, if natural law is sufficient for condemning us to eternal death, what was the point in God giving the Royal Law to Israel at Sinai? Was He being a respecter of persons or was He following His plan of salvation timeline?

The answer is clear to me from scripture and the patterns found in it. Many today do not have a good understanding of the timeline for they reject the fact that each in his own time applies to it: first Christ, then the firstfruits at His coming, then Israel, then the rest of the dead as in the firstborn of the union between Christ and the bride, and then all mankind. If it were all predicated on the spirit of man, natural law, and the knowledge of the tree of good and evil, then why even a need for baptism, the laying on of hands and the holy spirit being imparted to us?

Paul told us he was once alive without the law (an awareness and understanding of it), but when the knowledge of it came to him he died, for he was then without excuse for his actions committed against it. He was guilty just as we all were until atonement was applied to it.

Christ taught us in Matthew 19:16-19 that it is the Ten Commandments that lead us to eternal life. Under the terms of the second covenant they are required to be kept physically and spiritually.

He magnified the law. In Matthew 5:21-32 He makes it crystal clear. Under the terms of the first covenant it was the “physical act,” but under the terms of the second it is even “the thought” which breaks the law.

It is a difficult course to walk and is impossible without the aid of the holy spirit and the washings of Christ. Apart from God it is impossible to keep His commandments. That is a fundamental law in itself that we are all being taught at this time, and what we will be teaching to mankind in an age to come.

**Romans 8:3-9:** “For what the law could

not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the spirit. (We could not fulfill this requirement by ourselves.) For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the spirit, the things of the spirit. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind (not having God’s holy spirit) is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. (And is thus going to be thrown into the lake of fire as some teach?) **So then those who are in the flesh cannot please God.** But you are not in the flesh but in the spirit, if indeed the spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the spirit of Christ he is not His.”

That instruction is abundantly clear to

**We did not come to the blessing of the holy spirit by ourselves! God picked us! Does that mean everyone else is condemned to eternal death? Not a chance!**

me. I would hope it is to others as well, but unfortunately it is not. Paul just told us it is impossible to please God unless we have the holy spirit. So if we do not have His holy spirit and all the wonderful ability it bestows upon us to understand the things of God, as to keeping His commandments and receiving the blessings that are associated with them now and in the age to come and the wonderful plan of salvation, how can we possibly think that the God of all mercy and forgiveness will just toss us into the lake of fire for not obeying.

We did not come to the blessing of the holy spirit being in us by ourselves! He picked us! Does that mean everyone else is condemned to eternal death? “Not a chance in hell,” as the saying goes. Paul does an incredible job of explaining this throughout all his epistles, but let’s turn to 1 Corinthians 2.

**1 Corinthians 2:6-16:** “However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But as it is written: Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him. But God has revealed them to us through His spirit. For the spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a

man except the spirit of the man which is in him. Even so, no one knows the things of God except the spirit of God. Now we have not received the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. These things we also speak, not in words which man’s wisdom teaches but which the holy spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. **But the natural man does not receive the things of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.**”

**Psalm 119:33-40:** “Teach me O LORD, the way of Your statutes, and I shall keep it to the end. Give me understanding and I shall keep your law, indeed, I shall observe it with my whole heart. Make me walk in the paths of Your commandments, for I delight in it. Incline my heart to (or cause me to long) for Your testimonies, and not to covetousness. Turn away (or cause) my eyes from looking at worthless things, and revive me in Your way. Establish Your

time. We have been given the necessary tools to accomplish this task. They have not. We are of our Father’s seed. They are not of our Father. We are under the terms of the second covenant, knowingly under them. They are not.

Once again I ask: Are the billions of people who have, are, and will be living before Christ’s return who have never been granted the privilege of having the holy spirit reside in them going to be terminated forever? Not by the God I know and love, and who, by the way, loves all mankind. That’s the same God who tells us that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life (John 3:15).

Paul has taught us it is impossible to please God without His holy spirit guiding us, and thus impossible to believe Him as well. Our carnal knowledge base is drawn from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

In other words, we have taken it upon ourselves, through Adam’s and Eve’s sinning in the garden, to determine for ourselves what is right and what is wrong. We are told that without faith it is also impossible to please God. That is an added ability after the spirit gifts us with it. Faith is a gift from God. So are those who do not receive this gift from God toast?

Some in the body need to put away childish thoughts and move on to maturity in Christ. We do not look down our noses at those who have not received what we have and we certainly don’t gloat over it. The unpardonable sin is that which leads to the second death. If we don’t get that, maybe we should write it out 500 times to get it, at the very least for it to become a habit to repeat.

**Hebrews 10:26-31:** “For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth (and how do we receive that? By the spirit of God), there no longer remains a sacrifice for sin, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries (of God). Anyone who has rejected Moses’ law dies (physically) without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. Of how much worse punishment (the second death), do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the spirit of grace? For we know Him who said, Vengeance is Mine, I will repay, says the Lord. And again, The Lord will judge His people. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”

This is telling us about an individual who had received the knowledge of the truth, who had been sanctified by the blood of Christ, who then rejected it all, and who had become an adversary. Those who commit the unpardonable sin, whether converted or not in their physical lifetime, become adversaries of God just like Satan did. He

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rejected all that God had blessed him with and in doing so became an enemy without cause. That is a very sick mind-set and one that will infect others as well.

Brethren, we are accountable for what we know, and the depth of it will determine how we will be judged. With or without the knowledge of the truth we are still guilty of breaking the law, and if Christ's atoning sacrifice was and is not applied to us we would surely perish. But now it has been applied to us, it has covered us and washed us clean, so let's act like it in dealing with a completely ignorant world. We do not judge them. God does, as Paul so clearly articulated to us through the Corinthians. Satan has deceived the whole world, and that included us all at one point in our lives. Let's not dabble in going back to the deceit by passing judgment on the world.

**2 Peter 2:20-21:** "For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the commandment delivered to them."

Peter here in context is attributing this depravity of backsliding evil to false teachers bringing brethren once again into bondage and turning them from the faith once delivered.

Brethren, we do not judge the world. Our focus must be on the household of God and its wonderful attributes. For some it is easy to get lured back into an attitude of looking down on the uncalled. Resist it and it will flee from you, as in all other sin. Oh, yes, be vexed by all the sin which surrounds us, but leave it up to God to deal with.

All we can do is conduct ourselves according to what pleases God. We have enough to do with overcoming ourselves and assisting brethren in doing so. If God wants us to have influence outside of that sphere, then He will make that happen.

What we are reviewing here today in scripture is a pattern embedded in the complete word of God from one cover to the other, for it is a fundamental understanding in the plan of salvation. It is not a mystery to us. We are to be stewards of the mysteries of God, not the knowledge of this world.

Look where it all begins for us.

**Ephesians 1:3-14:** "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus

Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved. In Him we have redemption in His blood, the forgiveness of sin according to the riches of His grace which He made to abound towards us in all wisdom and prudence, having made known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times that He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on the earth, in Him, in whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory. In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the holy spirit of promise, which is the guarantee of our inheritance

**If we believe God will exact the second death because people should have known His way without the grace we have been given, I hope we will come to nobler understanding.**

until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory."

How truly humbling is that? Are we the "lucky" ones winning the lottery? Are we so mighty that we are the "pick of the litter"? Can we look down our noses at those who were not predestined, who have not received the knowledge of the mysteries and the holy spirit to understand them, and the application of Christ's blood to us? Paul tells us who we were with no punches pulled and who we owe it all too.

**1 Corinthians 1:26-31:** "For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble are called. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised, God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, that no flesh should glory in His presence (like Satan tried to do). **But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God and righteousness and sanctification and redemption,** that as it is written, He who glories, let him glory in the Lord."

Brethren, if we harbor teachings of a cold-hearted God who will kill all who have ever lived with the second death because they should have known the way of God without all the necessary tools and grace we have been given, I hope that we soon come to another more noble understanding.

We are being perfected in Christ because the Father chose us so that He could confound those who are actually more endowed with talents of man than we were. That's like taking a toad and turning it into a princess. We who are called of the Father at this time are only a minuscule part of all who will comprise the family of God. God is forgiving and working with those in spiritual Israel first. He has already done so with tens of thousands from physical Israel already who are in the grave, but whose spirit is with God in heaven (Colossians 3:3) until their resurrection from the dead unto life at His coming for His bride. Once this is completed, God will then deal with the whole house of Israel as He has promised and as we will cover shortly, and then God will deal with all the rest of mankind who has ever lived, the Gentile nations.

**Psalms 119:144:** "The righteousness of Your testimonies is everlasting; give me understanding and I shall live."

In Romans chapter 11 Paul is giving us

a thorough rundown of Israel, past, present, and future, so we are not ignorant of the plan as it pertains to them. We are going to cut in at verse 20 and read through to verse 36. It is a lesson in the mercy of God to every single Israelite who has ever lived, as well as to every Gentile called under the second covenant.

**Romans 11:20-36:** "Well, because of unbelief they were broken off, and you stand by faith. Do not be haughty, but fear. For if God did not spare the natural branches, He may not spare you either. Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity (no more blessings as a result of association with God); but towards you goodness (blessings because you are now associated with God) if you continue in goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off. And they also if they do not continue in unbelief (repentance), will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again. For if you were cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and were grafted contrary to nature into a good olive tree, how much more will these who are natural, (native, keep that in mind for later on) be grafted into their own olive tree. For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that hardening (who do you think allowed that to happen?) in past has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. **And so ALL Israel will be saved (let's repeat that), ALL Israel will be saved** as it is written (which we will cover just

some of the scriptures and prophecies dealing with all of Israel later): **The Deliverer** will come out of Zion. And will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; for this is my covenant with them, when I take away their sins. Concerning the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but concerning the election they are beloved for the sake of the fathers (it's a promise to all of Israel). For the gifts and the calling of God are without change of purpose (we of all people should understand this), for as you were once disobedient to God, yet have now obtained mercy (in this calling) through their disobedience, even so these also have now been disobedient, that through the mercy shown you they also may obtain mercy. **For God has shut them all up in disobedience, that He might have mercy on all.** Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has become His counselor? Or who has given to Him and it will be repaid to him? For of Him and through Him and in Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen!"

The plan of salvation is a promise to ALL of Israel, not just a few, just as it is for all of mankind who will repent once the Deliverer, Savior, and Judge decides it. The Bible teaches us through the patterns which run through it. Let's look at a simple one to understand. It's about the bride of Christ, who is comprised of those who have excelled more than the others in both the first marriage covenant and the second marriage covenant. It is at a time when they will rise to meet their Husband, their resurrection, the first resurrection as scripture clearly calls it elsewhere.

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18:** "But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep (died), lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus Christ died and rose again, even so God will bring Him those who sleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep (dead). For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words."

Here we see the dead (in Christ) rising before those in Christ who are alive. This is spiritual Israel, the bride who has qualified to occupy that function in the household of the Father. This is not Christ returning to make war, but to gather in His elect from the four corners of the earth for the marriage supper in heaven. These are

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those who will be the kings and priests in the royal family and in the order of Melchidezek. Once again this is “spiritual Israel” united under their Savior, Redeemer, Deliverer and Judge. Remember we are talking patterns here.

Is there anywhere in scripture that even remotely suggests this pattern will continue with physical Israel joining together under Him, those who have died and those who are alive after His coming to make war on mankind?

The answer is yes and in a lot of detail if we believe the scriptures. Ezekiel deals with all the relationships between Israel and God, and God and mankind: past, present, and future. Chapters 36, 37, and 38 are just an incredible lesson into the timeline of the future dealings and relationships God has in store for the physical nation of Israel after Christ returns.

I have heard from others in the faith that chapter 37 is primarily a metaphor for Israel who is alive after Christ’s return (because it does not fit into their timeline doctrines), those who will be gathered in to Israel under His protection in the millennium rule. That certainly isn’t *all* of Israel as covenanted through the father, is it? Paul told us ALL of those under that covenant would be delivered, not just a few.

Keep in mind the pattern of the dead and alive members of spiritual Israel at His coming. It is not an error that much of the context of chapter 37 is placed between chapters 36 and 38. Thirty-eight is clearly depicting the time after the millennium rule of Christ when Satan is released for a little while to test the Gentile nations and for them to be humbled in the process. It talks about a peaceful Israel living without protective walls, and evil thoughts arising in the minds of the Gentile nations after they have been visited.

No kidding, the prince of the power of the air is at it again, but only because God is using him as a tool for the perfection of the Gentile nations at that time, for it is their time in the sequence of such things.

**Ezekiel 37:1-14:** “The hand of the LORD came upon me and brought me out in the spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley; and it was full of bones. Then He caused me to pass by them all around, and behold there were very many in the open valley, and indeed they were very dry (representing being dead for a very long time). And He said to me, son of man, can these bones live? So I answered, Oh Lord GOD (Adonay Yehovih), You know. Again He said to me, prophesy to these bones, hear the word of the LORD! Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Surely I will cause breathe to enter into you, and you shall live. I will put sinews on you and bring flesh upon you, cover you with skin and put breath in you; and you shall live. Then you shall know that I am the LORD. (You

can bet that will have a profound effect on their belief that He is the Lord. Instant attentiveness! The vast majority of Israel does not even know who they were, let alone their relationship in covenant with God, be they dead or alive.) So I prophesied as I was commanded and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and suddenly a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to bone. Indeed, as I looked, the sinews and the flesh came upon them, and the skin covered them over; but there was no breath in them. Then He said to me, prophesy to the breath, prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds (spiritual Israel is gathered from the four corners), O breath, and breathe on these slain (not alive, physically dead, no metaphor here), that they may live. So I prophesied as He commanded me, and breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great army. Then He said to me, son of man, these bones are the **whole house of Israel**

just located in some foreign country), and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I the LORD have spoken it and performed it, says the LORD.”

Psalms 85 in its entirety is a must read in this context. Let us review verses 6-7.

**Psalms 85:6-7:** “Will you not revive us again, that Your people may rejoice in You? Show us Your mercy, O LORD, and grant us Your salvation.”

“Revive” here is #2421 *hayah*. Strong’s says of it: “a prime root; to live whether literally or figuratively; causatively to revive . . .” It can signify “to bring to life” or “to come to live” as it does often in scripture. A more accurate translation of these verses is found in J.P. Green’s Inter-linear Bible:

“Will You give us life anew, so that Your people may rejoice in You? Cause us to see Your mercy, O Jehovah, and give us Your salvation.”

**Psalms 130:7-8:** O Israel, hope in the LORD; for with the LORD there is mercy, and with Him is abundant redemption.

**Repentance and forgiveness are inseparable. Forgiveness is a part of God's nature. It is not a part of man's. We need to learn it from an early age.**

(who had died for He addresses those who are alive in chapter 36 scattered among the nations as well as in chapter 37 later).”

This is a resurrection of the dead, clear and simple. Let’s take a minute and go back to what Paul clearly understood and taught in Romans 11 about this time.

**Romans 11:26:** “And so *all* Israel will be saved (given the actual opportunity to do so), as it is written: The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; **this is my covenant with them when I take away their sins.**”

All of Israel will have the full knowledge of the Lord and the full opportunity to repent with the spirit given to them. They will all be united in the Promised Land. Continuing in Ezekiel 37:

**Ezekiel 37:11-14:** “They indeed say, our bones are dry, our hope is lost (because we were sinners and knew not the Lord) and we ourselves are cut off! Therefore prophesy and say to them, thus says the Lord GOD: Behold; O My people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up from your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. Then you shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up from your graves. I will put My spirit in you (they never had the spirit before. Now they have the essence, the spirit of God imparted to their minds so they can comprehend the things of God just like spiritual Israel had, and thus they will be able to be pleasing to God), and you shall live (because they were dead, not

And He shall redeem Israel from all his iniquities.”

**Psalms 103:8-14:** “The LORD is merciful and gracious; slow to anger, and abounding in mercy. He will not always strive with us, nor will He keep His anger forever. He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor punished us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His mercy towards those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the west, **so far has He removed our transgressions from us.** As a father pities children, the Lord pities those who fear Him. For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.”

This ingathering of all Israel who had died into the Promised Land is only half of the story in the timeline of the plan of salvation for physical Israel. Just a metaphor, some would say! The rest of the chapter talks about the ingathering and uniting of Israel under one shepherd.

**Verse 24:** “David My servant shall be king over them and they shall all have one shepherd; they shall also walk in my judgments and observe My statutes, and do them.” (Because they now had His spirit to help them.)

Off topic a bit, but could this all be following the pattern of the resurrected spiritual Israel we read about earlier in 1 Thessalonians 4? In that one we see spiritual Israel (those who had died and those who were still alive) at the return of our spiritual Shepherd rising to meet Him in the air.

It is worth pointing out here that I often read that some folks think the Israel of

Revelation 7 is physical Israel because it talks about the 12 tribes. We need to remember that there are those who qualified to be the bride of Christ under the first marriage covenant with physical Israel. Fortunately for us, they fell short of the total number to partake of the Passover Lamb of the Father’s house, to fully internalize the Passover Lamb.

Those of us who are called under the second marriage covenant will be joined to them. Some tribes probably did better than others in their quest. We will be grafted into one of them. That means into specific tribes to complete the 12,000 for each. Just a small point that may help clarify a little better the issue of the identity of the 144,000. That is my belief.

With physical Israel being gathered into the Promised Land to David their physical shepherd and prince, as Ezekiel calls him, we may have something similar taking place. Certainly the setting of these very specific verses in chapter 37 sandwiched between 36 and 38 can give the impression of it. With Atonement happening shortly after Christ’s return, it is even more thinkable because that is the Jubilee, when all Israel returned to their family inheritances. Then we have Tabernacles shortly after that, which we are told in Leviticus 23:24: “All who are native Israelites shall dwell in booths.” No mixed multitude accompanying them as in the first exodus from Pharaoh and Egypt. Lots of things to have some fun with, are there not?

But back to the topic at hand.

**Verse 28:** “The nations will also know that I the LORD sanctify Israel, when My sanctuary is in their midst forevermore.”

What an awesome, loving, merciful, and faithful God we have. Here we have “the age to come” after “the age of man” in which forgiveness of sin, loving-kindness, and repentance will cover the landscape of Israel. Israel will fulfill their destiny as being the chosen people of God, a holy nation before the eyes of the Gentiles. He will put His spirit in them all, if they are willing to follow Him wherever He goes. Their repentance will be from the heart and not just lip service.

And, no, they will not be thrown en masse into the lake of fire. On the contrary, every sin and blasphemy they have committed will be forgiven them if they repent. Only those who have, and are a party to committing the unpardonable sin, will make that trip to the lake.

The key tenant of the elementary teaching of eternal judgment is very simple. We have covered it more than adequately so far today to either believe the scriptures or reject them. Christ is the author of it: Every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men if they repent of them except the unpardonable sin, which is that of denying the holy spirit and becoming an adversary of God. That will merit the second death, no plea bargaining, no deviation.

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# The Unpardonable Sin and Eternal Judgment

## CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE Repentance Is the Key!

The second part of this very simple doctrine is that repentance and forgiveness are inseparable. Forgiveness is a part of God's nature. It is not a part of man's. We need to learn it from an early age.

We also need to learn repentance from an early age as well, from parents who understand its effectiveness and need to raise children who will be a benefit to the family stability and well-being. This is one of the seven doctrines of the milk of the word. I hope we have all noticed these doctrines are intricately linked to form a very sound foundation as children of God. It is the start of the journey and the second covenant scriptures are laced with it. The pattern is very simple: Repent, repent, repent!

**Acts 2:36-37:** "Let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ. Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, men and brethren, what shall we do?"

Do we think for one minute that this will not be the same response from the vast majority of all who are raised from the dead at their judgment time? We need to think about this. Remember, the more you know about yourself the more you will know about others.

**Verse 38:** "Then Peter said to them, repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the holy spirit."

A simple fact of the doctrine of eternal judgment is this: If an individual will not repent, they will cease to exist. It's that simple! No repentance, no forgiveness, no existence. That will be the simple pattern or equation. For those who do repent they will be given the holy spirit, just as we have been given it to help us comprehend what is expected of us and the glory that awaits all who undertake and complete that journey. This is simple arithmetic. One plus one is two. Christ has preached repentance from day one because it is a pillar of the elementary doctrines He gave us.

**Mark 1:14-15:** "Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, the time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand, repent and believe in the gospel."

When Christ sent out the 12, what did He tell them to preach?

**Mark 6:12:** "So they went out and preached that people should repent."

Look at the simplicity of Christ's ageless message of repentance.

**Luke 13:1-5:** "There were present at that season some who told Him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And Jesus answered and said to them, do you suppose these Galileans were worse sinners than all other

Galileans (He knew their thoughts) because they suffered such things? I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish. (The analogy is very simple to grasp. Repent and you won't perish in reference to the second death, not in terms of their physical existence, for it is appointed to man to die and then be resurrected.) Or those 18 on whom the tower of Siloam fell and killed, do you think that they were worse sinners than all other men who dwelt in Jerusalem? I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish."

"Perish" is the Greek word *apollumi* #622 and means: to destroy fully, complete destruction.

Christ gave us two very simple illustrations of the difference between the mind-set of man and that of God. Men have wild ideas about bad things happening to people. They equate it often with the assumption the people being afflicted did something really bad or wrong against God.

The churches of God in some quarters are rife with that thinking, all the while

Oh, the simplicity of Christ with no toxic mind of man involved. This is a pattern of how God views sin which is repented of: Sin, repent, forgive. One, two, three!

We were instructed by Christ that all sin and blasphemies against Christ would be forgiven men outside of the sin categorized as unpardonable. Yet there are brethren who don't believe these simple instructions. There is an old saying when it comes to simple and basic knowledge: "Ours is not to reason why, ours is but to do or die." We are not to place heavy burdens upon the called of God.

There are a lot of folks these days who preach a fire and brimstone judgment for most of mankind during the resurrection. You have all heard it at one time or another: resurrected, pronounced guilty, into the lake of fire.

Then again we have the fruity tooties who are choking to death on the fuzzy, lazy, completely deceived doctrine of once saved always saved.

These two very extreme doctrines are

Christ here is telling us it will be more "tolerable" for them in the judgment than for those here He is addressing in His timeframe on earth. These folks rejected the obvious power of God at work.

Many ask how that can be. Does this somehow mean there are degrees of lake-of-fire punishment, like one would find in Catholic doctrine? Did these folks here in context commit or come close to committing the unpardonable sin?

Christ is going to answer those questions for us. But first what does "tolerable" mean in the Greek? It is the word *anektoteros* #414. *Strong's* says of it "more endurable" and that it is a derivative of #430 *anekhomai* "to hold oneself up against." That sounds like a little hope to me.

Just think. Here we have Christ telling us that these folks from Sodom and Gomorrah will have it better off in the judgment. These folks were so perverted during their physical lives they were obliterated by God for such things as rampant homosexuality, etc. Mark 6:11 tells us the very same thing that Matthew 10:15 does. Let's get some more real specific instruction on all this from Christ.

**Luke 10:13-14:** "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works (obvious presence of God's holy spirit) which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented a great while ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. But it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment than for you."

Here we have a direct correlation of repentance to the judgment and it being more tolerable for the repentant. It gets much clearer if it isn't already.

**Matthew 11:20-24:** "Then He began to upbraid the cities in which most of His mighty works had been done, because they did not repent: Woe to you Chorazin! Woe to you Bethsaida! For if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the Day of Judgment than for you. And you, Capernaum, who are exalted to heaven, will be brought down to hades; for if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I say to you that it shall be more tolerable for the land (the people) of Sodom in the Day of Judgment than for you."

If an individual has not had the things of God revealed to them in this lifetime, it will be more tolerable for them in the judgment. That is a biblical fact!

Christ's messages to the seven churches in Revelation are very telling as to the importance of repentance in our calling and personal relationship with Him and the Father. The importance of its relationship between sin and forgiveness is really easy to understand if we have the spirit of God. It is a fundamental tenant of all the

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**When tragedy strikes, it does not take long for self-righteous religious birds to fly off the roost chirping 'dirty sinner' and 'God's punishing them.'**

professing an understanding of the nature of God. Some things just do not change. Often when tragedy strikes an individual or group, it does not take long for many of the self-righteous religious birds to fly off the roost chirping "dirty sinner" and "God's punishing them."

When we see such things we should say to ourselves, "There go I if not for the grace of God." Remember the example of the publican and the Pharisee that Christ spoke about. The Pharisee was glad he was not a filthy sinner like the publican. That's the same mind-set as the religious birds flying off the roost. But here in these two examples from Christ we need to take away the understanding that it is God who determines what sin is, and to what extent it is committed, and who is deserving of what punishment.

He also once again establishes the biblical fact that if we do not repent of sin we will be completely destroyed. Simple and sobering to understand and taught as one teaching little children, feeding them milk, one might say.

However, we are to understand when an individual has openly committed the unpardonable sin. We have the spirit of God and the scriptures to lead us in such things. As God instructed us earlier, we are not to waste our time with such an individual.

**Luke 17:3-4:** "Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. And if he sins against you seven times in a day and returns to you, saying, I repent, you shall forgive him."

ever present these days and a stumbling block for many who are called and uncalled. Let's take a minute with the word of God and address the first one and in doing so we will be addressing the second one to some extent, which isn't the focus of today.

We have reviewed the words of Christ as to forgiveness of all sin, except the unpardonable sin, and that there is sin unto death and sin not unto death. In Matthew 10 we are given instruction as to the twelve going out into Israel, being sent by Christ with a specific purpose. In verses 7-8 we can see they were given the ability to direct the power of God to heal, raise dead people, and cast out demons. These were obvious signs that God was working through them.

Now, a little further on we read some will reject them even though they did these wonderful miracles for all to see. What is very important here is what Christ tells us about these folks and their attitudes when it comes to the resurrection and the judgment.

**Verse 15:** "Assuredly I say to you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the Day of Judgment than for that city."

Does this mean the land of Sodom and Gomorrah, or the people who had occupied it? Well, it is very simple to understand that Christ is talking about the people. If we recall, all of them were destroyed centuries prior to Christ's time and millennia before the resurrection. If we recall, those people were very sinful.

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instruction we are given about the plan of salvation in the second covenant scriptures as well as the first.

The only important thing to mention here is under the first covenant it was primarily a focus of, and towards, a nation or a people, but under the second it is very personal. That is why we are to work out our own salvation with fear and trembling.

The Lamb of God gave up all the glory He had as one of the Elohim to become a man and to die for every man, woman, and child who has ever taken the breath of life. He was and is and always will be the sacrifice that paid the penalty that we all deserved. It was His immense capacity for mercy that moved Him to do so. That is why He teaches us: "But I desire mercy and not sacrifice, for I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."

He was and is the sacrifice in our stead. We should be learning how to comprehend and function with a mind-set of mercy and not demanding a penalty. The penalty phase of all our existences is His and His alone to deal with.

We need to be learning the weightier matters of this. Christ and the Father do not want to lose a single person to the second death. They are so intent on it that He, Christ, paid the penalty for us. That is not a light thing; it is very heavy. All God asks of us is that we turn from our sins and repent and acknowledge what He has done for us. Then our minds will grow in the grace and knowledge of the solid food God has to give us.

That is a lifesaving and life-giving event to each and every human being. That is one of the primary reasons why Jesus is and will be the judge of all mankind. It was His shed blood, and He had been tempted in all things just like us but He did not take the bait. He did not sin.

Repentance and forgiveness of sin are in the forefront of the gospel. Luke tells us what Christ's instructions were to His disciples as He departed to the throne room of God.

**Luke 24:46-47:** "Then He said to them, thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sin should be preached in His name (not, you are going to burn in the lake of fire sinner) to all nations, beginning in Jerusalem."

Here we have just one of the many scriptures which tell us the very same thing. We are not "sons of thunder" but rather "our brother's keeper," and we need to have the mind-set of Christ more often than not, brethren. That means towards ourselves and others. That is not an easy thing to do these days.

But remember we are not to spend our time on one who has committed the unpardonable sin. Our mercy is not greater than God's and if we start following that course in our lives we will be completely distracted from the purpose we are placed

in the body to fulfill. We are to be edifying one another, and by that example many have and will be established in the desire to imitate those good works.

**Acts 26:19-20:** "Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, but declared first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem, and throughout all the region of Judea, and to the Gentiles, that they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance."

Paul understood his calling and how he was placed in the body and the functions he was to undertake in it, as well as to all others. Let's refresh our memories as to what he was instructed to do.

**Verses 17-18:** "I will deliver you from the people, as well from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, to open their eyes (not to punch them in it), to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me."

Paul's main sphere of influence was to be with the Gentiles and to do what?

**Matthew 23:23:** "Woe to you, Scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint, and anise, and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law; justice (#2920), mercy, and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone."

Luke's account of this states:

**Luke 11:42:** "But woe to you Pharisees! For you tithe mint, and rue, and all manner of herbs, and pass by justice and the love of God . . ."

God is not cold-hearted in judgment. He is not nonchalant about it. It is not a vapor to Him. It is very important to Him. It is founded in mercy and love. If we do not preach such things and teach such things, it does not matter what else we hold and have which is true. Matthew 7 is crystal clear in content and application.

**Matthew 7:1-2:** "Judge (condemn) not, that you be not judged. For with what judgment (condemnation) you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you."

Once again it is not our lot in the life of

of it so that they will have the opportunity to finish it at a time they will be more suited to being successful.

We must never endanger the lives of those called of the Father. Causing one to stumble and have them recover is one thing, but to separate them from God or even attempt to is a grievous error, for then we would have become an adversary. We must never become a knowing and willing adversary of God. Scripture makes this clear that any who reject the holy spirit in such a mode are headed to the second death, called or uncalled.

We who are called at this time are called for a very special function. If we fall short of the standard that is required to fill the function of the bride in the household of the Father, we are not going to be thrown into the lake of fire. Once again we can read "many daughters have done well but you excel them all" (Proverbs 31:29).

Our calling is not an easy road to walk or field to plow. We would not have a prayer of finishing it unless we had the spirit of God in us and benefiting from those gifts given to us as part of the package.

The daughters who have done well but whom did not excel have a special function set aside for them after the pattern of a biblical family. But that as well as so much information on the resurrection is for another time and another place.

However, it is so very important to know and understand the role and function we are being prepared for at this time. Without that understanding we will certainly fall short of the goal. It goes far beyond the functions of Kings and Priests. It goes back to the premise of let Us make man in Our image and in Our likeness. The second Adam and second Eve will become fruitful and multiply. It is a function full of mercy and hope for all mankind.

**Revelation 22:17:** "And the spirit and the bride say, Come! And the one hearing let him affirm, Come! And let him who thirsts come. And whoever desires let him take the water of life freely."

Oh, yes, brethren, all mankind will be given the opportunity to take of this water of life freely in a future age to come. It is truly awesome, and the mind-set of a merciful God who loves His creation as much as He loves Himself. If we complete our being perfected in this calling we will function as the spiritual mother, the second Eve, in the age to come, and carry out all those responsibilities. A mother will do anything to safeguard the welfare of her children and we need to speak and act like it now.

Let's wrap up with these awesome words of hope for all mankind:

**Revelation 22:14:** "Blessed are those who do His commandments that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city."

The timeframe here is easy to see. It is after the resurrection.

Our peace we give to you.

—Brian Convery

**Remember, we are not to spend our time on one who has committed the unpardonable sin. Our mercy is not greater than God's.**

1. To open their eyes.
2. To turn them from darkness to light.
3. To turn them from the power of Satan (who has deceived the whole world) unto God.

All this had to happen before they could do what? Repent! And then they had access to what?

1. Forgiveness of sins.
2. To an inheritance among others who were sanctified by faith in Christ.

This process is spelled out throughout scripture. It is an unbroken pattern. The world of religion either preaches a "fire and brimstone" or "fuzzy love" gospel. We should not be doing the same thing. The gospel should be one of hope, not eternal damnation. That has not been nor will be and is not Christ's focus to us. It is a small part of what we are to emphasize, as the seven doctrines of the milk of the word point out to us.

That's right. One-seventh representation of it minus the fire and brimstone, son of thunder excitement in its presentation. It is a very sad doctrine, yet very necessary to our basic understanding before we can move on further into the mysteries of God, or, as it can be labeled, the hidden truths of God.

All our instruction on the subject should be centered around Christ as our Savior, Redeemer, and Judge, who is full of mercy and instant to forgive true repentance. Let us not fall into the category of teachers that the Pharisees occupy in any doctrine. They should all be interwoven with justice, mercy, and faith, but at the same time not Pollyannaish.

our calling to be sons of thunder calling down destruction on mankind. We are to be of our Father and function as we are placed in the body of Christ and obey His household rules and follow the example of His Son. We must never forget that.

Yes, we stand up to heretics and deceivers, but we are also to make an effort to open the eyes of those who have been deceived by Satan, not smash them shut. We need to give them the message of hope contained in the words of Christ and the plan of salvation. He is our Creator, Redeemer, Savior, and He is our merciful and forgiving Judge, and He is the only way to Salvation.

Every single man and woman, who has ever lived, taken the breath of life, will have the opportunity to repent and believe unless they have seared their minds through the unpardonable sin.

For the vast majority this will happen in a future age reserved for them. They, through the awesome miracle of resurrection, will be instantly ready and prepared to believe what their resurrector has to say. They will be given the opportunity to repent and to be given the spirit so they can understand the depth of their past behavior and indifference to God.

It is also important to understand that this type of judgment is at this time on the church. Some will reject this wonderful opportunity after having tasted of it deeply, but at the same time many will not be allowed to move forward in the depths of the wonders and understanding



# What is God?

Has anyone ever asked you, *What* is God? Think about that one. A stranger walks up to you and asks you if you know what God is. The question is for real, not a joke. The person really wants to know. How would you answer?

Maybe the first thing that comes to your mind is God is The Creator. You might reference the Bible book of Genesis reviewing what is said there about God making everything including Adam and Eve.

I hear you, the stranger responds. I am familiar with the creation story. But that doesn't answer my question, *What* is God? As a child I was raised in a religious family. I was taught God was three persons, three individuals, three parts of some sort of Whole. One person-part was God the Father, another part God the Son, and a third part God the Ghost. What bothers me, says the stranger, is the Son-part came to the earth by command of the Father-part to die. How is it the Whole survived the death of one-third of itself? Also, why is the one-third 'Ghost' person not the father of Jesus since it was Ghost who overshadowed Mother Mary?

You recognize the stranger is seriously questioning facets of the Trinity Doctrine. You might respond you haven't found anything in the Bible about God being three persons. You might say the apostle John wrote the Book of Revelation after receiving divine visions. In Chapter 4 of Revelation John writes about seeing 'One' sitting on the Throne of Heaven. The One was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone, says John. Additionally, four beasts around the Throne never rested saying: 'Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty' and 24 Elders were proclaiming: 'You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power for You have created all things.' Obviously, John had been shown, in vision, God sitting on His throne.

What is God, you rhetorically ask the stranger? God is the Creator, God is Almighty, and based upon what John was shown, the 'physical' image of God is red-dish-yellow in color. This mix of color is borne out by what the Children of Israel in the wilderness saw when The Lord descend upon Mt. Sinai. What they saw was *fire* (Exodus 19:18). Fire is the same basic color of the jasper and sardine stones John mentioned.

The prophet Ezekiel wrote in Chapter 1, verses 26 to 28, about the vision of a throne he had been shown. On the throne, said Ezekiel, was a shape in 'resemblance' of the likeness of a man. The color of the 'resemblance' was amber. It was the glory of The Lord appearing as *fire*.

During the Israelites' later years in the wilderness Moses reminded them that The Lord their God was a consuming *fire* (Deuteronomy 4:24). And many years later the apostle Paul told the New Testament Hebrew church God was a consuming *fire* (Hebrews 12:29).

God is spirit (John 4:24). He is not a man (Hosea 11:9). Only fools try to change the glory of the incorruptible God into an image like a corruptible man (Romans 1:23). God patterned humanity after His true form (Genesis 1:26), but in comparison we humans are only darkened shadows, phantoms, illusions of God's image (see *Strong's Concordance*, OT reference word #6754). The day will come when those who are accepted for the change to spirit will see God as He really is (1 John 3:2). For now, no physical human can look upon the true face of God and live (Exodus 3:6).

Moses had an encounter with a burning bush. The incident bears out the fire aspect of God. The voice from the bush told Moses He was the God of Moses' forefathers, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Upon hearing the identity of the speaker, Moses covered his eyes afraid to look upon God (Exodus 3:4-6). Moses had forgotten he already had looked directly at the fire but not died. The fire in the bush was a cover for God.

Years later at Mt. Sinai, Moses was up the mountain to receive The Lord's commandments. He asked if he could see God's glory (splendor) (Exodus 33:18). The

Lord agreed to show Moses. He would make His 'goodness' pass before Moses, but would cover the eyes of Moses because not even the dedicated Moses, who had found grace in God's sight, could see the face of God and live. Moses had to be satisfied with seeing only the backside of God (Exodus 33:18-23).

While no physical man can look upon the face of God, it must be remembered a great many people saw the face of Jesus. That is one proof that Jesus was not God, nor was he a one-third part of some greater Whole suggested by the Trinity idea.

While Revelation 4:3 provides a 'physical' description of God upon the Throne in Heaven, Revelation 1:13 provides description of Jesus after his resurrection to eternal life. Jesus is shown clothed with a garment down to the foot and girt about the chest area with a golden girdle. His feet are the color of finely refined brass. His head hairs are white as snow, and he has eyes that look as flames of fire. His face shines as the sun in full strength.

"When I saw him," wrote John, "I fell at his feet as dead. But, he laid his right hand upon me, saying: 'Fear not. I am he that lived, and was dead, and am alive forevermore.'" These two descriptions show God and son are distinct personages. Jesus is his own self. Even human fathers and sons have different visual facial appearances and physical shapes.

So you might ask now, What is/was Jesus? Jesus was, as he said many times, the son of The Most High God (Mark 5:7). He also was the son of Man because of his birth by Mary (Luke 1:32). Jesus was the one prophesied to come from God to the earth to magnify the Law of God and make it honorable (Isaiah 42:21). Jesus was The Lord's Christ (Messiah) (Luke 2:26).

Malachi 3:1, *Strong's Concordance* translation—"I am sending My messenger," says the Self-existent Jehovah of The Host. "He will clear the way ahead of Me. Suddenly, the lord whom you seek will come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight."

Hebrews 1:1-2, *Strong's Concordance* translation—"At many times and in many ways of old," said the apostle Paul, "God spoke to the forefathers by the prophets. In these later days, (He) speaks to us by the son through whom He appointed heir of all. Indeed, the ages He made."

Deuteronomy 18:18-19, *Strong's Concordance* translation—(The Lord is speaking to Moses): "A prophet like you will I raise up for them from among their brothers. I will put My words in his mouth and he will speak all that I will order him. And if (there) be a man who (for)ever will not listen to My words which he will speak, I will require (it of him)."

Unfortunately, not everyone who does hear the words of salvation likes what they hear. Good examples are the Scribes and Pharisees in the time of Jesus. Jesus plainly told them *they* never had heard the voice of God because *they* were not listening to what was being said by scripture and prophecy.

"You have not The Father's word abiding in you," Jesus told them. "Search the Scriptures. You think you have eternal life abiding in you yet, I, whom God has sent, you believe not. The Scriptures testify of me, yet you will not come to me so you might have life" (John 5:38-40).

Peter and John were witnesses to many of the things Jesus did. At one time Peter told people: "We are not following cunningly devised fables when we make known to you the power and coming of our lord, Jesus Christ. We were eyewitnesses of his majesty! For he received from God the Father honor and glory when there came such a voice to him from the Excellent Glory: 'This is My beloved son in whom I am well pleased.' That voice, which came from heaven, we heard when with him upon the holy mount (of transfiguration)" (2 Peter 1:16-17/Matthew 17:5).

Some people think it was an angel and not God speaking from the cloud on the mountain. If that were true, Peter and John were liars. Jesus, also, was a liar. He said his Father had borne witness of him (John 5:37).

Abram would take issue with the idea that it was an angel who spoke with him. When Abram was 99 years old The Lord 'appeared to him' (came to see), saying: "I am God The Almighty. Walk before me and be you perfect. I will make My covenant between Me and you. I will multiply you exceedingly." Upon hearing, Abram fell on his face, and God talked with him (Genesis 17:1-3).

The Book of Isaiah in the Old Testament is important for understanding the differences between God and the son whom God would send. Chapters 42, 44 and 45 are the keys. Beginning with 42, verse 1: "Behold My *servant* whom I uphold, My elect in whom My soul delights. I have put My spirit upon him. He shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles."

42v5-8 (continuing the description of the 'elect servant')—Thus says God The Lord, He that created the heavens and stretched them out, He that spread forth the earth and that which comes out of it, He that gives breath and spirit to the people that walk therein: "I The Lord have called you in righteousness and will hold your hand, and will keep you, and give you for a covenant of the people, for a light to the Gentiles, to open blind eyes, to bring out prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness. I am The Lord. That is My name. My glory will I not give to another."

44v6, 8—Thus says The Lord the King of Israel, and his (Israel's) redeemer, The Lord of Hosts: "I am the first, and I am the last, and beside Me there is no God. You are My witnesses. Is there a God beside Me? Yea, there is *no* God. I know not any."

45v11-12, 18—Thus says The Lord, the Holy One of Israel: "Ask Me of things to come concerning my sons, and concerning the work of My hands. I have made the earth and created man upon it. (With) My hands I have stretched out the heavens and all their host have I commanded." Thus says The Lord that created the heavens, God Himself who formed the earth and made it, established it, did not create it in vain, and formed it to be inhabited: "I am The Lord and there is none else."

When The Lord changed Jacob's name to Israel, He identified Himself as God Almighty (Genesis 35:10-11). The Lord, whose name alone is Jehovah, is The Most High over all the earth (Psalm 83:18/Psalm 91:1). It was God who was with the Children of Israel in the wilderness (Psalm 78). When God makes a promise, He swears (confirms His word) by no other, because no other is greater than He (Hebrews 6:13).

Jesus was the elect *servant* of God (Isaiah 42:1), the *arm* of The Lord (Isaiah 53:1-3). He was brought (to the earth) as a *lamb* to the slaughter (Isaiah 53:7), a *token* of God's covenant with humanity (Isaiah 42:6). Jesus was a *light* to lighten the Gentiles (Luke 2:32). He is the only one, so far, begotten from the dead, the first of many *firstfruits* of God (1 Corinthians 15:20-23). Jesus was a human man as well as the son of God. He was a *prophet* of God, however Jesus was not *The* Lord God.

The above have been but a few Bible passages identifying Jesus as other than The Almighty Lord God. At no time did Jesus, an apostle, an angel, a prophet of God, or anyone else say Jesus was The Lord God in the Old Testament of the Bible. Such an identity for Jesus is a fairy tale. If Jesus was The Lord who gave commandment that people should have *no other gods before Him*, where does that leave the Deity whom Jesus said was his Father, and God, and who was greater? (John 10:29/John 14:28).

Here is the patience of the saints, (that) they keep the commandments of God, and faith of Jesus (Revelation 14:12).

For additional study on this subject, request a copy of our free booklet, *The Supreme God*.

Ministry Publications • P.O. Box 715 • Cottonwood, AZ 86326 USA

# — Good Hope Seminary —

Educational Division of Good Hope Institute

P.O. Box 546 • Apple Valley, CA 92307 • E-mail radiogoodhope@aol.com • Phone (423) 718-4089

Fall 2012

Dear Pastor,

We have discovered that many of the smaller Christian churches have a very poorly trained brotherhood of pastors and religious practitioners. In some areas the mean education level is high school or less. Yet many ministers have enjoyed many years of fruitful pastoral experience.

We empathize with this current situation, and believe our Seminary programs could fill a special void in the present, postmodernist expectation of well-trained clergy.

We want to clarify that we are not an Ivy-league school of higher learning. Rather, we are a small, somewhat conservative/orthodox institution designed to facilitate the learning of pastors who desire to improve and enhance their own esteem with their congregations and those yearn-

ing for fulfillment of self-prophecy.

We offer *real* lectures and request *active* participation in order to shun any perception of a diploma mill, a concept that we deplore.

## Accreditation

Because the Seminary strives to train and equip workers for exclusively in-house service, we have not, at our inception, or anytime later, sought any government or other institutional accreditation. Our main focus is on training and practical equipping, rather than concentrating on strict academics. We believe in separation of church and state and desire to stay exempt from state regulation, mandates, and any outside control that could come with "accreditation."

The seminary functions as its Educational Division under the auspices of Good Hope Institute, a federal 501(c)(3) registered church

organization. Hundreds of other Bible colleges and seminaries adhere to this particular view and directive. Courses are designed to equip men and women who have dedicated their lives for *exclusive* ministerial service within the boundaries and parameters of smaller Christian churches.

## Programs

We offer M.Div (Master of Divinity) and D.Min (Doctor of Ministry) degrees, catering to selected specialties in a variety of disciplines; e.g., preaching, chaplaincy, counseling, public evangelism, church planting, small-group facilitation, and systematic theology.

All courses are most affordable and are offered as accelerated distance programs, with all lectures prerecorded on DVD.

Formal cap-and-gown graduation can be arranged in your area, or you

may graduate in absentia.

The M.Div degree can be earned over a 12-month period involving course work plus essays, which will be the main, open-book test base.

The D.Min program may be pursued after graduating from the M.Div program, unless admitted via the other option (see information sheets).

The D.Min involves a research dissertation and needs to be constructed in consultation with the professor, who will arrange for program details. Completion is expected within a year. Please request a listing of the acceptable dissertation topics you may choose from. Alternatively, you may submit your own topic for evaluation.

Thank you for considering our programs.

Walk with the King!  
Jamie Liles, V.P.

## — Seminary Course Descriptions —

**Course-modules for academic year 2012, June/November 2013**, for M.Div. candidates planning to graduate in June or November 2013. (Selected courses will be added as interests and needs dictate.)

1. **Systematic Theology:** modules MD 201, 202, 203, 204
  - A. MD 201: Dealing with the Hebrew roots of the Early Christian Church, Salvation, the Torah and original understanding of the Hebrew Shema and the later Trinitarian development of the God family.
  - B. MD 202: The Gospel and Judgment of God: perspective on Soteriology, with a critical analysis of Exclusive Forensic Justification vs. Effective Forensic Justification. Exegesis of Colossians 2:14 or Exegesis of Daniel 8:14 in the context of John 10:22, 23. Replacement Theology/Supersessionism. Topics are flexible. Biblical Creation vs. Evolutionary Hypothesis.
  - C. MD 203: The Mystery of the Family of God, Christology, Pneumatology and the historical development of the Trinitarian view.
  - D. MD 204: (1) The Charismatic Phenomenon: an internal, exegetical analysis of all the relevant "tongue-speaking" references in the New Testa-

2. **Homiletics:** modules MD 301, 302
  - A. MD 301: Preparation and Delivery of Sermons, Divine Service (Worship Hour Pulpitizing)
  - B. MD 302: Funerals, Weddings, Baptism, Child dedication, the Lord's Supper, Anointing with oil, etc.
 

**Practicum:** videotaped evaluations of 15- to 20-minute recorded sermons. Lectures may include advanced instruction of public evangelism, including mechanisms such as NLP (Neuro-linguistic Programming), the pros and cons.
3. **Eschatology:** modules MD 401: The Parousia and Millennium. An overview of the Feast Days and their efficacy for Christians *today*.
4. **Pastoral Psychology:** modules MD 501, 502, 503
  - A. MD 501: Overview of Psychology and Terminology. Counseling is not psychotherapy. When to refer to professionals.
  - B. MD 502: Marriage Counseling. Premarital Counseling, as well as an external evaluation of the actual phenomenon of glossolalia. (2) Demonology: diagnostics of demonic presence, harassment and possession. Exorcism.

- C. MD 503: Crisis Counseling Course: suicide intervention, debriefing during trauma events, etc. (This is a certification course and a Homeland Security initiative.)
  5. **Church Growth:** modules MD 601, 602
    - A. MD 601: Church *In-reach*. How to take care of your present church membership and make members fall in love with the Lord as well as their pastor.
    - B. MD 601: Church *Out-reach*. (a) Church entry events, (b) Public Evangelism, (c) Small-group evangelism, (d) How to take care of new members.
  6. **Essay:** The Christian Church of the First Century and its "Jewishness." Minimum 10 pages. Describe the ideal church of *today*. Is it different from the "original"?
- Some modules may consist of 2-4 lectures. As you look and listen to the lectures, you need to take notes and prepare a one-page summary to be sent in. The major objective is that candidates *understand* and *grasp* the material, rather than the parroting/memorizing prevalent in some undergraduate programs. Courses are sent to you as they are recorded and are available, beginning around mid-November. Delivery method will be discussed soon.

## — Admission Requirements —

1. **M.Div**
  - A. Applicants with a Bachelor's Degree may apply for entrance.
  - B. Applicants with an Associate Degree, and at least 2 years of practical experience in a ministerial or related field.
  - C. \*\*Applicants who are 35 years or older with at least 5 years of practical experience in a ministerial or related field. Special situations will be considered on a merit basis. Men and women are invited; clergy as well as parachurch; lay members.
2. **D.Min**
  - A. Applicants must hold an earned Master's Degree. An experienced professor with an earned Doctorate will discuss and advise on possible threads to consider for the dissertation. The candidate may be required to audit some course work at the discretion of the supervising promoter. There will be no extra cost for this.
  - B. Grandfathered-in applicants must be at least 45 years of age with a minimum of 15 years ministerial/teaching experience. If interested, please ask for available *list of dissertation topics* you may choose from. Doctoral dissertations must be minimum of 100 typed pages and not longer than 250 typed pages. The supervising professor will discuss the outline and time frame with candidates. Also, your own research topic may be submitted for consideration.

**Note:** The Seminary Division is *specifically* designed to *jump-start* the ailing band of faithful pastors who never had much opportunity to attend a quality Bible college. This process of "grandfathering in" (see Admission Requirements) will be allowed only during the first two years, when admission requirements will be reviewed and a stronger focus might be placed on college qualifications for admission.

### Program for 2013/14

**Note:** candidates may start on class assignments and DVD lectures upon registration.

In order to graduate with the M.Div. degree, a total of 24 semester hours will be required. This requirement can be achieved by studying and summarizing *all* of the DVD lectures, as well as completing the dissertation or course papers. Students will be given due dates when assignments must be in. After every course, an open test sheet must be answered and mailed in for grading. These are not returned to candidates.

### Fees and Cost-distribution

\$600 per degree must be paid to Good Hope Institute. Payments of two equal amounts can be arranged and must be remitted at course commencement and before graduation. These fees are applied mostly to reimburse participating professors as well as administration costs. The approximate \$20 per credit hour is more reasonable than most other institutions of this kind.

Applicants may request information about available courses and registration forms from radiogoodhope@aol.com or call the Registrar at (423) 718-4089 (8 A.M.—8 P.M. Pacific time).

Thank you for your consideration as we plant this theological seminary to train ministers to the glory of God!

Respectfully submitted,  
Secretariat  
Good Hope Institute

P.S. during the 2013 Academic Year, the Lead Professor will be Dr. Pieter Barkhuizen, an ordained minister who has conducted more than 150 major evangelistic crusades worldwide, during which more than 4,000 souls accepted Christ as Lord and Savior. An experienced professor of theology and homiletics, he holds the degrees B.D., Th.M. and Th.D. from Trinity Graduate School of Theology (Trinity College, Alma Mater of Dr. Billy Graham), and the H.E.D. (psyc) from the University of Cape Town in South Africa. He is Visiting Professor at St. Elias Seminary and Graduate School.

# Jury nullification: Juries can judge the law, not just the case

Continued from page 6

for nonpayment or evasion, including two church members very recently here in Big Sandy. They're in prison now.

A man and his wife were sent to separate prisons in separate states for, I think it was, three to five years. But I think they used a different approach from yours. They declared they were sovereign individuals and not really citizens of the United States.

So many people you hear about have tried to reform the system or argue that income tax is illegal or point out all kinds of problems, and they've ended up in prison. How have you stayed out of prison?

## Paper trails to you

**Dr. Maehr:** Well, because of the paper trail that I've created. I'm a really big believer in being totally transparent and open and showing good faith every step of the way.

Because of the at least 1,000 pages of documents I've sent them by certified mail over the past 10 years, it's an impossibility for them to criminally go after me. That's because they could never prove willful failure to file. One of the elements of what is defined as willful failure to file is that you knew you had a lawful duty and you didn't do it.

Well, I don't believe I have a lawful duty, and I've made that extremely clear.

Another tangent is a lot of times these people, so-called tax protesters, are doing it in good faith and they do have a leg to stand on, so to speak, but they're still trying to play the IRS game, like they'll file 1040s. They still have their foot in the IRS's door. That's why the IRS can go after them. They are trying to play another game but are still under the IRS rules.

The people you mentioned probably had too many tentacles still stuck in the system and they probably didn't create a paper trail that was long enough.

Why didn't the IRS bring me into court and show me the law that I'm violating?

Well, because there isn't any. There is no law at all—even in the Internal Revenue Code—that makes most of us liable, personally liable, to file a 1040 form.

I might add too that regarding not being a quote United States unquote citizen has legal merit when you delve into the definition of a United States—with United States in quotes—citizen vs. a state citizen, and what the 14th Amendment did to all of us state citizens.

Maybe we can talk about that some other time.

## But people still go to jail

**THE JOURNAL:** I understand what you're saying. I've read about proceedings in other courts where somebody made convincing-sounding arguments, but the judge and/or jury just said it's frivolous and they threw him in jail anyway. The merits of the case didn't seem to make any difference.

But you've somehow been able to avoid that because of your paper trail?

**Dr. Maehr:** The paper trail and just willing, I guess, to go to the nth degree.

It's been a monumental amount of work, but it isn't all me because there are other cases, and the research I've tapped into.

## Case histories

**THE JOURNAL:** Other cases?

**Dr. Maehr:** Like Joe Banister. He was acquitted by a jury. Vernice Kuglin. She was a FedEx pilot. In fact, Joe Banister was an ex-IRS special agent. He put people in jail, but now he educates and defends them.

**THE JOURNAL:** Kind of like Paul when he was Saul?

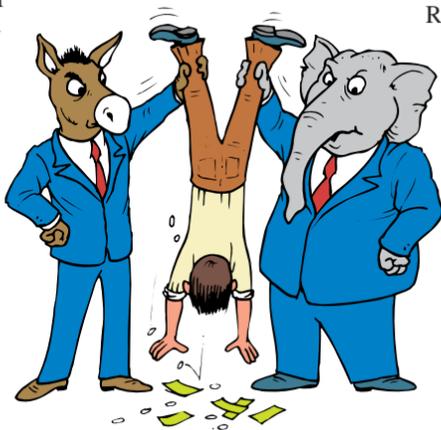
**Dr. Maehr:** While Joe Banister was an IRS special agent, he was similarly challenged as I was, and he did a two-year study on his own time. After two

years he put a 90-plus-page document together and brought it to his superiors and said, hey, I think we've got a problem here.

Their reaction? They just said we want your resignation. They didn't pay any attention to his legal proof or arguments.

Tom Cryer is another one. He died recently. He won a year or two ago.

These guys are just saying show me the law. Vernice Kuglin sent a letter



every year to the IRS stating I want to follow the law. I want to do my duty. I want to pay my fair share. Just show me the law.

No answers, and they went after her.

## What's a jury to do?

**THE JOURNAL:** What if a jury believes there is something deficient in the law itself? Do members of a jury have recourse?

**Dr. Maehr:** Good question. That gets us into jury nullification, where the jury can be the judge of the facts, yes, but also of the law itself. They can say it might be the law but the law is bad, or we don't like it, or they might say government's misusing the law and we're going to find the defendant not guilty. Once that happens, it's done, and the jury is entirely within its legal rights to make that decision.

When God says My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge, boy, that is such an understatement whether we're talking about jury nullification or other aspects of what we're discussing here.

What about Romans 13?

**THE JOURNAL:** You quote the Bible about My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. What about Romans 13: "For there is no power but of God. The powers that be are ordained of God. Whoever resists the power resists the ordinance of God. They who resist shall receive to themselves damnation. For rulers are not a terror to good works but to the evil?"

Paul is represented in the epistle to the Romans as going on to say: "For he"—the governmental authority—"is God's minister to you for good. For he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil. Therefore you must be subject. Because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God's ministers attending continually to this very thing."

These words ascribed to the apostle Paul could reasonably be taken to mean that God is in some real sense personally directing the IRS and you don't have any business bucking that system.

**Dr. Maehr:** Yeah, I think that the best articles I've seen on that topic are by Chuck Baldwin. Google Chuck Baldwin Romans 13. His responses on that would be better than I'm able to give.

## Was Hitler ordained of God?

**THE JOURNAL:** Yes, but for this particular interview and article, how would you, Jeff Maehr, answer that in a couple of sentences or two or three paragraphs?

**Dr. Maehr:** I would say that, if we take Romans 13 the way we have been taking it, then we're stating that Hitler was ordained of God.

Christ Himself fought the system, the authorities. Paul did. My answer would be that since we can't take Romans 13 as it's written—I couldn't possibly do that for a second—what Paul's talking about are benevolent powers.

Paul's not saying that we have to submit to horrendous, illegal, unconstitutional authorities. We must submit only to benevolent powers.

**THE JOURNAL:** Yet Romans 13:1 plainly implies that every soul should be subject to the higher powers because there are no powers that be that are not ordained of God.

## Right of the first night

**Dr. Maehr:** Well, that would be like if they went back to the doctrine of *jus primae noctis*.

What if the powers that be say that, when somebody's going to get married, the leader, the ruler of the area, has the right to take the bride into his bed before the bride and groom consummate their marriage? Now, would the church say that's of God?

**THE JOURNAL:** No, the church would not say that. But Paul said that. I'm just saying that's what Paul is rep-

resented as saying. I'm concluding that you can't necessarily take literally every saying that is attributed to Paul.

**Dr. Maehr:** Yeah, well, get those articles from Chuck Baldwin. He explains this very well, and I would add this: The people are the masters in our republic, and the government is the servant.

Paul dealt with true sovereign powers they were subject to. Christ stated that a servant—our government—is not above his master, the people.

We've just forgotten that God made us the sovereigns, under Him, and we are to obey the laws of the land, the true laws which we created, not all the pharaical laws of control the servants created to rule over us.

What if Dr. Maehr wins?

**THE JOURNAL:** What are the implications if you win? What would that do to the country? Sounds like it would throw a monkey wrench into the works of government, businesses, individuals, everything and everyone. Would freedom—or chaos—ring?

**Dr. Maehr:** Ideally speaking, the IRS could disappear. Ideally speaking, the fraudulent activities of the IRS for the past 99 years would be exposed and there would suddenly be a huge awakening of people who realize the corruption that the government's been involved in.

You know, I'm taking a pie-in-the-sky, altruistic approach here. I'm like David and I have one rock, and this is certainly a giant I'm up against, but I believe God can take them down.

My questions are valid and the case law I'm citing is valid, but I don't know what's going to happen. It's a matter of how the Supreme Court will rule on it.

When people go to jail, it's all over the news. But when Joe Banister was acquitted or Vernice Kuglin or Tom-

my Cryer and others, you don't hear one peep about that because the IRS uses fear and intimidation.

Most people hear IRS and they think audit or they'll knock on my door sometime, and it creates all this fear.

But there's nothing they could do to me. I don't have anything they could possibly take even if the illegal assessment is upheld. It doesn't mean anything in my life.

The reason this is all coming to a head is there are millions of people who are not in the system anymore. A lot of them are not filing because they know about the scam.

So I'm hoping the Supreme Court will realize that it's inevitable that this is going to come out, and I made that clear in my case. I said it is going to be vetted. I said millions are finding out about this from thousands of Web sites and attorneys and individuals across the country. It's not going away. So the sooner we address it the better.

**THE JOURNAL:** What if you lose? Would this be the end of protests of taxes that some people have concluded are illegal? Would a loss for you at the Supreme Court slap down this kind of effort for all time?

**Dr. Maehr:** I don't think it would be the end of protests and efforts to reform the system. But it could be a significant setback.

When we go to the highest court in the land to seek due process of law and are denied it even here, then we do not have a free republic and are very close to tyranny and likely a civil war.

Our founding fathers stated in our laws that the people had the right to alter or abolish this government if its ends were not serving the people.

History is replete with the people finally deciding they've had enough.

**What would a legal income tax look like?**

**THE JOURNAL:** You mentioned you are an illegal-tax protester but not a tax protester per se. So let's say the Supreme Court finds in your favor and somehow the IRS and income tax have to be revamped. What would a legal income tax look like? Or can there be such a thing?

**Dr. Maehr:** Well, yes, there can be if you're a corporation or making actual income from your wealth. You have all your expenses, you've got your employees, you've got your supplies. Everything is paid for, and then whatever is over those expenses is a

form of lawlessness, which is what we've been caught up in.

When I went into the Navy I said I would defend my country against all enemies foreign and domestic, and that's not happening when we comply with something like the IRS and the income tax as it is being applied.

If the Constitution and laws say A and we as a people, even in the church, are doing B and filling out that 1040 form and signing it under penalty of perjury, then we are committing perjury every time we sign it because we are making a declaration that the powers that be love us to make:

We're self-assessing that we have income we do not lawfully have. We are the ones making an unwitting decision to assess ourselves.

They look at anybody filling out those forms as making a donation to the corporate government.

## How voluntary is voluntary?

**THE JOURNAL:** And yet many people who have said the income tax is voluntary so I'm not going to pay it have ended up in jail.

**Dr. Maehr:** You've got to be wise in this. You've got to take it a step at a time. You can't just cold-turkey it. You've got to use their own rules and the laws against them.

It's getting easier because more and more people are realizing what's happening.

The computer age and the Internet have made possible the research that must be done to understand this. If it wasn't for the Internet, none of us would know any of this. People are able to do the research and put it out there where other people can find it.

It's piling up. It's a big library that's getting bigger and bigger because we're all learning and contributing to it. It's going to reach a point of no return.

**THE JOURNAL:** So when might the Supreme Court hear your arguments?

**Dr. Maehr:** I don't know yet. Depends on the IRS response, if any.

**THE JOURNAL:** Let's say the court decides to hear you and let's just postulate that your arguments prevail. What will happen to the people who are sitting in prison for trying to do what you've been doing? Would our friends from Big Sandy get out of prison sooner rather than years later?

**Dr. Maehr:** Yes, I believe. Anybody who's in jail for any type of IRS-related charge would immediately be released. They'd have to be. I think the dominoes would quickly fall.

## Personal matters

**THE JOURNAL:** What do you do for a living. You're a chiropractor?

**Dr. Maehr:** Yes, but I'm not in practice anymore. I have my Web site, purehealthsystems.com, that's paying the bills. It's about health and wellness.

I've got a lot of other irons in the fire including major projects we're about to get funding for. I've been working with a group for about 10 years in the area of health and wellness.

We'll have wellness centers, whole-life centers, organic foods, non-GMO [genetically modified organism] greenhouse technology, energy technologies and much more.

Dr. Maehr accepts donations via check or PayPal to continue his efforts to reform, and help others reform, U.S. tax laws. Payments via paypal.com can be sent in care of an E-mail address, donations@foundationfortruthinlaw.org.

Or write Dr. Jeffrey Maehr at 924 E. Stollsteimer Rd., Pagosa Springs, Colo. 81147, U.S.A. Or phone him at (970) 731-9724.

See a PDF of the document Dr. Maehr submitted to the Supreme Court at [tinyurl.com/jeff-maehr](http://tinyurl.com/jeff-maehr). Read an article based on reporter Bob Unruh's recent interview with Dr. Maehr at [tinyurl.com/jeff-maehr-more](http://tinyurl.com/jeff-maehr-more).



corporate profit. Whatever is profitable above and beyond expenses is taxable as income.

Excise taxes, alcohol tax, the firearms tax, all those taxes are legitimate, legal, constitutional taxes that bring in revenue. So it's not a matter of government suddenly shutting down.

## Political truth

**THE JOURNAL:** What are your political leanings?

**Dr. Maehr:** I guess libertarian. I'm a Tea Party type. I just want the truth.

We should know as church members that law is important, and we should be made aware if we have been lulled into

# Austin makes 11 years for One God series

By Dixon Cartwright

AUSTIN, Texas—Two days of discussion and debate in a conference room in a DoubleTree-Hilton hotel in the Texas capital June 2-3, 2012, brought together Christians of several stripes. Most but not all of them had backgrounds in the Worldwide Church of God (WCG).

There were Sabbatarians. There were Sunday observers.

Represented were speakers and listeners with strong opinions on the ontological nature of God: binitarians, Trinitarians and unitarians. But mostly there were unitarians.

The occasion was Ken Westby's annual conference, sponsored by his Association for Christian Development, whose purpose was to present the evidence for the existence of one and only one God. That is, Jesus is the Son of God but not God.

Mr. Westby started his One God Seminars series in 2002.

This year's gathering in Austin, No. 11 in as many years, featured 10 presenters including Mr. Westby.

Following are notes from the presentations.

## Preeminence of the Father

Owen Murphy of South Slovan, B.C., Canada, a former pastor with the Worldwide Church of God, presented "Our Father."

Mr. Murphy cited scriptures that support the preeminence of the Father. Not only is the Father our God, but He is also Jesus' Father and Jesus' God, Mr. Murphy said.

## Land of chaos

Sir Anthony Buzzard of Fayetteville, Ga., a retired professor of New Testament and biblical languages and a former WCG member, asked his audience if Trinitarianism qualifies as monotheism.

"Religion is a wacko land, a land of chaos," he said. Christians, especially former WCG members, can be "terribly tied to their backgrounds . . . Really, religion is a madhouse in some ways."

## Christological interpretation

Dan Girouard of Cedar Park, Texas, gave "A History of Christology," the theological interpretation of the person and work of Christ.

Somehow in the churches, Mr. Girouard said, "we've gotten to somewhere that just doesn't make sense, and this subject [the nature of God and Jesus] is just one of those."

At the core of so many issues of interpretation is language, including translation.

"You don't translate mathematically," he said. "You translate meaning."

## The murder of Servetus

Carlos Jimenez, originally from Nicaragua, presented "Calvin, Servetus and the Struggle for Truth."

Michael Servetus was a 16th-century Spanish theologian who opposed Trinitarianism and whose theology so enraged John Calvin, the French Protestant reformer, that Calvin had Servetus burned at the stake.

## Horrifying history

Sean Finnegan of Albany, N.Y., gave two presentations about the "Trinitarian controversy" in the 4th and 5th centuries.

"The 4th-century story is horrifying, yet it shapes Christian beliefs to

the present," Mr. Finnegan said.

There are several "myths," he said, about the Trinity and other views of the nature of the Godhead.

One myth is that the Trinity was taught from the 1st century and agreed



**CONFERRING IN AUSTIN**—Ken Westby (left), JoAn Westby and Dan Girouard visit in Austin, Texas, during the 2012 One God Seminars. The Westbys are the founders of the seminar series. Mr. Girouard served as local host of this year's meetings. [Photo by Dixon Cartwright]

upon by Christians worldwide.

The reality is "there were several beliefs about Jesus' relation to God that competed with each other for adherents for centuries until the Trinity—barely—won out."

## Preexistence not the main thing

Michel Danis of Blainville, Que., Canada, presented "My Journey to Meet the One True God."

When Mr. Danis was a member of the WCG, he believed "in the binity, this kind of concept that God Elohim is a family, two people existing, coexisting, forever, and at some point one of them deciding to be the father, the other to be the son, something like that."

**Phillip Arnold did not talk about whether Jesus is God. Instead he spoke of how the 'atonement through Jesus Christ' works.**

He said some unitarians—those who believe the Father is God but the Son is not God—"are on the side of preexistence and others are not."

"I've been studying and decided that Jesus didn't preexist," he said. "But I've also decided that's not the most important thing. The important thing is who is the eternal God, and Jesus is His Son, preexistence or not."

## Two Yahwehs

Gary Woodring of Tyler, Texas, presented "Two Yahwehs in the Old Testament Equals Two Gods?"

Although Mr. Woodring does not believe Jesus is God, he says he does not minimize Jesus.

"Make no mistake," he said: "Jesus is the most important of all creation. We're not here to minimize Yeshua. We're here to elevate Him . . . He is the doorway to eternal life. He is the only way home . . . There's absolutely no way to the Father without the Messiah."

He quoted Isaiah 43:10-11 as an important "one God" scripture:

"'You are My witnesses,' says the Lord, 'and My servant whom I have chosen, that you may know and believe Me, and understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, nor shall there be after Me. I, even I, am the Lord, and besides Me there is no savior.'"

## The prophetic curse

Bob Woodburn of Houston, Texas, presented "They Still Don't Get It: Isaiah's Singular Monotheism and the Prophetic Curse."

The prophetic curse Mr. Woodburn referred to was that Isaiah's prophecies are not believed. So could they be a product of "divinely mandated ignorance?" he asked.

The "curse" referred to Mr. Woodburn's analogy that plays on Cassandra and Apollos, two gods in Homer's *Iliad*. Although Cassandra—like Isaiah—correctly predicted events, no one believed her prophecies. That was her curse for resisting Apollos' amorous advances.

The book of Isaiah, Mr. Woodburn said, has been called "the single most monotheistic book in the Old Testament."

## The atonement

Phillip Arnold, also of Houston, presented "The Atonement Through Jesus Christ: Reflections."

Dr. Arnold was unusual at the conference in that he was the only speaker who was not a unitarian. Rather, he accepts a version of the Trinity.

But he mainly did not talk about whether Jesus is God. Instead, he spoke of how the "atonement through Jesus Christ" works.

He presented three theories "that try to explain how Jesus Christ brings redemption":

- The substitution theory; that is, the objective view: appeasement by blood sacrifice; no forgiveness until a debt is paid; a legal code.

- The exemplary view, also called the moral-influence

theory or subjectivist view: "The life and death of Jesus bring us to repentance and forgiveness as we grasp the injustice done to Him. God does not need sacrifice, but He needs us to come to repentance."

- The classical view: Christ the victor, war in heaven; God keeps chaos and evil back: "Only a radical move by God can save the world and creation. Satan, evil, corruption control creation and the world."

## A sit-down with God

To conclude his 2012 conference, Mr. Westby presented a parable: "A Sit-Down With God: Bringing Adam and Eve Up to Date with Yahweh's Grand Plan."

"I don't think there were any wiser than Adam and Eve," he said. "They lived over 900 years and they died, and their eyes saw the creation go down, down, down, down . . ."

"I have a different view of the manifestation of Yahweh. I believe the sovereign God can appear however He wants to appear, even as a man, which seems to be how Adam and Eve perceived Him."

## More information

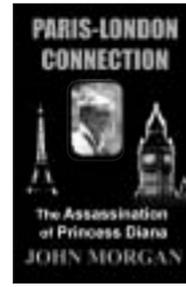
For information on Mr. Westby's Association for Christian Development, go to [godward.org](http://godward.org). For audio recordings of the speeches at Mr. Westby's conference, see Mr. Finnegan's Web site, [christianmonotheism.com](http://christianmonotheism.com).

## Notes and quotes

### Former WCG member's book claims Diana was assassinated

A book by a former WCG member is making waves in news markets in several countries around the world.

*Paris-London Connection: The Assassination of Princess Diana*



by Australian John Morgan argues that Diana did not die in an automobile crash in 1997 in France but was assassinated after the wreck.

Mr. Morgan believes Diana was murdered by a department of the British government.

Queen's counsel Michael Mansfield, who served at the six-month London inquest, is quoted in the book:

"I have no doubt that the volumes written by John Morgan will come to be regarded as the 'Magnum Opus' on the crash . . . that resulted in the unlawful killing of Diana, Princess of Wales, and Dodi Al Fayed and the cover-up that followed."

Mr. Morgan, who for six years investigated the crash that injured Diana, also wrote *Flying Free*, about his life in and exit from the Worldwide Church of God.

*Paris-London Connection* is available at Amazon.com for \$13.50, or \$5 for the Kindle edition. Write Mr. Morgan at [shining.bright@optusnet.com.au](mailto:shining.bright@optusnet.com.au).

### Art Mokarow's new TV program

CONROE, Texas—Art Mokarow has a new television program on biblical history.

The weekly broadcasts began in September in Detroit, Mich., and will continue for the rest of 2012.

"Learn the history of Scriptures so you, yourself, can decide what God is revealing to you at the level of your present understanding," Mr. Mokarow said in a press release. "You will find the history of the world is being revealed in your Bible."

"Eventually we hope to blanket Houston, Texas, and many other cities in the United States and Europe," Mr. Mokarow told *THE JOURNAL*.

Information about Mr. Mokarow's many books, which he mails out free of charge, is at [GodsPuzzleSolved.com](http://GodsPuzzleSolved.com).

### Henk Jens actually does count Pentecost

BELMORE, Australia—*THE JOURNAL* erroneously reported in "Notes and Quotes" in issue No. 150 that Henk Jens doesn't count Pentecost.

Mr. Jens explained in an E-mail that, although he believes Pentecost always falls on Sivan 7 on the Jewish calendar,

that doesn't mean he doesn't count it.

"I count those 50 days similar to Judaism's Shavuot Sivan 6, only I count exclusively from the Wave Sheaf Offer day to reach Sivan 7," he said.

"Believe me that I had to count 50 days to Pentecost, as undoubtedly did Joshua when Israel entered the Promised Land."

To follow Mr. Jens' reasoning, see his paper "P4" at his Web site, [www.rightly-dividing.net](http://www.rightly-dividing.net).

### What atheists think

BATTLE GROUND, Wash.—The current issue of a free magazine published by the Bible Sabbath Association includes an article by editor Ken Ryland about atheists.

It's "What Atheists Think of You" and focuses on what Mr. Ryland says is skeptics' discomfort with Christians passing on their religious values to their children.

The issue's articles also include "Looking for God on Mars" by Ken Westby, "Three Important Hebrew Words" by Daniel Botkin, "They That Wait Upon the Lord, Part 2" by Lori Godfrey, "Joy in the Morning" by Donald Mansell and "A Bride for Isaac, a Bride for the Messiah" by Doug Ward.

For more information or to subscribe, contact the BSA at 802 NW 21st Ave., Battle Ground, Wash. 98604, U.S.A., or [biblesabbath@comcast.net](mailto:biblesabbath@comcast.net).

### Issues on the mind

TULSA, Okla.—The Churches of God Outreach Ministries lists more than 100 Bible-based articles that address issues frequently on the minds of Christians, announced a recent issue of *New Horizons*, the CGOM magazine edited by James McBride of Lincoln, England.

The CGOM's home base is in Tulsa. It also has an address in Don Mills, Ont., Canada.

For more information write P.O. Box 54621, Tulsa, Okla. 74155, or [coguk@aol.com](mailto:coguk@aol.com).

### Cincinnati Winter Family Weekend

MILFORD, Ohio—The United Church of God announces its plans for the 2012 Winter Family Weekend to take place at Great Wolf Lodge in the Cincinnati area. This year's dates: Dec. 21-25.

For more information go to [www.wfw.ucg.org](http://www.wfw.ucg.org) or write P.O. Box 541027, Cincinnati, Ohio 45254.

### Lexington Winter Family Weekend

CINCINNATI, Ohio—The Church of God Cincinnati and Lexington announce their 2012 Winter Family Weekend, set for Dec. 21-25 in Lexington, Ky.

It is billed as "a place for families to meet and connect with other Christians with similar beliefs in a warm and friendly atmosphere."

For more information visit [www.cogcincinnati.org](http://www.cogcincinnati.org).

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