

## **Is Cremation Christian?**

by James E. Burson (Big Sandy, Texas)

Throughout Christianity cremation has always been a controversial subject. Nonetheless, it is a subject about which everyone must make a decision sooner or later.

### **What is Cremation?**

Modern cremation uses temperatures around 1700 Degrees Fahrenheit to reduce a human body to approximately 6 pounds of ashes, bone fragments and assorted congealed particles in about 4 hours time.

These remains are then ground into *(Continued on page 6)*

## **The Simple Truth About Faith!**

by Nathaniel Burson (Big Sandy, Texas)

Faith has been one of the most sought-after things in the history of God's Church. Every member of God's Church down through time has, at one time or another, longed to understand this truth. Many have claimed to have understood it - without being able to show it, or prove it. But James tells us "show me your faith without your works, and I'll show you my faith BY my works!" (James 2:18).

Many today feel obligated to pray - without really expecting a dramatic answer to their request. THIS SHOULD NOT BE! God will instantly, dramatically, answer any *(Continued on page 10)*

## **Harry Potter Mania**

**Where does it lead?**

by Jeffrey Caldwell (Redwood City, California)

How is it that America has a sweet hero who is a sorcerer? A fantasy hero, indeed!

The only wise God with real power to bless America, the Holy One of Scripture -- increasingly ignored and discounted -- is the One who says: "Do not practice divination or sorcery." (Leviticus 19:26b, NIV).

Towards the end of Israel's exodus, just before they entered the promised land, His prophet Moses said to them: "... do not learn to imitate the detestable ways of the *(Continued on page 12)*

## **Cause and Effect of Good Deeds**

by Doyle Carter (Tulsa, Oklahoma)

Do you ever wonder whether the good deeds that you do for others really make any difference in peoples lives or assist in the spreading of God's Word? This question was presented to me by an individual who wrote me recently. He felt that the various good deeds appear to have little or no real effect on others. I must admit that I am unaware of his good works, but I realize that we may do various deeds such as helping a poor family, donating to charitable organizations or even just encouraging *(Continued on page 12)*

## **Issachar in the Modern World**

by Steven M. Collins (Sioux Falls, South Dakota)

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Issachar was a son of Jacob and Leah, and this tribe's original inheritance was located in the region of Galilee. After their migration into Asia, they were one of the many related Sacae tribes of the Scythians who were located throughout the steppes of South Russia in the region from Eastern Europe to east of the Caspian Sea. When the Scythians, and their Parthian relatives, migrated in large numbers toward Europe and Scandinavia in the centuries after the fall of Parthia, the tribe of Issachar left its name along the migration route. *(Continued on page 13)*

## **Servants' News:**

### **Settlement Achieved!**

by Norman S. Edwards (Port Austin, Michigan)

Thank you for all of the prayers and e-mails of encouragement. There were simply too many to answer them individually.

On Thursday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, we arrived at the courthouse well before the 9:00 a.m. trial time with six witnesses ready to testify on our behalf and at least that many more planning to come that afternoon. Terry Williams was there with his attorney, Duane Cubitt, but his main witness, Paul Drieman, did not come—even though the trial had been postponed a week so *(Continued on page 14)*

## **Connecting the Dots**

by Clyde Ferrell, Jr. (Mount Calm, Texas)

When I was a young boy I enjoyed the dot pictures, where you drew a line from dot to dot and eventually after all the dots had a line drawn to them you could see the picture outline. It is apparent in our world today, we Americans have trouble connecting the dots as we must not want to see the picture that would outline the true America of yesterday and today.

Let us start out with the 9/11 dot. The next dot is the War On Terrorism dot followed by the Homeland Security Dot. Then comes the let's go get Osama bin Laden dot, the bomb Afghanistan dot, go get Saddam dot, bomb Iraq dot, give *(Continued on page 16)*

## **Sometimes They Come Back**

**An Investigative look into the Assyrian invasion and deportation of the Ten Tribes of Israel -- Part #3**  
by Cam Rea (Kendallville, Indiana)

### **Could the Israelites master the horse?**

The answer is yes! This is not problematic. The Israelites were surrounded by Medes, and would have to adapt. Let me give you an example. I served 3 years in the U.S. Army, I deported myself into a society and land not of my own. Now before I went to basic, I knew nothing about the military world. After *(Continued on page 3)*

**LETTERS SECTION**

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**Isaiah 58:1** Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.

**Ezekiel 33:8-9** When I say unto the wicked, O wicked man, thou shalt surely die; if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Nevertheless, if thou warn the wicked of his way to turn from it; if he do not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul.

**Ephesians 5:11** And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove (expose) them.

**1 Timothy 5:20** Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear.

**Four Emails & More False Accusations (1-3-07)**  
by Myra McQueen (Odessa, Texas)

**Myra McQueen writes:**

It appears that although you have printed some letters concerning me, and do not even consider that they are no longer read by your scattered proselytes, that you have been very busy supporting the corrupt elitists of yesteryear as well. It appears that I am not the only one who has been abused by the self righteous elitists of Leesville. You have been a busy lady, haven't you?

**Laura Lee writes:**

The letters Myra McQueen is referring to here are as follows: **More False Accusations** and **Abusive Speech**.

**Myra McQueen writes:**

I thought we were not to be respecters of persons? according to Jas. 2 that is sin. The below email was sent to me by one of your former coworkers- "Laura Lee has made four of Phil Frankford's 2004 emails to her available to Edwards for his use in the upcoming trial. When with Terry in the attorney's office this past week, I read the four emails. Three of them have to do with a sewer backing up and flooding Phil's basement, a claim for which Phil's insurance company offered him \$7,000, but a claim for which Phil wanted over a million, with a large part of the million coming from the insurance company buying his house because of persistent mold problems. The fourth email has Phil telling Norm that he would like to use the settlement money to help acquire the property up here. Well, there has been no settlement on the claim. Norm is using the emails to attempt to show that Phil promised to sell his house and give the money to the trust. That is not at all what the emails actually say. At best, the emails reveal Phil's wildly exaggerated sense of injury, and as such, a poor concept of the insurance business. But my point now is that these were emails Phil sent to Laura, were not for publication, these were private emails, and Laura has given them to Norm to help Norm make a case against Phil, which has absolutely no bearing on the issues being addressed in the trial."

**Laura Lee writes:**

I have been sent copies of the **four emails** she refers to here. It appears that Phil Frankford sent these **emails** to various people, including Norman Edwards, himself. The Laura mentioned in these

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**LETTERS SECTION  
CONTINUES  
ON PAGE 16**

**“Sometimes They...” continued from page 1)**

three and a half months, I was now a Combat Engineer, capable of providing a hole in the enemy defenses to get the infantry through, and to fight along side the infantry in any combat situation. After a year, I was well more advanced than before. This could be said for the Israelite captives as well, and I'll show you why. Now I've already provided the info as to could the Israelites bare arms. Could the Israelites master the horse in a generation? I don't see why not. The Northern Israelites were known for their mastery of charioteering and the use of the Nubian horses.[48] We also have many more examples from the Bible, of the Israelites using chariots in battle. Take for instance King Ahab. It's said that Ahab had 2,000 chariots, and sent them into battle against King Shalmaneser III at the battle of Qarqar.[49] Also there is the famous horse stables of King Solomon mentioned in I Kings 4:26, 9:15, 10:26. Those who used the chariot most likely understood the horse when it comes to speed and control. As for the weapons, the sword and bow were the norm, as well as the spear and lance to any Israelite. These were familiar weapons whether you were a farmer or a combat soldier. We also must not forget that weapons in ancient times were common among people in terms of everyday use. From the use in combat, to the use in farming, to the use in hunting, and even butchering. We could say it was as normal to them in everyday use, as it is to us when it comes to driving a car, or operating a computer.[50] What else is interesting is the fact that horse stables found in Urartu are similar to the Megiddo stables. Most likely these were built after Sargon II conquered a good portion of Urartu.[51] The Assyrians during the reign of Tiglath-pileser III used cavalry in combat, but not on a wide scale use. After Tiglath-pileser III conquered some of the tribes of the Medes, he took notice of the Median Cavalries effectiveness in combat. Tiglath-pileser III incorporated the use of Median cavalry into his own army as auxiliaries. Overtime the Assyrian army would have three types of cavalry. The first type was light cavalry which consisted of Medes and other nomads. These were quick, and only used a bow and javelin. Next was the Assyrian Heavy archer, which consisted of heavy scale body armor, and then your heavy cavalry man, fully armored and built for fighting infantry. Tiglath-pileser III and his successor's loved them so much, they would replace the majority of chariot units with elite cavalry units over time. The chariot would only be used by the King, and his nobles, and the warrior elite.[52] The reason for the

replacement was due to the ever expanding empire. Along with expansion of the empire came the difference in terrain. The chariot was a perfect weapon against infantry on the open field, but it had little effect in mountainous or rocky regions. Due to the difficulties of the land the horse was the best way to go. With some of the Median tribes conquered, and their land annexed into the Assyrian empire, the need for horses was so great that it became an industry of breeding. The Assyrians would request that 3,000 horses be provided each month! The people in charge of this operation were called Musarkisus. They were so important that they had to report directly to the king and not to provincial governors. You might be wondering where did all these horses come from? The answer is from every province in the empire! Each province had two horse recruitment officers, and it was their job to get as many horses as they could, and train them before they were sent off for military use. When added up, the provinces mustered roughly 36,000 horses a year for military service! The horses were then sent all over the empire, and kept in national stables. We can also speculate that many more horses were left for the auxiliary units not native to Assyria.[53] Also the Kingdom of Urartu traded and sold horses to Assyria. The Kingdom of Urartu was known for it's horsemanship and was friendly to nomads.[54] Also I want to point something out before we go any further. Can a deportee serve in the native Assyrian army? The answer is yes once again. Many of the deportees as we discussed before were warriors before. The Assyrians would look for the strongest fit man or men, and send them to an unknown region to be trained in Assyrian martial arts and tactics. Take for example Sargon II capturing Samaria. He didn't kill them, he incorporated them into his army. What else is interesting is that after the training some would stay with the Assyrian army, while others would be sent back to their tribe to train the auxiliary units in the Assyrian art of combat whether it was cavalry or infantry.[55]

**Who are the Cimmerians?**

Who are the Cimmerians? Many historians tell us that the Cimmerians migrated from the Black Sea region, and made their way down through the Caucasus mountains and helped King Sargon II in 714 BCE defeat the kingdom of Urartu. This is the popular version of how they came about, and you can find this same sequence in most history books on the issue. But we have a problem. The problem is no archaeologist has yet demonstrated the presence of the Cimmerians originating, or even evolving from the region north of the Black Sea. Now I

know that many will rely on Herodotus, but even he can't be fully trusted. When Herodotus wrote his famous book **“The Histories”** nearly two centuries had already past when the event of 714 BCE had happened. Most people use to rely on Herodotus, but as time went on and new discoveries were made, Herodotus would be given another title to his name. Not only was Herodotus known as the father of history, but also the father of lies. I wouldn't go as far as calling Herodotus a liar. I do think he may have garbled some of the events. Most historians today do not rely on Herodotus. That's not to say Herodotus is completely wrong, its just he is not completely relied on anymore.[56] What is interesting is that Herodotus mentions the Cimmerians, but they're not mentioned by Hesiod in the 9th century BCE, nor are they mentioned by Aristcas of Proconnesus in the 7th century BCE. Also there are no reports of them north of the Black Sea region in the 6th or 5th century BCE. Also there is no archaeological evidence that indicate a large mass of people coming down from the north, and passing along the east coast of the Black Sea, or through the passes that lead through the Caucasus in the western region.[57] Now when people or historians were reading Herodotus, and taking most of what he said as fact, a new discovery was made in the 19th century. Sir Henry Layard and others excavated the remains of the city of Nimrud Calah in Iraq. What they found about the Cimmerians did not follow the accounts of Herodotus. The Assyrian clay tablets were the first to mention the Cimmerians in documentation. The Assyrian tablets mention them as Gimira, or in the Babylonia term Gimirri, or Gimirrai which can mean tribes, and not only that the terms Gimirri, and Gimirrai, were also applied to the Scythians and Sakas as well. Also Gumri, and Gamira, and Gamira can mean exiles. Some may say that Gamira and its meaning of mobile exiles, could refer to any of the nations conquered by Assyria. This would be wrong to think. For the word Gamira is associated only to certain groups in a region assigned to them by the Assyrians, that is near the border of Urartu and lake Urmia. We also have to keep in mind that these terms can be applied to Gomer as well.[58] Now the name of Israel in Assyrian is based on the name of the King who built Samaria the capital of Israel, who was called Omri (I Kings 16:24), and because of this the Assyrians would refer to them as Beth-Omri, Bit-Khumri, and Khumri before the invasion and deportation of Israel. During captivity the exiled Israelites in Assyria were called Bit-Humri, Bit-Humriya Ghumri, and Ghomri. Now the name Ghomri or even Ghumri would later become Gamera, or written as Gimirrai



and Gimira by the Assyrians in the 7th century BCE. This is where we get the name Cimmerians in English.[59] Another example would be to take the name Khumri for instance. Khumri means those associated with the house of Israel. It's possible that the K could be switched to a G, and make Ghumri based on the Northern Israelite dialect. Also the name Omri based on the same dialect could be said as Gomri. As you can see it can be confusing, but it's not impossible to identify the Israelites that were exiled to that region. Also we have another interesting name given to the Gimira (Cimmerians) by the Assyrians. It seems to be a nickname, or a term to describe them. This term they used was Offspring of Outcasts. This term was also expressed by the Prophet Amos. The Prophet Amos saw the future of Ten Tribes as being outcasts from Assyria (Amos 4:3) HEAR, THIS WORD, YE KINE OF BASHAN, THAT ARE IN THE MOUNTAIN OF SAMARIA, WHICH OPPRESS THE POOR, WHICH CRUSH THE NEEDY, WHO SAY TO THEIR HUSBANDS, BRING, AND LET US DRINK...EACH WOMAN WILL BE CARRIED STRAIGHT OUT THROUGH THE BREACHES AND CAST OUT BEYOND THE MOUNTAINS OF MANNSE.

This verse is based on the Aramaic translation of Yehonathan. In Hebrew the original translation was harmonah which the KJ translates as to the places. Har is mountains, and Monah means Mannae. From this translation we get The mountains of Mannae.[60] We will discuss the term Offspring of Outcasts and the tablet it's found on, and the Mountains of Mannae later. Now many of you or some of you reading this may say that the names Ghomri, Gamera, Khomri, are different groups and are in no way related. This maybe so, but consider this. In the 9th century BCE we have very few names mentioned of none-Akkadian origin in the high ruling offices. By the 8th and 7th century BCE we encounter many more names of Aramaic origin on all levels of Assyria's administration. During the reign of Tiglath-pileser III and Sargon II, the majority of the empire spoke some form of Aramaic in one way or another. Also Tiglath-pileser III and Sargon II's wives were of Aramaic origin due to their names. Which indicates that most of the ruling class were bilingual. Now the deportees that were taken in to learn Assyrian would learn Akkadian cuneiform script, but their primary language of communication was Aramaic. Because of this we can say for sure that the different speakers of Aramaic could have corrupted Assyrian script based on language.[61]

**Hosea Quick Bit:**

The prophet Hosea married a woman

named Gomer who was a prostitute, and whom he had kids with. One could say Hosea represents God's love, while Gomer's actions represents Israel going after other gods they didn't know, and we can say Gomer would be the care taker of the Israelites till they matured. Hosea and Gomer's kids represented the Israelites that were in captivity due to unfaithfulness. For the Israelites would live, and die, and give birth, in the lands of Gomer for a short time. The moral of the story is God forgives his children no matter how bad they are, and hopes they will come back to him. The prophetic side of the story is that Israel would dwell in the lands of a stranger as punishment for a short period of time. Now from a secular stand point, we could also say the Medes, the Mannae, and many others are the many tribes that came out of, or are akin to Gomer. The reason for this is that the Israelite exiles were sent into the territory of the Medes, Mannae, and other various nomadic groups, in which they took the Israelite captives under their wing, and basically adopted them as one of their own.[62] Also the Assyrians make no distinction between the Cimmerians, Medes, and Mannae because of their nomadic way of life. This didn't mean the Assyrian's couldn't tell them apart. For we know that the Assyrian's mention them individually in their tablets.[63]

**Location of the Cimmerians:**

The Cimmerians according to Assyrian inscriptions are mentioned to be settled west or northwest near lake Urmia, which means they were settled within or on the fringes of the lands of Mannae, which is located in and around the mountains of Mannae. Also it seems that they bordered the Medes, that seems to be near the Kingdom of Urartu. In 714 BCE. The Cimmerians were first mentioned as Gamir by the Assyrians when King Rusa I of Urartu invaded Assyria passing through the land of Guriania, and into the land of Gamir, in which he was defeated.

To the king my lord, your servant Sennacherib. May it be well with the king my lord. It is well with the land of Assyria. It is well with the temples. It is well with every fortified city of the king. May the heart of the king my lord be exceedingly glad. The people of the Ukkai have sent word unto me, saying, When the king of the people of Urartu went to the land of Gamir, his army met with a debacle, he himself and his district commanders with their contingents have hurred back, his..... two of his district commanders..... has come..... has seized..... the..... who came..... of his land..... who will establish..... This is the news from Ukkai. Ashurrisua has sent word

as follows, news of Urartu the former (report) which I sent, that is true. A great slaughter has taken place among them. Now his land is quiet. His officers have gone, each to his own district. Rev. Kakkadanu as commander-in-chief has been captured. The king of the land of Urartu is in the land of Uzaun. This is the report of Ashurrisua. Nabuli' the governor of Halsu has reported to me as follows: Unto the garrisons of the fortified cities which command the border I sent for news of the king of Urartu. (They replied), saying, 'When he went to the land of Gamir, his army (met) with a debacle. Three of his officers, together with their troops, were slain. He himself escaped (and) entered his own land. His camp has not yet been attacked.'" This is the news from Nabuli'. His brother of the city of Musasir and his son have gone to greet the king of Urartu. A messenger of the Hubushkian has also gone to greet him. The garrison of every fortress on the border sends reports like this. The letter which Nabuli'u, the overseer of the house of Ahatabisha, brought from the land of Tabal, I have forwarded to the king my lord.---Letter 197

As we can see from the inscriptions above we get the term Gamir, or the land of Gamir. This land of Gamir was invaded by King Rusa of Urartu in which the King and his army were defeated.[64] King Rusa's invasion of Assyria was an attempt to stop the growth of Assyrian influence, by trying to invade the region of lake Urmia. The Mannaeans were in the area of the invasion, and were sandwiched in by the Assyrians and the Medes and Urartu as well. The Mannaeans were in an almost constant tug of war between Assyria and Urartu. Also King Rusa was trying to take the neighboring districts or regions that have Assyrian governors, and trying to set up puppet governors of his own, in order to form a new anti-Assyrian alliance.[65] We also have to understand that in the Assyrian tablets the Gimira are not known as mercenaries, or a conquering people that came in from the north. The Assyrian's speak of these people as a conquered people, that were settled down in a hostile region to act as a buffer state.[66]

**Invasion of Urartu:**

Now after the defeat. Sargon II would begin a new campaign into the Kingdom of Urartu. This was going to be dangerous for the terrain in Urartu is mountainous and rough. But in any case the Assyrian's were fed up with Urartu. It was time to take it completely. Sargon II assembled his forces, and entered into the Kingdom of Urartu with his sappers paving the way into the country. We also have a report of the Gamri invading Urartu.

To the overseer of the place my lord, your servant Arad-Sin. The Gamera went forth from the midst of the Mannai and into the land of Urartu they entered..... Ishtarduri..... the messenger of the governor of the city of Uesi went unto Urzani. Rev. Concerning..... saying..... the troops..... let them come. The whole land of Urartu is exceedingly afraid on account of the people of the city of Bulia and the city of Suriana. They assemble the troops, saying, Immediately our forces are like reeds, shall we plant (the foot) against him? Concerning this booty of which they speak, saying, Plunder he has taken, it is so, (and) they say, From the district of the city of.....-----Letter 112.[67]

As we can see from this letter that the Gamir along with the Assyrian's invaded the Kingdom of Urartu, and plundered it, but did not conquer it. Sargon's forces during the invasion of Urartu had a hard fight. The mountainous terrain and the many defenses set up by the Urartu slowed his main army down. His main army began to become undisciplined, and began to show signs of mutiny. Sargon even gives us an account:

The harassed troops of Ashur, who had come a long way, very weary and slow to respond, who had crossed and re-crossed sheer mountains innumerable, of great trouble for ascent and descent, their moral turned mutinous. I could give no ease to their weariness, no water to quench their thirst; I could set up no camp, nor fix defences.[68]

This is an interesting statement Sargon makes, because line three says their moral turned mutinous. It seems that Sargon's forces are fed up with him! Why would his forces be fed up? The answer maybe because they were getting no where in Urartu. The land was rough mountains terrain, they were also tired from the previous campaigns in which they took 22 cities that rebelled, before they moved north to fight the Urartu. Sargon was known for conquering on a constant basis, and war was the economy of ancient Assyria. Now Sargon wouldn't conquer Urartu, but he did give them a black eye, and it did keep the Kingdom of Urartu down from giving Assyria anymore trouble. After this event, Sargon II would turn his attentions back to the festering problems sprouting up in Babylonia.[69]

### **Phrygia, Assyria, and the Cimmerian Rebellion of 705 BCE:**

After Sargon II wounded the Kingdom of Urartu, he turned his attention to Babylonia in 710 BCE and would stay there till 707 BCE. During that time period Judah, Edom, Philistia, Moab, and Egypt began to conspire and start rebellions within Assyria. Sargon II was very busy putting down the rebellions within the Empire.[70] Now lets back up to

about 711 BCE. Right after Sargon defeated the Kingdom of Urartu. King Midas of Phrygia made a peace treaty with King Sargon II. This treaty kept the nation of Urartu and the region of Northern Syria squeezed between the two powers.[71] What makes this peace treaty interesting is the fact that Phrygia was on the side of Urartu. King Midas didn't trust the Assyrians nor their interests. Because of this we can speculate that King Midas saved Urartu from being completely conquered, and by doing so it reduced Urartu to a mere buffer state to keep their distance from Assyria.[72] Now what made this peace treaty special to Assyria was the abundance of Iron found in Phrygia. Sargon II needed all the iron he could get his hands on for his army. Not only was this a peace treaty, but an economic treaty as well.[73] As for the Kingdom of Urartu they would have to give 500 timbers and many men over to Sargon II, in order to help him build his great palace. Now a few years after the war around 710/09 BCE King Midas sends a request for aid against the Cimmerians (Greek: Kimmerioi). This Cimmerian force seems to be raiding the country side of Phrygia, and King Midas can't force them out.[74] But what makes this so much more interesting is that this Cimmerian force could have been the same force that was sent into Urartu during Sargon's invasion. Remember the letter above that expressed: The Gamera went forth from the midst of the Mannai and into the land of Urartu.[75] Add that letter with the statement that Sargon II made about his men being mutinous, and we may have a connection.[76] It could be possible that the Cimmerian force Sargon had sent into Urartu became mutinous, and fled into the neighboring land of Phrygia where they plundered the country side for sometime, and it's possible that they fled north for a few years, and then came back south into the lands of Phrygia in 710/09 BCE. Also we have no reports of Sargon II giving aid to King Midas between 710 and 705 BCE. In 708 BCE a report came from an Assyrian officer named Ashur-risua, that King Argishti of Urartu was assembling a large army to attack Assyria. The fact of the matter is that it was preparing to battle the Cimmerians that were led by Eshpai. These Cimmerians had earlier ravaged Urartu in 714 BCE. The battle would take place the following spring in 707BCE. The armies of Urartu were defeated but the Cimmerians suffered greatly, and were not able to press into Urartu. It was Sennacherib that reported these events to his father King Sargon II.[77] We can speculate that the Cimmerians were making there way back, by attempting to pass through the lands of Urartu, on their way home to Gamir. Sargon II most likely got the reports back from the watch towers, or

frontier garrisons that are stationed along the Assyrian border. Now as the Cimmerian forces were coming back into the Assyrian lands, Sargon II had to do something about the situation. He couldn't have these rebellious forces influence the Assyrian border provinces to rise up against Assyria, nor allow the Kingdom of Urartu to regain a resurgence in power, which would destabilize the region, and disrupt the peace treaty between Assyria and Phrygia. So in 705 BCE Sargon II would lead his forces back to the north near the border of Urartu, to face the Cimmerian forces. The Assyrian's would defeat them in battle, but even with the victory the Assyrian's paid a heavy price. Sargon II would be killed in the battle, and was the first Assyrian king to die in battle. With his death the idea for a full scale rebellion was about to start. The once seemingly invincible Assyrian king was now dead.[78]

### **Sennacherib:**

After Sargon II died, his son Sennacherib became the next King of Assyria. Sennacherib was given a vast empire but with it came vast problems. These problems of rebellions were nothing new to him. Sennacherib was an experienced warrior and administrator, and once was in command of the northern frontier. After a year on the throne the vassal state of Babylonia began to rebel along with Aramaean tribes and Elam. Judah under King Hezekiah through in his lot for rebellion, as well as the Egyptians. King Sennacherib began the task of putting down the rebellions. It was around 701 BCE when Sennacherib would bring his armies into Judah. Sennacherib's forces began eating up the land and sacking the cities like Lachish, till his forces came to the walls of Jerusalem. This is where we get Sennacherib's account of Hezekiah, and what he did to Judah on the Taylor Prism.[79]

As for Hezekiah the Judahite, who did not submit to my yoke: forty-six of his strong, walled cities, as well as the small towns in their area, which were without number, by leveling with battering-rams and by bringing up siege-engines, and by attacking and storming on foot, by mines, tunnels, and breeches, I besieged and took them. 200,150 people, great and small, male and female, horses, mules, asses, camels, cattle and sheep without number, I brought away from them and counted as spoil. (Hezekiah) himself, like a caged bird I shut up in Jerusalem, his royal city. I threw up earthworks against him the one coming out of the city-gate, I turned back to his misery. His cities, which I had despoiled, I cut off from his land, and to Mitinti, king of Ashdod, Padi, king of Ekron, and Silli-b king of Gaza, I gave (them). And thus I diminished his land. I

added to the former tribute, and I laid upon him the surrender of their land and imposts gifts for my majesty. As for Hezekiah, the terrifying splendor of my majesty overcame him, and the Arabs and his mercenary troops which he had brought in to strengthen Jerusalem, his royal city, deserted him. In addition to the thirty talents of gold and eight hundred talents of silver, gems, antimony, jewels, large carnelians, ivory-inlaid couches, ivory-inlaid chairs, elephant hides, elephant tusks, ebony, boxwood, all kinds of valuable treasures, as well as his daughters, his harem, his male and female musicians, which he had brought after me to Nineveh, my royal city. To pay tribute and to accept servitude, he dispatched his messengers...[80]

Now most of us know the rest of the story about the 185,000 Assyrians that were slain by the death angel in II Kings 19:35-37. So what happened to the 200,150 Jewish captives? We don't know for sure, but we can speculate that the Assyrian's may have taken them to the areas where the Ten Tribes had been previously settled. The reason for this is due in part to the Assyrian's keeping people of the same identity together as mentioned earlier in this article. The Assyrian's did not believe in mixing one deported group with another. Some may say what about the Israelites being deported into the cities of the Medes? The Israelites weren't mixed with the Medes, they were settled among them in their own land apart from the Medes.[81] What else becomes interesting is that before the siege of Jerusalem, King Sennacherib created a unit from the best warriors from the captured city of Lachish to be his personal bodyguards.[82] After the failed siege of Jerusalem, Sennacherib would return home to begin the process again of putting down more rebellions. Sennacherib would face the Cimmerian forces that his father Sargon II had faced and died in battle against. Sennacherib would beat the Cimmerian forces in Elam. It was these Cimmerians that Sennacherib would drive out of his kingdom. These Cimmerians would flee west into the Kingdom of Phrygia, and go to conquer a portion of it in 695 BCE.[83] During the invasion King Midas was so overwhelmed that he committed suicide by drinking bull's blood.[84] But this wasn't the end of the Cimmerians. This was just one group that rebelled. The rest of the Cimmerians were still settled on the fringes of the Assyrian empire, and by the time Sennacherib was murdered (II Kings 19:37) they had full control of the province of Mannae.[85] In conclusion to Sennacherib one might take noticed to the massive waves of rebellions that went on. Once he ascended the throne, he was dealt with revolt after revolt, and never fully effectively stabilized the empire.

Throughout his reign he had to suppress many rebellions all over again.[86]

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[48]Becking, The Fall of Samaria: An Historical and Archaeological study, p. 75

[49]Keller, The Bible As History, p. 220

[50]King James Bible

[51]Finkelstein/Silberman, The Bible Unearthed, p. 211

[52]V. Vuksic & Z. Grbasic, Cavalry: The History of a Fighting Elite, p. 38

[53]Gabriel, The Great Armies of Antiquity, p. 133

[54]Piotrovvskia, Urartu, p. 130

[55]Yalichev, "Mercenaries of the Ancient World", p. 72

[56]Kristensen, "Who Were the Cimmerians and Where Did They Come From?" p. 6-8

[57]Gershevitch, The Cambridge History of Iran, p. 93

[58]Davidiy, Origin, p. 36/ Gershevitch, The Cambridge History of Iran, p. 94

[59]Pinches, Assyria and Babylon, p. 339

[60]Davidiy, Origin, p. 37-38

[61]Parpola, Assyrian Identity In Ancient Times And Today, p. 6

[62]King James Bible/ Davidiy, Origin, p. 36

[63]Draws, Early Riders: The Beginnings of Mounted Warfare, p. 119

[64]Capt, Missing Links Discovered in Assyrian Tablets, p. 111

[65]Gabriel, The Great Battles of Antiquity, p. 107

[66]Kristensen, Who were the Cimmerians, and were did they come from? p. 13

[67]Capt, Missing Links Discovered in Assyrian Tablets, p. 115

[68]Saggs, The Might that was Assyria, p. 94

[69]Gabriel, The Great Captains of Antiquity, p. 65

[70]Keller, The Bible As History, p. 271

[71]Gabriel, The Great Captains of Antiquity, p. 81

[72]Gabriel, The Great Captains of Antiquity, p. 71

[73]Gabriel, The Great Captains of Antiquity, p. 64

[74]Edwards, Boardman, Bury, Cook, The Cambridge Ancient History, p. 356

[75]Capt, Missing Links Discovered in Assyrian Tablets, p. 115

[76]Saggs, The Might that was Assyria, p. 94

[77]Chahin, The Kingdom of Armenia, p. 94

[78]Gabriel, The Great Captains of Antiquity, p. 52

[79]Saggs, The Might that was Assyria, p. 98,100-101

[80]Pritchard's, Ancient near east text, Vol I, p. 200

[81]Oded, Mass Deportations and Deportees in the Neo-Assyrian Empire, p. 23-25, 35-36

[82]Davidiy, The Tribes, p. 37

[83]Davidiy, Origin, p. 37

[84]Borgeaud, Mother of the Gods: from

Cybele to the Virgin Mary, p. 3

[85]Davidiy, The Tribes, p. 31

[86]Saggs, The Might that was Assyria, p. 100-103

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**Read the entire article at:**

<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0041/a2007-041-03.htm>

**\*\*to be continued in Issue #44\*\***

**(“Is Cremation...” continued from page 1)**

small granules.

Pacemakers are removed because they can explode at high temperatures.

Silicone breast implants can't be removed and don't burn well; they often adhere to the unburned bones and gum up the grinder.

Employees attempt to remove all of the remains after each cremation, but a small portion will always remain inside the oven, to mix with the remains of the next body.

With cemetery space becoming more difficult to obtain, and more expensive, cremation will likely become the most accepted form for disposal of a dead body in the near future and possibly even mandated by law!

**The Catholic Encyclopedia says;**

- “The Church has opposed from the beginning a practice which has been used chiefly by the enemies of the Christian Faith...
- However, “...there is nothing directly opposed to any dogma of the Church in the practice of cremation, and that, if ever the leaders of this sinister movement so far control the governments of the world as to make this custom universal, it would not be a lapse in the faith confided to her were she obliged to conform.”

**This is actually a little stronger than the stance taken by most churches today.**

- They also say the FREEMASONS were the first to obtain official recognition of this practice from various governments...

Today's leading denominations of the Churches of God have chosen to remain predictably silent on the controversial issue of cremation.

When they have said anything, it was largely in line with the above quote.

In this article we show that BURIAL is the way of God and CREMATION is the way of the HEATHEN!

We realize that cremation represents a



far smaller financial burden for surviving family members, who are often elderly, on fixed incomes or barely surviving financially themselves.

We live in a world filled with God professing, Godless beings, who prey on the grief of heart-broken families, while displaying a well practiced "Christian" pretense of love and deep concern! This is the pure, unabashed heart of a PREDATOR, at its best!

Often cremation seems the least offensive way of dealing with these people, nevertheless, cremation is thoroughly and deeply pagan! Those who do not want to see the proof of this should not read further!

### History of Cremation

Historically, cremation stems from those who believe they will be reincarnated—thinking their immortal soul will be placed into a different, entirely unrelated body, or enters a non-corporeal realm or mingle with the cosmic all or some such pagan idea.

Wherever the Bible was taught in its simplicity, cremation and the rest of paganism had to slink back into the bushes from where it came! Paganism is deathly afraid of true Christianity—and rightly so.

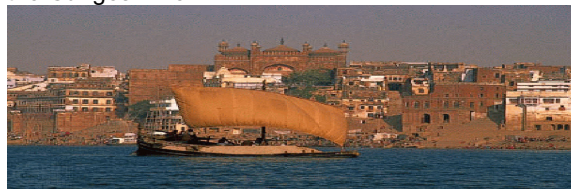
This is the record of history!

Cremation has been customary in Buddhist and Hindu nations and most of the non-Christian world for millennia.

Today, its popularity is increasing rapidly in the United States, Canada, Britain and throughout Christendom. This increasing popularity is directly proportional to Christianity's rejection of Bible truth today and to the unparalleled influx of Heathens and their religious concepts into Christian nations and Christian Churches!

Even prior to the advent of Buddhism, India was The Classic Home of cremation. The body of Buddha was cremated by his disciples, showing cremation was practiced from the very beginning of Buddhism. As Buddhism spread over the Far East, cremation followed.

The *Encyclopedia Britannica* says, "In India cremation is ancient and is considered very desirable. It is the wish of all devout Hindus to be incinerated in **VARANASI**. The waterfront of that city is lined with concrete and marble slabs on which pyres are erected. The remains are then deposited in the Ganges River.



Ship laden with cremation ashes to be deposited in the Ganges River, Varanasi

- Rome adopted the practice of Cremation from the Greeks, who themselves adopted it from the East!
- From Apostolic times Christians followed the common practice of the Israelites and buried their dead. They rejected cremation, even though it was a common practice in Rome and among the heathen nations around them.
- When Christianity became the official religion of the Roman Empire, cremation was outlawed.
- The **New Catholic Encyclopedia** says, the Aztecs were the first to introduce the burning of corpses in Central America and it spread northward from there.
- The revival of cremation in Europe began in 1874, when Sir Henry Thompson, published his book, **Cremation: The Treatment of the Body After Death**.
- It was first legalized in England in 1884.
- In 1886, the Roman Catholic Church officially banned cremations. Church members as recently as World War II were excommunicated for arranging them.
- Since 1963 however, they have been steadily reversing this position. In 1997 the Holy See granted permission to U.S. bishops to allow funeral Masses in the presence of cremated remains.
- Most Protestant churches, being the good daughters of Catholicism that they are, tagged dutifully along after their mother and not to be outdone are now actively supporting cremation.
- Among religious groups of distinction, only the Orthodox Jewish community still refuses to accept it. The **Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible** says, Cremation was not practiced by Jews or early Christians ...when bodies were burned, it was a sign of **vengeance, unrighteousness, or punishment of criminals** ... The Mishna forbids cremation as **IDOLATRY!**
- During the Roman persecutions against the early church the bodies of Martyrs were often cremated and their ashes **SCATTERED IN CONTEMPT**. The Christians went to great effort to recover the bodies and give them an honorable burial.

### Cremation Separates The Body From The Soul

Cremation ceremonies in Bali are colorful and gay. On a "lucky" day, bodies of a number of worthies, which had been temporarily buried or embalmed, are carried to a high and decorative tower made of wood and bamboo and cremated. Forty-two days later a second tower, with effigies instead of bodies, is burned to **assist the soul** on its journey toward the highest heaven. The ashes of the towers, like those of the bodies, are scattered on the water.

Pagan Scandinavians preferred cremation, believing that it helped **FREE THE SPIRIT** from the flesh and that it prevented the dead from harming the living!

The Vikings would burn the body to **FREE THE SOUL**, thereby allowing it to enter paradise immediately.

The fire of cremation is considered a "Holy Fire" throughout the pagan world. As are the St John's fires of midsummer and the Yule Log of midwinter, the burning of candles at the MASS and at the Passover Service, the burning of candles for the dead and on Christmas trees, at weddings, the fire works for New Years, offering your Firstborn Son to Molech and so forth.

### What does the Bible say?

**Deuteronomy 21:22-23**, "And if a man have committed a sin worthy of death, and he be put to death, and thou hang him on a tree: His body shall not remain all night upon the tree, but thou shalt in any wise **BURY HIM** that day" (for he that is hanged is accursed of God), **THAT THY LAND BE NOT DEFILED**, which the Lord thy God giveth thee for an inheritance."

Even criminals, who are hanged for their crimes, must be **BURIED** the same day they are hanged, or the land would be **DEFILED!**

**Jeremiah 10:2**, "Thus saith the LORD, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them. 3. For the customs of the people are vain..."

This is not speaking of cremation. Nevertheless, "Learn not the way of the heathen" is speaking of **EVERY** religious concept, except the ones that are true. It is a good scripture with which to begin the study of any subject.

### Abraham

Abraham said, "I am a stranger and sojourner with you: give me a possession of a Burying place with you, that I may **BURY MY DEAD** out of my sight" (**Genesis 23:1-4**).

When Abraham died, his sons "Isaac and Ishmael buried him in the cave of Machpelah . . . there was Abraham **BURIED**, and Sarah his wife" (**Genesis 25:9-10**).

### **Jacob**

In **Genesis 47:29-30**, "Jacob told his son Joseph, "BURY ME NOT, I pray thee, in Egypt: But I WILL LIE WITH MY FATHERS, and thou shalt carry me out of Egypt, and BURY me in their burying place."

Again in **Genesis 49:29-31** he said, "I am to be gathered unto my people: BURY ME WITH MY FATHERS in the cave that is in the field of Ephron the Hittite, in the cave that is in the field of Machpelah, which is before Mamre, in the land of Canaan, which Abraham bought with the field of Ephron the Hittite for a possession of a burying place. There they buried Abraham and Sarah his wife; there they buried Isaac and Rebekah his wife; and there I buried Leah".

In **Genesis 50:5-13**, "His sons did so, with GREAT MOURNING and lamentation."

There is no hint of a wake or a Catholic **Celebration of Life** here or anywhere else in the Bible!

Death is the wages of sin! Death is intended to teach us that God is DEAD SERIOUS about our conduct and our character during this life! The death of a loved one is a time for MOURNING and a time to reflect on your own mortality and your own ultimate eternal fate, as well as that of the one who has just died.

It is **NOT** a time for a **Celebration of Life**, or a celebration of ANY KIND—except of course, by SATAN THE DEVIL! He celebrates with the death of each potential member of the Family of God! He is the one behind this **Celebration of Life** doctrine that has crept into the church and become so popular in the Churches of God in recent years?

### **Bones of Joseph**

**Exodus 13:19**, "And Moses took the bones of Joseph with him: for he had straitly sworn the children of Israel, saying, God will surely visit you; and YE SHALL CARRY UP MY BONES away hence with you." See also **Genesis 50:25** and **Joshua 24:32**.

### **Moses**

"So Moses the servant of the Lord died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the Lord. And **HE BURIED HIM** in a valley in the land of Moab, over against Bethpeor: but no man knoweth of his Sepulchre unto this day" (**Deuteronomy 34:5-6**).

God could have easily cremated Moses, yet he chose to bury him.

It would have certainly solved that little Michael contending with the devil about the body of Moses incident in (**Jude 1:9**)!

### **Saul**

"And when the inhabitants of Jabesh-

gilead heard of that which the Philistines had done to SAUL; all the valiant men arose, and went all night, and took the body of Saul and the bodies of his sons from the wall of Bethshan, and came to Jabesh, and BURNT THEM THERE. And they took their bones, and BURIED THEM UNDER A TREE at Jabesh, and fasted seven days" (**1 Samuel 31:8-13**).

### **Paul**

In **1 Corinthians 15:35-58**, Paul's analogy comparing the sowing of seeds in the earth, to the sowing of the physical body after death, is difficult to misunderstand, even for those who try! The PLANTING of the body as a SEED in the earth is the only possible way to understand this scripture.

**Acts 2:29**, "Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his SEPULCHRE is with us unto this day.

"What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore GLORIFY GOD IN YOUR BODY, and in your spirit, which are God's" (**1 Corinthians 6:19-20**).

"...devout men carried Stephen to his BURIAL, and made GREAT LAMENTATION over him" (**Acts 8:2**).

### **What Example did Jesus Himself Set for Us?**

Speaking of the Passover in **Numbers 9:12**, "They shall leave none of it unto the morning, nor break any bone of it..."

And in **Psalms 34:20**, "He keepeth all his bones: not one of them is broken."

**John 19:36** says, "For these things were done, that the scripture should be fulfilled, A bone of him shall not be broken."

In modern cremation the bones are ground to a powder!

The last physical act of our Savior—our perfect example was to be buried.

"And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock, and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulchre, and departed" (**Matthew 27:59-60**).

"Then took they the body of Jesus, and wound it in linen clothes with the spices, as the manner of the Jews is to bury. Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden a new sepulchre, wherein was never man yet laid. There laid they Jesus therefore because of the Jews' preparation day, for the sepulchre was nigh at hand (**John 19:40-42**)."

When Jesus died, He was buried, according to the custom of the Jews—not

cremated!

### **God Denies Burial to His Enemies!**

"If a man beget a hundred children, and live many years, so that the days of his years be many, and his soul be not filled with good, and also that he HAVE NO BURIAL, I say, that an untimely birth is better than he" (**Ecclesiastes 6:3**).

**II Kings 9:33-37**, "This is the word of the Lord, which he spake by his servant Elijah the Tishbite, saying, In the portion of Jezreel shall dogs eat the flesh of jezebel: and the CARCASS of jezebel shall be as DUNG upon the face of the field..."

**2 Kings 9:10**, "And the dogs shall eat Jezebel in the portion of Jezreel, and there shall be NONE TO BURY HER."

**1 Kings 21:24**, "Him that dieth of Ahab in the city the DOGS SHALL EAT; and him that dieth in the field shall the FOWLS OF THE AIR EAT."

**Jeremiah 22:18**, "Therefore thus saith the LORD concerning Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah; They shall not lament for him, saying, Ah my brother! or, Ah sister! they shall not lament for him, saying, Ah lord! or, Ah his glory! 19. He shall be buried with the **BURIAL OF AN ASS**, drawn and **CAST FORTH** beyond the gates of Jerusalem."

**Jeremiah 8:1-2**, "At that time, saith the LORD, they shall BRING OUT THE BONES of the kings of Judah, and the bones of his princes, and the bones of the priests, and the bones of the prophets, and the bones of the inhabitants of Jerusalem, OUT OF THEIR GRAVES: And they shall SPREAD THEM BEFORE THE SUN, AND THE MOON, AND ALL THE HOST OF HEAVEN, whom they have loved, and whom they have served, and after whom they have walked, and whom they have sought, and whom they have worshipped: **THEY SHALL NOT BE GATHERED, NOR BE BURIED**; they shall be for DUNG UPON THE FACE OF THE EARTH."

**Isaiah 14:19-20**, "But thou art CAST OUT OF THY GRAVE LIKE AN ABOMINABLE BRANCH, and as the raiment of those that are slain, thrust through with a sword, that go down to the stones of the pit; AS A CARCASS TRODDEN UNDER FEET. Thou shalt NOT BE JOINED WITH THEM IN BURIAL, because thou hast destroyed thy land, and slain thy people: the SEED OF EVILDOERS SHALL NEVER BE RENOWNED."

God isn't politically correct at all. His Words are very offensive to the rebellious spirits of the men and women of this evil world! The Bible teaches simple burial and considers having your body spread over the ground a sign of disrespect and shame!



### **Jeroboam's Great Sin**

**1<sup>st</sup> Kings 12:26** begins the story of the story of **King Jeroboam's PAGANIZING** of the House of Israel.

God chose him and gave him the Northern Kingdom, but he began to fear that if Israel were to go up to Jerusalem to the Feast of Tabernacles, their hearts would turn away from him, so HE ordained a Feast in the Eighth month and placed **GOLDEN CALVES** in Bethel and Dan.

In **chapter 13:2**, as Jeroboam stood to offer incense upon his new altar at Bethel, God sent a prophet to cry against the altar.

This Prophet said, "...O altar, altar, thus saith the LORD; Behold, a child shall be born unto the house of David, Josiah by name; and upon thee shall he offer the priests of the high places that burn incense upon thee, and **MEN'S BONES SHALL BE BURNT UPON THEE.**"

In **chapter 14:1-6**, Jeroboam's son Abijah became sick and Jeroboam sent his wife in disguise to the prophet Ahijah, who had anointed him to be king, to ask what would happen to the child.

In **verse 10-13** Ahijah tells her, "Therefore, behold, I will bring evil upon the house of Jeroboam... and will take away the remnant of the house of Jeroboam, as a man taketh away dung, till it be all gone. Him that dieth of Jeroboam in the city shall **THE DOGS EAT**; and him that dieth in the field shall **THE FOWLS OF THE AIR EAT**: for the LORD hath spoken it. Arise thou therefore, get thee to thine own house: and when thy feet enter into the city, the child shall die. And all Israel shall mourn for him, and bury him: for **HE ONLY** of Jeroboam shall **COME TO THE GRAVE**, because in him there is found **SOME GOOD THING** toward the LORD God of Israel in the house of Jeroboam."

God honors His dead with burial.

### **God Saves Fire for His Worst Enemies**

**Exodus 32:20**, "And he (Moses) took the calf which they had made, and **BURNT IT IN THE FIRE**, and ground it to powder, and strawed it upon the water, and made the children of Israel drink of it."

**Deuteronomy 7:25**, "The graven images of their gods shall ye **BURN WITH FIRE ... for it is an abomination** to the LORD thy God." (See also **2 Kings 10:25**, **Jeremiah 34:2**)

In **Acts 19:18**, we find that "And many that believed came, and confessed, and shewed their deeds. 19. Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and **BURNED THEM** before all men..."

In **Joshua 7:20-25** Achan stole accursed things at Jericho and Joshua said, "...Why

hast thou troubled us? the Lord shall trouble thee this day. And all Israel stoned him with stones, and **BURNED THEM WITH FIRE**, after they had stoned them with stones."

**Genesis 38:24**, "And it came to pass about three months after, that it was told Judah, saying, Tamar thy daughter in law hath played the harlot; and also, behold, she is with child by whoredom. And Judah said, Bring her forth, and **LET HER BE BURNT.**"

We read in **Leviticus 20:14**, "And if a man take a wife and her mother, it is wickedness: they shall be **BURNT WITH FIRE**, both he and they; that there be no wickedness among you."

"Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, **SUFFERING THE VENGEANCE OF ETERNAL FIRE (Jude 1:7).**"

In **Leviticus 21:9**, "God says plainly, "And the daughter of any priest, if she profane herself by playing the whore, she profaneth her father: **SHE SHALL BE BURNT WITH FIRE.**"

This shows God's special anger and severe judgment, against those in any position of prominence or authority, who sin against Him!

In **Numbers 16:31**, the earth opened and swallowed Korah, Dathan, and Abiram for their rebellion against Moses. And in **verse 35**, "...there came out a **FIRE FROM THE LORD**, and consumed the two hundred and fifty men that offered incense" in support of Korah!

In **Leviticus 10:1** Nadab and Abihu, "...offered strange fire before the LORD, which he commanded them not. 2. And **There** went out **FIRE FROM THE LORD**, and **DEVOURED THEM**, and they died before the LORD."

**2 Kings 1:10**, "And Elijah answered and said to the captain of fifty, If I be a man of God, then let **FIRE** come down from heaven, and **CONSUME** thee and thy fifty. And there came down fire from heaven, and consumed him and his fifty."

Then Elijah then repeated this performance a second time—for Emphasis!

**Deuteronomy 12:30**, "Take heed to thyself that thou not be snared by following them... and that thou inquire not after their gods, saying, How did these nations serve their gods? even so will I do likewise. 31. Thou shalt not do so unto the LORD thy God: for every abomination to the Lord, which he hateth, have they done unto their gods; for even their sons and their daughters they have **BURNT IN THE FIRE** to their gods."

In **Jeremiah 29:21-22**, God says those in the Babylon captivity will curse the False Prophets for their lies and say, "...The LORD

make thee like Zedekiah and like Ahab, whom the king of Babylon **ROASTED IN THE FIRE;**"

In **Amos 2:1-2**, God curses Moab and says, "...I will not turn away the punishment thereof; **BECAUSE** he **BURNED THE BONES OF THE KING OF EDOM INTO LIME**: 2. But I **WILL SEND A FIRE** upon Moab, and it shall devour the palaces of Kerioth..."

**Malachi 4:1**, "For, behold, the day cometh, that shall **BURN AS AN OVEN**: and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall **BURN THEM UP**, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch."

**Verse 3**, "And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be **ASHES** under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the Lord of hosts."

**2 Peter 3:10-13**, "Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens **BEING ON FIRE** SHALL BE **DISSOLVED**, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness."

**Ezekiel 28:18**, "Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffic; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I **WILL BRING THEE TO ASHES** upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee."

**Revelation 20:8**, "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the **LAKE** which **BURNETH WITH FIRE** and brimstone: which is the second death."

God shows His **EXTREME CONTEMPT** for His **WORST ENEMIES**, by burning them! Cremation is a terrible punishment god reserves for terrible people!

Throughout the world today, Satan has turned that which God has reserved as an extreme, horrible punishment for His greatest enemies, into a glorious, blessed event!

According to God's Word, burning a body is not a **HOLY, PURIFYING** experience but the **HIDEOUS** fate of the wicked—and the **ULTIMATE** in divine punishment!

The **Lake of Fire** is the very symbol of **ETERNAL** Death, from which there can be no resurrection!

### **Cremation Is Heathen To The Core!**

The following is taken from an article on

the internet by David W. Cloud, entitled **CREMATION: What Does God Think?** (Emphasis added)

"...Any Christian who could stand beside the "holy" River Bagmati in Kathmandu, Nepal, and observe the burning of the body of a Hindu and the heathen death rituals, would cast aside in REPULSION every thought of cremation being an acceptable Christian practice.

A few years ago I stood three or so feet from a burning corpse with a missionary pastor from Singapore and his wife who were visiting us. The head was already burnt beyond recognition and the skull was split open due to internal expansion from the heat of the fire. The lower legs and feet were unscorched, as they were protruding from the pile of burning wood and stubble upon which the man's body lay. The professional Hindu burners were poking the body from time to time to keep the members in the fire and adding stubble and wood as needed.

The bones were contracting and popping; the bodily organs were frying and the juices sizzling in the intense heat.

... The air for a hundred yards or more was filled with the unmistakable, stomach-turning stench of burning human flesh. When the fire had burnt most of the body, the ashes and remaining members were shoved into the river.

**THIS** is cremation as has been practiced by heathen religions for centuries, but without the sanitization adopted in more technically advanced areas.

Would you treat your loved ones so? Is this an acceptable Christian practice? No sir, cremation is a HEATHEN practice. It is of HEATHEN origin and serves HEATHEN purposes...

There is NOTHING Christian about cremation. We were standing that day, as I have many other times, observing cremation in the surroundings from which the practice arose--**IDOLATROUS, CHRISTLESS HEATHENISM!**"

**Cremation is the Brainchild of Satan the Devil**

Notice that Satan's views are once again the EXACT OPPOSITE of those found in the Bible; God BURIES the bodies of His friends, while Satan BURNS the bodies of his friends!

Satan has convinced the Pagan world that, the "Purifying Fires" of cremation CLEANSE THEIR IMMORTAL SOUL OF SIN and prepare it for its FLIGHT TO HEAVEN."

Reading from **The Two Babylon's**, page 232, "...The god whom the Druids worshipped was Baal, as the blazing Baal-fires show, and the last-cited passage proves that children were offered in sacrifice to Baal.

When "the fruit of the body" was thus offered, it was "for the sin of the soul."

And it was a principle of the Mosaic law ... that the priest must partake of whatever was offered as a sin-offering (Numbers 18:9-10). Hence, the priests of Nimrod or Baal were necessarily required to eat of the human sacrifices; and thus it has come to pass that "Cahna-Bal," the "Priest of Baal," is the established word in our own tongue for a Devourer of Human Flesh."

**Simple Burial Is God's Way**

**In Genesis 3:19** God said, "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for DUST THOU ART, and UNTO DUST SHALT THOU RETURN."

The old tongue in cheek phrase, "He's pushing up daisies" is actually a well-spoken understanding of God's purpose here—returning to the earth that which came from the earth.

A dead body is, after all, simply water, decaying proteins and minerals taken from the earth, its use, as a temporary dwelling for the spirit in man and in some cases even the Holy Spirit of God, ends with death.

Through burial, the elements of the earth, which came from the earth and compose the physical body, return to the earth and rejoin the continuing cycle of physical life on the earth. It is altogether rational and solidly scriptural to return to the ground that which God has taken from the ground—preferably without all of the concrete and steel and manmade chemicals, which so often accompany the dead body into the ground today.

Christianity has taught and practiced burial from its inception. Even during its darkest periods, it reserved burning only for WITCHES and HERETICS and what it perceived as the greatest enemies of God!

**What if my loved one already has been cremated?**

However, what's done is done! God has no use planed for your old body. I have never met a Christian who wanted their old body back at the resurrection anyway! They want a new spiritual, incorruptible, immortal body—the body God promised them in 1st Corinthians 15:35-58. That is the body that is the hope of the Christian.

1st Corinthians 15:50, "Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption."

Once new understanding comes into your mind all God has ever asked is that you repent, which means stop it and never do it again!

**Cremation is Satan's way**

Cremation, on the other hand, is a vile, satanic, heathen sacrilege!

It is Satan's counterfeit of the "offering made by fire; a sweet savour unto the LORD." This phrase is repeated dozens of times throughout the Old Testament.

**Genesis 8:20**, "And Noah builded an altar unto the LORD; and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. 21. And the LORD smelled a Sweet Savour; and the LORD said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done."

The offerings made by fire represent the willing sacrifice of the Son of God, in selfless payment for the sins of others, therefore they are perceived by God as having a "sweet savour."

In Cremation you are following the way of the heathen in obedience to Satan the Devil! You are offering your body, as your final act of this life, to the god of this world—the sun god—Baal—Nimrod—Molech—Satan the Devil, etc!

The ASHES of the Heathen are scattered on the water, which represents the Holy Spirit in baptism—as a last act to symbolically defile God's Spirit with the remains of this PUTRID SACRIFICE TO SATAN!

Cremation has the distinction of being man's final insult to God! Cremation is HEATHEN from top to bottom and through and through!

Cremation is a **Disgusting Heathen Practice**—through which the most **DEPRAVED ENEMIES** of God worship Satan the devil!

**Therefore, Cremation** will be God's choice as the means to inflict their **Eternal Punishment!**

Let the TRUE people of God "**LEARN NOT THE WAY OF THE HEATHEN (Jeremiah 10:2)**" **LEST THEY SUFFER THE SAME FATE!**

Article found on line at:  
<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0043/a2008-043-01.htm>  
**\*\*\*THE END\*\*\***

**("The Simple Truth..." continued from page 1)**

Request that a person with a clean heart makes of him. If you don't expect an answer - you won't get one! So the key is - to cleanse your heart. Here, finally, is the simple truth.

1 John 3:19-22 And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him. For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things. Beloved, if our heart

condemn us not, then have we CONFIDENCE toward God. And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we KEEP his commandments, and DO those things that are pleasing in his sight.

You can EXPECT God to answer your prayers! By knowing, deep down in your innermost heart, that you deserve it. That because you've done what your father wants, you have qualified yourself to receive the blessings he promised YOU!

Can you ignore your real-life father's commands - never caring what he wants, or what he says - constantly doing things YOU KNOW he wouldn't like - and then honestly believe that when you ask him for a new car that he will give you one? It is no different with faith towards God! Faith isn't a complicated, mysterious, esoteric concept - it is SIMPLE!

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

True, sincere, powerful faith is nothing more than KNOWING that your father is happy with you, and believing that he will be more than happy to give you your request!

Read the entire 31st chapter of Job at home, in your own Bible. He is examining, searching desperately for something he may have done wrong, some sin that could have brought this terrible trouble upon himself --- 5-6 If I have walked with vanity, or if my foot hath hastened to deceit; Let me be weighed in an even balance, that God may know mine integrity. 13 If I did despise the cause of my manservant or of my maidservant, when they contended with me; 16 If I have withheld the poor from their desire, or have caused the eyes of the widow to fail; 17 Or have eaten my morsel myself alone, and the fatherless hath not eaten thereof; 22 Then let mine arm fall from my shoulder blade, and mine arm be broken from the bone.

Job went through every conceivable sin he might, even possibly, have committed - and he could find no flaw in his works, at all. Job was CONFIDENT of his works. His heart DID NOT condemn him, at all.

Job 10:2 I will say unto God, Do not condemn me; shew me wherefore thou contendest with me. 7 Thou knowest that I am not wicked; and there is none that can deliver out of thine hand.

Job 13:15 Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I will maintain (margin: justify) mine own ways before him.

This man trusted God - completely - he trusted God's judgment to be righteous, even if he chose to kill him. But he couldn't find a mistake in his works, a sin he had committed, to repent of.

Job was so sure he was right - his heart was so clean, and his conscience so

untarnished, that they did not reproach him. And he was so CERTAIN of his innocence, that he was willing to argue with ALMIGHTY GOD! Are YOU this certain of your righteousness? YOU CAN BE, if only you will. And look at what God said about Job, after all this...

Job 42:7 And it was so, that after the LORD had spoken these words unto Job, the LORD said to Eliphaz the Temanite, My wrath is kindled against thee, and against thy two friends: for ye have not spoken of me the thing that is right, as my servant Job hath. 8 Therefore take unto you now seven bullocks and seven rams, and go to my servant Job, and offer up for yourselves a burnt offering; and my servant Job shall pray for you: for HIM will I accept: lest I deal with you after your folly, in that ye have not spoken of me the thing which is right, like my servant Job.

God heard Job's prayer, through all of this. God loved Job. Job's heart would never condemn him, because he would ALWAYS do what was right.

Ezekiel 14:20 Though Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it [a famine], as I live, saith the Lord GOD, they shall deliver neither son nor daughter; they shall but deliver their own souls by their righteousness.

God HEARD these men when they cried to him! He will do the same for you, if you act as they did!

Psalms 34:17 The righteous cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles.

So how do you attain that level of righteousness? So that God will be ready, and eager to answer your prayers - and you, yourself, can have the faith to KNOW that he is ready to do so?

Deuteronomy 23:12 Thou shalt have a place also without the camp, whither thou shalt go forth abroad: And thou shalt have a paddle upon thy weapon; and it shall be, when thou wilt ease thyself abroad, thou shalt dig therewith, and shalt turn back and cover that which cometh from thee: For the LORD thy God walketh in the midst of thy camp, to deliver thee, and to give up thine enemies before thee; therefore shall thy camp be holy: that he see no unclean thing in thee, and turn away from thee.

God doesn't like looking at trash! Physical, emotional, or spiritual! Do you want God to walk in your home? Clean it up! Get rid of everything that he wouldn't like to see. And KEEP it gone! Establish your righteousness by removing everything in your life - here is the real key - EVERYTHING that even MIGHT be wrong. Your conscience knows what you do in your every day life that is questionable. You can justify it, and choose to continue doing it - God has allowed you room in scripture to do this - but God will not walk among you.

On the other hand, you can do as Job did...

Job 1:8 And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?

The word for "escheweth", in the original language, means "to turn aside, depart, to turn aside, turn in unto, to depart, depart from way, avoid, to be removed, to come to an end"

If you want God to hear your prayers - To work in your life, dramatically and powerfully - You must eschew all evil. On every level. Deeper than you have ever even considered before.

Imagine, just for a moment, that every time your conscience pricks you, and says "maybe you shouldn't do that" You immediately said "OK!" EVERY TIME. In every thing, no matter how great, or how small. If your conscience says "Don't eat that!", or "Don't look at her that way!", or "Stop and help that person!", or "Don't watch that TV show!"... the list is endless. And if you examine yourself, and look at the choices and compromises you make EVERY DAY in your life, You will begin to understand why God is UNABLE - Yes, GOD ALMIGHTY is UNABLE to work with you in your life, UNABLE to answer your prayers mightily, BECAUSE OF YOUR SINS!

Do you refuse to accept this? Are you, even now, justifying not believing this? Open your own bible, and read Isaiah 59:2 for yourself! Prove me wrong!

But your INIQUITIES have separated between you and your God, and your SINS have hid his face from you, that he WILL NOT HEAR!!

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This is not easy. This is why almost no one has ever done it. This is why, when someone does do it, God is so pleased. The apostles, prophets, yes, even Jesus Christ himself, were subject to the same pressures you are, daily.

James 5:17 Elias (Elijah) was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months.

Elijah, Moses, Abraham, Peter - These were all men, the same as you and I - And yet Peter's very SHADOW healed a man! Never let a man tell you it's impossible to please God - or that it's not your fault your prayers aren't answered! Your BIBLE says otherwise!

Speaking of Jesus Christ: For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in



all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. (Hebrews 4:15)

Christ had the same problems thrown at him as are thrown at you, every day. Yet, when his conscience said "No!", guess what he said? "Ok!". See, when your conscience bugs you, and you ignore it, you never forget it. Your heart realizes that you had the chance to do right, and refused to do it. Oh, you had good reasons, good excuses- but you chose the wrong answer, and you knew it.

So when you, later, go to God in prayer, asking for something - your heart, even while you're asking, is saying "I really don't deserve this - Just today I did this, and this, and this - and if I'm honest, I'm going to do it tomorrow as well."

Is this going to God in faith? Is this having confidence towards God? Again, he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. (Hebrews 11:6) You must believe that you are diligently seeking him, and that this applies to you. In order for you to believe this, you must LISTEN to your conscience, HEED the promptings of the holy spirit working within you, THEN, and ONLY then, will your conscience not condemn you, and ONLY then will you have TRUE FAITH towards God.

This is not easy. It's not supposed to be. Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it. (Matthew 7:14)

It will be the hardest thing you've ever done. But it can be done. Heed your conscience, listen to God working within you, withdraw your foot from every evil path - and you can go before God, expecting, and receiving, a strong, miraculous answer to your prayer.

Think about that - is there anything on earth, anything you have, anything you do that is worth more than that? Something worth more to you in this life, than to have the Lord of the Universe, Master of All That Is, happy to listen to your prayer - and eager to answer?

No, it won't be easy. But you can do this. If only you will.

Hebrews 4:16 Let us therefore come BOLDLY unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need!

Article found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0043/a2008-043-02.htm>

\*\*\*THE END\*\*\*\*\*

**("Harry Potter..." continued from page 1)**

nations ... Let no one be found among you

who ... who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead. Anyone who does these things is detestable to the LORD ..." (Deuteronomy 18:9-12, NIV).

"The nations you will dispossess listen to those who practice sorcery or divination. But as for you, the LORD your God has not permitted you to do so." (Deuteronomy 18:14, NIV).

By the time they reached the last king of the house of Israel: "They forsook all the commands of the LORD their God", their detestable practices including "divination and sorcery" -- which was "evil in the eyes of the LORD, provoking him to anger ... the LORD was very angry with Israel and removed them from his presence" ... taken captive by Assyria and removed from their land, thus becoming the lost tribes of Israel. (2 Kings 17:16-18, NIV).

Manasseh, the most evil king of the house of Judah, is known as one who "practiced sorcery and divination, and consulted mediums and spiritists. He did much evil in the eyes of the LORD, provoking him to anger" (2 Kings 21:6, 2 Chronicles 33:6 NIV).

Repentance in the face of the teaching, deeds and renown of the apostle Paul resulted in this New Testament example: "A number who had practiced sorcery brought their scrolls together and burned them publicly. When they calculated the value of the scrolls, the total came to fifty thousand drachmas." (Acts 19:19, NIV). "A drachma was a silver coin worth about a day's wages." (NIV, marginal note).

Concerning the coming of the Messiah, the LORD Almighty says: "...I will come near to you for judgment. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers ... who ... do not fear me" (Malachi 3:5). Sorcerers head the list of those he will be quick to testify against!

"You have wearied the LORD with your words. "How have we wearied him?" you ask. "By saying, "All who do evil are good in the eyes of the LORD, and he is pleased with them" or "Where is the God of justice?" (Malachi 2:17, NIV)

In a vacuum of spiritual guidance from their parents, it seems that a fictional sorcerer has become the most exciting hero for many American children. The good book says "he who chases fantasies lacks judgment" (Proverbs 12:11, NIV).

Article found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0043/a2008-043-03.htm>

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**("Cause and Effect..." continued from page 1)**

another person. These good deeds can produce great results.

For example in **Acts 9:10-22**, it states that God called a disciple in Damascus, named Ananias, to assist Saul who later was called Paul as we know him. I will not quote the entire story due to the fact that you can look it up and read it in your Bible.

Paul was blinded for the acts that he had done to Christians in and near Jerusalem. So he was lead to Damascus and he prayed and fasted for three days.

During this time, God called Ananias to lay hands on Saul and ask God to return his sight. That was all God wanted this disciple to do. He did not want Ananias to preach to him or anything else, just pray over Paul for him to receive his sight and the Spirit of God.

I realize that this type of healing is a big miracle. But did Ananias truly understand how God was going to use Paul to spread the Gospel to the Gentiles with such an impact as he did? I believe that Ananias was unaware of Paul's potential in doing the Work of God.

When you do an act of kindness to another person in Christ's name, you may not always know how it will affect that person or whether this deed may someday draw a person to the True Way of Life that God presents in the Bible.

It may take years before you know the effect that your act of kindness may have had or you may not know until you are face to face with God and Jesus Christ.

In **Hebrew 11:6**, it states, "...he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him."

Also in **1 Corinthians 3:8**, Paul wrote, "and every man shall receive his OWN REWARD according to his OWN LABOUR."

As we read in **Matthew 25:31-46**, Jesus states that our simple deeds, such as providing clothes or food for others, are accounted to us as an act of kindness toward Him.

Our good deeds to others may not make themselves apparent now, but someday God will reward us for our efforts if we are sincere. Who knows if one of your acts of kindness may someday cause someone to be converted?

When you are rewarded, you may be very surprised by the reward that you will receive from God.

You should not perform good acts for reward as you have read in **Matthew 25**, but out of the heart.

I encourage you to do well to others as you are able, and do not seek a reward for them. God will deal with that part, just do well

to others.

Article found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0043/a2008-043-04.htm>

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### ("Issachar in the..." continued from page 1)

Numbers 26:23 records that one of Issachar's clans was named after "Tola," one of Issachar's sons. This clan's name has long been associated with a region of Western Russia. The city of "Tula" can be found on Russian maps in the region south of Moscow, and the entire region (or province) also has long been known by the same name. According to the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, this city of approximately a half-million people: "...is first mentioned in 1147 [A.D], but its former site seems to have been higher up the **Tulitsa**, an affluent of the Upa [River]." [i] [Emphasis added.]

This account indicates the name of "Tula" has been placed on this region for at least a millennium. The city has existed at its current site for approximately nine centuries, but also previously existed at another site located on the "Tulitsa" River, not far from the current city of Tula. The river named "Tulitsa" also bears the name of the Issacharite clan of Tola. This region was a migration route for other Israelite tribes as well as the River Don (named after the tribe of Dan) is located in the province of Tula. There is evidence that the body of Danites in this region took a westward migration route into Europe, giving their name to the nation of Denmark (Denmark). The Issacharite clan of Tola took a more northerly migration route into eastern Scandinavia.

The Europeans and Scandinavians are broadly known as "Caucasians," named after the Caucasus Mountains between the Black and Caspian Sea. It is from that region that many Caucasian tribes migrated into Europe. If one draws a line from the Caucasus Mountains to the region where the names of the Issacharite clan of Tola are located and extends it onward to the north, your line will arrive in the nation of Finland.

There is strong biblical evidence that Finland is the modern homeland of much of the tribe of Issachar. I use the word "much" of the tribe of Issachar as there is also biblical evidence that part of it may be located elsewhere. The tribe of Issachar did not go into Asia from its old tribal homeland by Galilee in one piece. II Kings 15:27-29 records that King Tiglath-pileser of Assyria invaded the ancient Kingdom of Israel approximately two decades before the city of Samaria fell. Tiglath-pileser took captive the tribes living in Gilead (Reuben, Gad and half

of Manasseh), Naphtali, which lived north of the Sea of Galilee and unspecified numbers of Israelites from other tribes who lived in "Galilee." The tribe of Issachar lived in the region of Galilee so it is very likely that a portion of this tribe went into Asia at this time. The remainder of the tribe left its ancient homeland around the time when Samaria fell, and this author's book, *The "Lost" Ten Tribes of Israel...Found!*, makes the case that this remainder of the tribe of Issachar migrated with remnants of the other tribes to the region by the Black Sea in the Caucasus Mountains, where they were afterward known as Scythians or "Sacaе" (named after their forefather, Isaac).

While the Issacharites who relocated to the Caucasus Mountains apparently migrated into Scandinavia via the Southern Russian region which bears a name of a tribal clan of Issachar, other Issacharites may have taken alternate routes into Europe along with the other tribes of Israel. I note that Yair Davidy's book, *The Tribes*, agrees that many Issacharites migrated to Finland, but it traces other elements of that tribe to the modern nation of Switzerland in Central Europe.

It is my view that Genesis 49 offers us the best clues regarding the whereabouts of the modern tribes of Israel. While the scholarly writings of historians do give valuable clues to the locations of the tribes of Israel, all men are fallible and their writings do not carry the weight of scripture. Genesis 49, found in the Torah, is a prophecy which offers divinely inspired clues about the locations and characteristics of all the tribes of Israel in "the latter days." It is also my view, common among Christians and Jews alike who are students of the bible and prophecy, that we are living in the "latter day" period of time which precedes the Messianic Age. Therefore, Genesis 49 is applicable to our modern era and to modern nations. Genesis 49 itself confirms that we are living in the "latter days" as so many of its clues are very descriptive of modern European and Scandinavian nations.

The Bible offers a very descriptive clue in Genesis 49:14-15 regarding the location of the tribe of Issachar in the latter days. It states: "Issachar is a strong ass **couching down between two burdens**: and he saw that rest was good, and the land that it was pleasant; and **bowed his shoulder to bear, and became a servant unto tribute.**" (KJV)

To identify this nation, we must look for a nation in Europe (and likely Scandinavia) which has a tradition of being quasi-independent ("under tribute"), located "between" two stronger nations or spheres of influence (the "two burdens"), and dwelling in reasonable peace and prosperity (their "rest was good, and...the land...was pleasant.")

In the ancient world a nation that was

"under tribute" had limited self-rule and autonomy while under the dominance of a stronger nation. In ancient days this tribute was generally an annual payment of gold or the cessation of territory.

The nation of Finland has long been in the condition of living in a buffer zone between stronger, competing nations. After centuries of Swedish rule, the 1700's and 1800's saw Finland caught between Russia and Sweden, who fought for sovereignty over Finland. Finland's sovereignty has been compromised ever since. From 1899 to 1905, Russia dominated Finland, and the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* wrote: "Russian officials and the Russian language were foisted on Finland wherever possible, and in 1903 the Russian governor...was invested with dictatorial powers." [ii]

The Finns were literally "under tribute" to Russia as "the Tsar peremptorily fixed an annual contribution" [iii] on Finland. In World War I, the *Britannica* notes that "Finland escaped invasion, but her liberties were restricted." [iv] This aptly describes a nation under tribute. World War I also saw Finns volunteering for service in the armies of both Germany and Russia (their "two burdens"). Some independence was restored in 1917, but in 1918, Finland "concluded a treaty which made her Germany's ally and vassal." [v] Finland was now "under tribute" to Germany, its other "burden." Between the world wars, Finland became increasingly identified as a Scandinavian nation, but the Russians again launched an attack on Finland as World War II began. The Finns made a heroic resistance against the Russians, but had to sign a treaty ceding territory and dominance to Russia. Finland remained a nation "under tribute." When Germany attacked Russia in 1941, Finland briefly allied itself with Germany before signing an armistice with both Great Britain and Russia in 1944. At the end of World War II, Finland had to pay certain amounts of finished industrial goods (more "tribute") to the Russians.

Finland has been a buffer state between stronger nations for most of its history and has literally been "under tribute" to other nations in recent history. Its current "tribute" is Finland's neutralist foreign policy, for which it receives an accommodative relationship with its bigger neighbors. Since Finland is located in a "buffer zone" between the western and eastern blocs, a neutralist position is a politically safe one for Finland. The Finnish capital, Helsinki, even gave its name to the "Helsinki Accords," an East-West agreement signed in the neutralist nation of Finland.

Finland has found its peace and prosperity despite its "couching down between two burdens." This condition is so

uniquely Finnish that it has even given birth to the term "Finlandization." Finland accepts some limitations on its sovereignty, but it currently enjoys a milder form of "tribute" than it has borne in recent history. It is currently a prosperous nation and is the headquarters of Nokia, the famous telecommunications company that is a dominant supplier of cellular phones to the world.

It is also likely that at least some of the Baltic people of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania are part of the tribe of Issachar. These small, Baltic nations have also been "couched down between two burdens." Russia and Germany have historically competed for control of these nations. The Estonian language and the Livonian ("Livian") dialect of Latvia confirm historic ties to Finland as both tongues are linked to the "Finno-Ugric" family of Indo-European languages. [vi]

Finland very literally fulfills the prophecy about Issachar's descendants in our modern world.

[ii] *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 1943 Ed., Vol. 22, see "Tula," p. 538

[iii] *Ibid*, Vol. 9, see "Finland," p. 253

[iiii] *Ibid*, p. 253

[v] *Ibid*, p. 253

[vi] *Ibid*, p. 254

[vii] *Ibid*, Vol. 8, see "Estonia," p. 739

**Article found on line at:**

<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0043/a2008-043-05.htm>

**\*\*\*THE END\*\*\*\*\***

**("Servants' News:..." continued from page 1)**

he could attend.

Rather than begin the trial, the judge asked to see attorney Cubitt and myself in his chambers. He made it very clear right up front that he was anxious to reach a settlement on this issue rather than go to trial. The judge had obviously read the trial briefs and understood the issues at hand:

In the spring of 2004, Norman Edwards, Terry Williams, Paul Drieman and Phil Frankford had agreed to pool their personal resources to form a trust to purchase part of the former Port Austin Air Force Base in order to establish a community for the purpose of educating Sabbatarian young people. All four men were to be trustees of the trust that would own the property. By September of 2004, both Edwards and Williams had each put about \$90,000 of their personal funds toward the project, but Frankford and Drieman contributed little. Both Edwards and the seller of the property believed that Drieman and Frankford had

deserted the original goals of the project and had tried to turn Williams against Edwards. Edwards arranged for the completion of the trust documents, which named only himself as trustee and let the others know on October 29, 2004. Edwards offered to make Williams a trustee, but he declined.

Since that date, those three refused to talk to Edwards, even though he wrote them numerous letters. When Edwards offered to begin repaying Williams \$1400 per month in February of 2005, provided that the issue did not go to court, Williams contacted his attorney. Some negotiation ensued but a suit was filed on October 21, 2005. The pending litigation has caused a great deal of difficulty, as many people deferred involvement with the Port Austin Bible Campus until the legal problems are resolved.

The judge pointed out to Edwards that Williams had put his money into the project on the basis that he would be one of four trustees—not one of two trustees or a non-trustee. On the other hand, it was clear that there was a lot to be desired from some of the people in working toward swift and fair resolution to this very serious matter.

#### **TERMS OF THE SETTLEMENT**

After meeting with Cubitt and Edwards together, then separately a couple of times, the key points of a potential settlement emerged. Essentially, Edwards and/or the Trust are to repay Williams \$1000 within 60 days and then \$44,000 more beginning January 15, 2010 at \$850 per month for five years. Williams will have a second mortgage on the property so that if payments are not made, then Williams can foreclose. Williams will remove his possessions from the building within 60 days. Neither admits to any legal wrong-doing and there is no ability to appeal this case or to file a new one on the same issues. The wording of the final order, yet to be signed by the judge, is included at the end of this article.

But in a word, Edwards and Williams legal issues are over—provided Williams moves out on time and Edwards and the Trust make payments on time. Both things are likely to occur.

All I can know is what went through my mind, not the minds of Williams, Frankford and Drieman. God is the ultimate judge of all things. We will leave that in his hands and concentrate on the work that we have to do.

#### **ON WITH PABC**

During these last three years, a number of things have been accomplished.

- Numerous aspects of our buildings have been improved.
- The condominium association, to which some of our properties belong, is now functioning well.

- The shared water plant and sewer system are now self-supporting.
- The sales of several non-critical parts of the property have been completed or are in process.
- Our property tax exemption trial has been completed and we are awaiting the results. We fully expect a ruling in our favor.

One of the most important things we have learned from this experience, is the need for clear written agreements defining what is expected from each person who lives here. Beyond that, when things go wrong, it is utterly important to physically go and talk to people with whom we have a disagreement. While that is a difficult thing to do, it is obviously a skill that the New Testament believers possessed. We pray that we do not forget the lessons that we have recently learned.

Our need now is to communicate our goals and plans to as wide an audience as possible so that we fulfill our goal of building a Christian community with an emphasis on educating Sabbatarian young people. The need is still great. I continue to read about and hear about young people who are struggling to get started in life. Many find a place to go to school. Many find jobs. But most lack friends of similar religious belief and end up departing from the biblical teaching of their youth, many departing from any form of Christianity. Others struggle to maintain their beliefs, but marry someone with completely different beliefs. Maintaining close Christian friends of like mind can make all the difference.

My experience has shown me that it will not be difficult to bring Sabbatarian young people to a community where they will be able to have friends and a lot of interesting things to do together. We have facilities for basketball, volleyball, baseball, racquet ball, tennis, hockey and bowling (with a little maintenance) right here. We also have good facilities to play and record music. We have the ability to teach a variety of computer skills. We have Bible studies that take on the big issues of life. We can offer young people money-saving practical experience such as learning to cook or taking care of their own vehicles.

#### **CAPABLE, DEDICATED PEOPLE NEEDED**

But we need mentors and teachers in place before we can bring young people here. That was the main issue raised by the young people who were here a couple of years ago:—we were too busy with legal and facilities issues to give them the time that they needed. The kind of people we need are those who have been successful in life, both spiritually and physically, who are willing and able to sacrifice some of their ongoing



physical prosperity to come and help many others learn to achieve that same kind of physical and spiritual success.

"But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal" (Matt 6:20).

We are in communication with some families and individuals who want to move here now. However, most of them are struggling with trials and disabilities of their own. They are eager and willing to help to the extent that they are able, but they are also in need of some help themselves. However, we know that with a sufficient number of skilled leaders, mentors and workers, we can all work together as a Christian community.

Before we have a large group of people move here, we need to fix the roofs on two or three of our buildings and put a heating system into the dormitories. (Presently, we are using electric space heaters there.) We are almost a year behind on our \$5000 per month payments to Eternal Life Bible Institute, from whom we purchased this property. They have been very patient with us because they want us to succeed. The ministry's operating expenses, which provide for utilities, buildings and grounds maintenance, interest expense, maintenance and essential living supplies average \$4000 per month. But offerings have averaged \$3500 per month during the same period. The resources of the Edwards' and a few other supporters are now exhausted, so we hope that others will "stand in the gap".

We presently intend to produce a small brochure explaining the concepts behind the Port Austin Bible Campus and bring it to a wide Sabbatarian audience: Church of God groups, Church of God Seventh Day groups, Messianic Jewish groups, Seventh Day Baptists and others. We hope to make our facilities available to these groups for low-cost camps and retreats next summer.

We would like to invite anyone who is interested in helping us with these plans to come and visit during the upcoming Thanksgiving holidays. We realize that this will not be practical for most of you, but for a few, it might. Some are already planning to come. Please phone (989) 738-7700 or email [PABC@portAustin.net](mailto:PABC@portAustin.net) if you do, so you can be assured a room on campus.

If you would like to help in some way, but cannot come to the Thanksgiving meeting, please email [PABC@portAustin.net](mailto:PABC@portAustin.net) or write to us: Port Austin Bible Campus, PO Box 474, Port Austin, Michigan 48467-0474

We intend to produce another issue of **Servants' News** as soon as possible, and hope to keep publishing it every two months.

After three long and difficult years, we now feel more determined than ever to make this ministry a reality and a blessing to

others. Please pray for us, and help in some way if the Eternal is leading you to do so.

**Text of Settlement judgment as approved by the parties; soon to be signed by the judge, follows below:**

STATE OF MICHIGAN

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF HURON

TERRY MONTE WILLIAMS, Plaintiff  
vs. File No. 05 002931 CB  
05 003021 CB

NORMAN SCOTT EDWARDS, Individually and as Trustee of Port Austin Sabbatarian Church Community Sacred Purpose Trust, and PORT AUSTIN SABBATARIAN CHURCH COMMUNITY SACRED PURPOSE TRUST, Jointly and Severally,

Defendants

Attorneys for Plaintiff  
CUBITT & CUBITT  
BY: E. Duane Cubitt PI2373  
186 E. Huron Avenue  
Bad Axe, Michigan 48413  
(989) 269 9903

Norman Scott Edwards, Defendant  
Appearing In Pro Per  
PO Box 553  
Port Austin, MI 48467  
(989) 738 7774

JUDGMENT

At a session of said Court held in the County Building in the City of Bad Axe in said County on the \_\_\_ day of November, 2007

Present: THE HONORABLE M. RICHARD KNOBLOCK, Circuit Judge

This matter having been regularly scheduled for trial on November 8, 2007, at 9:00 a.m. and the parties, with the assistance of the Court, having met and agreed to the entry of a Judgment containing specified terms including a provision that there is no finding of wrongdoing by either Plaintiff or Defendants and the Court being fully advised in the premises,

IT IS ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that the Plaintiff shall recover from the Defendant, Norman Scott Edwards, individually and as Trustee of the Port Austin Sabbatarian Church Community Sacred Purpose Trust

and the Port Austin Sabbatarian Church Community Sacred Purpose Trust, jointly and severally, the sum of \$45,000.00 payable \$1,000.00 within 60 days of entry of this Judgment, with the balance of \$44,000.00 due commencing two years from entry of this Judgment payable in monthly payments amortized over five years at 6% per annum, which sum is \$850.65 per month; that interest on said \$44,000.00 shall commence two years from entry of Judgment and the first monthly installment payment shall be due on January 15, 2010; that all payments due under this Judgment are to be made to Cubitt & Cubitt Trust, 186 E. Huron Avenue, Bad Axe, Michigan 48413.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that should Defendant not timely make the installment payments required in this Judgment, then the balance due on said Judgment at the time of default shall become immediately due and payable.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that Plaintiff is hereby granted a mortgage against the real property of Defendant Trust as described on Exhibit A attached hereto; that said mortgage shall be a second mortgage to the mortgage granted by Defendant Trust to Eternal Life Bible Institute, a MN non-profit corporation on or about May 26, 2006, and recorded in Liber 1161, page 656, Huron County Records; a default in the installment payments required under this Judgment shall be considered a default in the mortgage granted herein and upon default, Plaintiff may foreclose said mortgage as provided by Michigan law.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that the claimed lien of Plaintiff in a document titled Real Property Lien Notice recorded on or about December 1, 2004, in Liber 1084, page 470, Huron County Records is hereby released.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that there is no admission by either party of any wrongdoing in their agreement to amicably resolve the issues in the within cause and all claims and counter claims in this cause not provided for in this Judgment are hereby dismissed with prejudice. It is further the intent of this Judgment for the parties hereto to waive any claims or causes of action either might have against the other as of the date of entry of the Judgment, whether or not plead in this cause of action.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that the plaintiff, Williams, and the Defendant, Edwards, acknowledge and agree that Homer Kizer**

**has not, is not, and will not be authorized by Terry Monte Williams to speak or write on behalf of Plaintiff, Williams.**

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that Plaintiff, Williams, shall vacate the premises he occupies on property titled in the name of Defendant Trust within 60 days of entry of this Judgment.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that no costs are awarded to either party.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Judgment resolves the last pending claim in this action and closes the above entitled cause.

M. RICHARD KNOBLOCK,  
Circuit Judge

Dated: November \_\_, 2007

STIPUALTED AND AGREED TO  
AS TO BOTH FORM AND CONTENT:

CUBITT & CUBITT Attorneys for Plaintiff

BY: E. Duane Cubitt P12373

Norman Scott Edwards, Defendant  
Appearing In Pro Per  
Individually and as Trustee of Port Austin  
Sabbatarian Church Community Sacred  
Purpose Trust, and Port Austin  
Sabbatarian Church Community Sacred  
Purpose Trust

Article found on line at:  
<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0043/a2008-043-06.htm>  
\*\*\*THE END\*\*\*\*\*

**(“Connecting the...” continued from page 1)**

Iraq Democracy dot and now it's the gas is too high dot, education cost dot, grocery cost dot, etc., etc., etc., dot, dot, dot.

Knock, knock. Who's there? Dot Com, Dot Com who? Dot Communistic government that we thought we got rid of in the U.S.S.R. That's right! It is rearing it's ugly head in American, in the name of, “We had to instigate more Marxism because of 9/11,” so we could protect America from the terrorist. Hello! Hello! Anybody looking, learning, and listening. Let's go to Iraq and fight terrorism there, to keep it from coming to America. In the mean time let us leave our borders wide open for any Tom, Dick or Harry to cross who wants to! Are all the terrorists really going to go to Iraq just to fight us? These dots do not make a clear picture to me as 15 of the so

called hijackers of the 9/11 tragedy were Arabs, so we invade the sovereign country of Iraq?

Last year we had one of the most catastrophic natural disasters ever to hit our American shores and it was not as a result of terrorism. We had the devastating storms in Florida, Louisiana, Texas, the tremendous tornado activity of the last two years and we could do nothing about it. Or could we? Two of the biggest dots we seem to neglect, is that line drawn from Man to the true God (Creator). The Bible in plain language says, “If you disobey Me, I will curse you.” (Deuteronomy 28:15-68) America, REPENT of your sin. Immorality, drug trade, witchcraft, war, etc., etc., we have it all in this country and it comes in and goes out via our coast lines.

Look at what is happening in the so called land of free Israel. Their democratic government is using force to remove Israeli settlers from their homes. Our democratic laws do the same thing here but very little is said about it. If your home is your home how is it you can loose your home for not paying school taxes? Or how is it now, with the new laws, that you have no recourse in some states if some corporation wants your property they can get it?

The new laws that have been passed since 9/11 have already started to erode the few pillars that hold up any form of civility for our country. The biggest enemy of the citizens of America is it's own system of government as it systematically turns us into The Marxists Regional Corporate States of The World. Mark my words. It will happen and for a short time it will rule most of the world until the return of our Creator. The Creator will connect the final dot and then we will get the picture. (Don't pray for the Creator to save America, pray that the people will repent of their sin and moreover, pray that the Creator will return soon and give His people the promised immortality so they can re-establish His Spiritual Kingdom here on earth.)

Article found on line at:  
<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0043/a2008-043-07.htm>  
\*\*\*THE END\*\*\*\*\*

**(“Radio Broadcast &...” continued from page 24)**

morning. Those of you in Ghana West Africa, the United Kingdom (all 0 degrees-at the prime meridian) will listen at 3AM early Saturday morning. In various locations of the United States allow for the time zone differences.

**TO LISTEN USING YOUR COMPUTER SPEAKERS GO TO THIS ADDRESS:**

<http://www.1090kaay.com> NEXT, CLICK ON THE WINDOW AT THE RIGHT OF THE SCREEN: 1090 KAAAY am "LISTEN LIVE". It will take a few moments for the program to connect and buffering to be completed. Be sure to click "PLAY" below the viewing window player.

Anyone interested in furthering this effort can do so by adding this link to your website: <http://www.1090kaay.com> and including the airing time for the GNK broadcast.

Visit our website at <http://www.icyahweh.org/> for additional information regarding doctrine, available literature to order and the 2007 calendar of Holy Days. Parts of the Insight magazine previous editions can be read online. Be sure to get your name on the mailing list for Insight, with readers in over 30 foreign countries and the United States.

Insight is a full color, high quality magazine devoted to topical issues such as prophecy, sacred names, the Law of Yahweh, etc. Insight is offered free of charge to all who request it.

Further communication with ICY is available through email at: [info@icyahweh.org](mailto:info@icyahweh.org) OR by phone at (870) 892-5419. May Yahweh bless your pursuit of the truth.

Item found on line at:  
<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0043/i2008-043-06.htm>  
\*\*\*THE END\*\*\*\*\*

**LETTERS  
CONTINUED  
FROM  
PAGE 2 ...**

**emails** is a Laura Maynard and not Laura Lee.

These **four emails** were entered as exhibits in the Terry Williams versus Norman Edwards case on November 8, 2007. We had to wait until a judgment was entered in that case in order to clear our name in regard to this issue. The **four emails** are posted on our **Web Site** and you can access them here by clicking on: **four emails**

Myra, next time you repeat things that other people tell you, please make sure that you first find out if it is true or not. Ask to see the evidence.

**Myra McQueen writes:**

"Unless Laura brings forth fruit that reveals repentance, she not only has built with straw and hay, but the issue of whether she'll be denied in the resurrection should be of genuine concern to her ... Laura Lee has,

in her newsletter, asked for prayers against us because I do not place any importance in British Israelism. So I think there is a lot more at stake than the Lees building with straw."

**Laura Lee writes:**

In all of the years that we have been printing a **newsletter**, we have never to our knowledge asked for prayers against anyone. If someone can find that we have then please send that information to us. All of our newsletters are posted on our **Web Site**.

No repentance is required of me in this matter since I have not done what you are accusing me of in this letter.

**Myra McQueen writes:**

As I see it now, you have rewarded me evil for good. In the past I have sent you a lot of materials, books, letters, including just today the DVD that I promised. But I trust that God will recognize that I have overcome that evil that you have heaped upon me with good, as He commanded in Rom.12:21.

**Laura Lee writes:**

Remember, you are the one that continues to make all these false accusations against me. Telling people things which are not true is a lie and a lie is a sin, and sin is considered to be evil.

It is a good thing that you give things to others, and I have been the recipient of your giving at times, but mostly because you have volunteered it and not because I have asked for it. However no amount of good that you do will wipe out the evil that you do to your own brethren or to people in general.

**Myra McQueen writes:**

You have deleted some of my articles in the last send out of your website, but you continue to condemn me for using pseudonyms. I have used pseudonyms because people like you have cut me off from some of my providers (ie, MSN, and Hotmail) because I dared to question their religious heresies. I have always admitted using pseudonyms to anyone who asks, as I did to you who used it against me.

**Laura Lee writes:**

First of all, I have never, ever had anything to do with getting you cut off from MSN, Hotmail or any other service provider you may have had. Chances are that you are treating other people the same way you treat me. So based on that, I would say it is your own behavior that gets you cut off of your service providers.

Second, you were going around via email and pretending to be several different people whom you were not and that is a lie. You were not up front with the people you fooled via email and they would for the most

part never have reason to question who you really were as you bilked them out of whatever information you could get from them. (See **Intentional Deceptive Practices and Lying**) Further more you had no reason to use any pseudonyms on me, based on your reasoning as stated above and to do so to me or anyone else is wrong.

I also did not delete any of your articles from our **Web Site**. They are all still on there.

**Myra McQueen writes:**

God will requite the self-righteous Shimei's of the COGs, and He will requite me good for your cursing this day (II Sam.16:11-12).

Your ideas of love are superficial at best, and nonexistent at least.

You say you hate lying and yet you continue to stab in the back those whom you refer to as "brethren," while glossing over the sins of the elitist ministries of yesteryear.

If what you have is love, then God protect me from that hypocrisy. Thanks-Myra

**Laura Lee writes:**

We treat everyone the same here. If a top ranking official or minister wants to send us the same kind of emails that you have been sending us, we would print those also. Again, it is about time you clean up your own behavior and quit going around accusing people of things they have not done to you or anyone else.

**Letter found on line at:**

<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0043/I2008-043-01.htm>

\*\*\*THE END\*\*\*\*\*

**Promoter of Older Aspects?**

**(1-17-07)**

**by J. Richard Niemela**

**(Reston, Virginia)**

**This letter is in response to an article "Four Reasons the Jews are "JUDAH", which was published in Issue #35.**

**J. Richard Niemela writes:**

Lee's... Re your article titled **Jews being Judah** by Steven Collins... It should be obvious that he is a promoter of the older aspects of the British Israel view, that today's Jews are Judah and that Germany represents the end time Assyrian ..a view adopted by the **WWC of God**, Armstrong's Church.. But such a view is also promoted by some Jews as well, and it is their views that Collins adopts.. We can understand why the Brits would make such assertions, since England was totally taken over by the Jews after Cromwell let them back into England

after they promised him all the money he needed to rebuild England after their revolution.. They set up the Bank of England in 1659 and never looked back... They anglicized their names, intermarried with the British nobility and have been a problem for the entire world ever since.. being the instigators behind the abominable Federal Reserve System here, and other abominable events that have led to the depletion of America's Christian basis.. Read Jer. 24:8-10 to see what God had to say about them and their future.

While Collins book, the **Lost Tribes of Israel Found**, is well worth reading, this issue of Jews today, separates him from the Christian Israelites of America, as most of them refuse to adopt such British Israelism's... and many of the former Brit, Israelites are also abandoning this view... many former **Armstrong** followers have become members of the **Christian Israel**, or **Christian Identity** that is growing within America and Canada and other nations that came from the European nations of the Lost Sheep of the House of Israel... the people to whom Jesus directed His disciples to "only Go." (Matt.10:6), and the same people that He said were those to whom He was ONLY sent! (Matt.15:24)... Knowing those facts, what does that do to the rampant Universalism now promoted within "Judeo-Christian" organized churches? It destroys it, but then if these words are never mentioned in sermons or otherwise, they do not exist! Such is the blindness in part that Paul speaks of in Romans 11:25.. one of the most key verses of the Bible as it speaks to who are the Gentiles of the World... Gentile being one of the most damaging words against the Faith..

In any case, if there are concerns that need discussion, I will be glad to offer some help..... J. Richard Niemela

**Steven M. Collins writes:**

Dear J. Richard Niemela,

It is evident from your comments that you know little about me. I have never been a member of any **Christian Identity** or **British Israel** church or organization. I was in the **Worldwide Church of God** from 1979-1987, but I am currently an Independent Sabbatarian Christian.

Also, as you will see in two of my books, **The "Lost" Ten Tribes of Israel...Found!** (published in 1996) and **Israel's Tribes Today** (published in 2005), I identify Germany as being, predominantly, the modern Israelite tribe of Gad. I think it is fair to identify some of the Germanic tribes as descended from the ancient Assyrians, but not most of them. Indeed, the Anglo-Saxons (from whence came the English peoples and the Americans) were a Germanic tribe and



they were the seed of Joseph. If you wish to see why I link Germany to the modern Israelite tribe of Gad, you could obtain copies of either book at [www.bibleblessings.net](http://www.bibleblessings.net). You may also review my articles and research papers for free at [www.stevenmcollins.net](http://www.stevenmcollins.net). If you do, you will see that I differ substantially with the old WCG teachings on such subjects as tithing and prophecy. Given your comments, I think you will especially enjoy my paper on **What Kind of 'Captivity?'**.

Sincerely,  
Steve Collins

**Letter found on line at:**

<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0043/12008-043-02.htm>

\*\*\***THE END**\*\*\*\*\*

**Thank You (7-3-07)**

**by Arlan Weight  
(Bismarck, North Dakota)**

**This letter is in response to a letter "Arlan Weight's Article", which was published in Issue #42.**

Darwin & Laura,  
Thanks for forwarding Mr. Heath's addresses to me.  
Arlan

**Letter found on line at:**

<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0043/12008-043-03.htm>

\*\*\***THE END**\*\*\*\*\*

**Age? (5-25-06)**

**by Tommy West  
(Wake Forest, North Carolina)**

**This letter is in response to "Question #57", which was published in Issue #33.**

**Laura Lee writes:**

I was not able to get an answer for this letter from Michael Porter after several months of trying. He emailed at one point for more information, which I sent to him and after that he just never responded so I am not sure if he ever got any of my emails after that point.

Update: As of December 4, 2007, Michael Porter is claiming that he never answered this question in the first place even though we do have email from him to the contrary.

**Tommy West writes:**

Darwin & Laura,

Greetings. Hopefully things are well with both of you (and Mous).

**Laura Lee writes:**

Yes, we are fine and so is Mous. Mous is our diabetic cat who just turned 14 years old in July of 2007.

**Tommy West writes:**

Thanks for considering my **recent paper** (What Does the Suffering of Christ Mean to You?) for publication.

I would like to commend both of you on the new format of your newsletter and also for naming it **THE CHURCH OF GOD MESSENGER** which aptly describes the role each of us should play in spreading the gospel of the kingdom of God in this end time.

Though my income is fixed and much less than it was before retirement, I hope to be able to help you financially in the next few months. I truly appreciate the work you do and I believe that all who receive it enjoy spiritual benefits from it.

**Laura Lee writes:**

Thank you for your encouragement.

**Tommy West writes:**

In the **latest issue** of the **newsletter**, you printed **Question #57** and the answer given by Michael Porter of Benin Republic. Obviously his comments about the unborn child not receiving any of the mother's blood was correct or you would not have printed it.

**Laura Lee writes:**

Yes, I did research that point and found it to be true. There are numerous web sites you can go to, to get this information. I will quote from only one of them:

**"Question:** The blood of the mother and the fetus do not normally mix. Why this is important?

**Answer:** In days past it was assumed that the primary route of communication between a mother and her child within the womb occurred through the placenta. This was what contributed to the mother and child bonding because the blood of the mother and that of her fetus would get mixed. However, science and research has shown us that the blood of a mother and her unborn child never mixes, and if does, then the mother's blood would raise up an immunology protest. This could develop to such an extent that her body may wish to get rid of this unwanted object within her

that has caused such a riot! In other words, the mother will start making so many antibodies that she will not be able to carry her baby at all. A mother and her baby have two distinctly separate blood systems, depending on the genetic contributions that the mother and father have made, and one must not and will never mix with the other."

From:

<http://www.blurtit.com/q153257.html>

**Tommy West writes:**

To say the least, though, I am flabbergasted at his response. It is clear from scripture that Jesus **COULD AGE AND HAVE WRINKLES**. Luke 3:23 notes that Jesus was about thirty years of age when He began His ministry. If Jesus couldn't age, why was Luke inspired to write that or for that matter, how could anyone else distinguish His age? Was He always a boy? Also, it is true that Jesus said as recorded by John (10:18), He had the power (**STRONG'S 1849**) to lay down His life and to take it again, but Paul wrote that God the Father raised Jesus from the dead. (Rom. 4:24, Acts 2:24). This clearly shows to me, that Jesus could **NOT** determine at what point He could be resurrected. I believe Mr. Porter was wrong on this point. Perhaps I will write more on this subject later.

Take care.

Tommy

**Laura Lee writes:**

Yes, I agree with you that Michael Porter was wrong on this point. We go through a tremendous amount of stuff here to consider for print and sometimes we miss the mark, but that is what readers are for. Readers do need to protest when they have knowledge of something. When we printed Michael Porter's answer to **"Question #57"**, we should have left the following statements completely off the end: "Thus, He did not have gray hair or wrinkles and would not have been subject to old age, infirmity, or disease unto death. He could get a cold, have a toothache or experience pain, but would have no fear of dying from any of these things. He said no man could take His life, but it was His to surrender." I think at the time we looked at this, we printed it because we felt it was Michael Porter's opinion, since he stated no scriptures to back it up. In any case we were wrong to have printed those last three sentences and we apologize to our readers for having done so.

Thank you for writing so we could get this matter cleared up.

Letter found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0043/12008-043-04.htm>

\*\*\*THE END\*\*\*\*\*

**By Extension (6-22-07)**  
**by Vic Williams (Australia)**

This letter is in response to an article "Discipleship and Stewardship", which was published in Issue #36. We did contact B. L. Cocherell for comment in regard to the below letter and his daughter Ruth Beane sent us a statement.

**Ruth Beane writes:**

Sorry that we didn't get back to you right away on this. The request got buried in a lot of other work.

I want to first thank you for posting the article and making it available to so many people.

It's a bit difficult to respond to every point in the response letter because the letter writer's questions seem to not address the topic of our responsibilities as stewards and students of God's truth. The questions actually seem to be aimed at attacking the belief that faith AND works are required of a Christian. It seems to attack the belief that the 10 commandments were NOT nailed to the cross and that Christ came to amplify the law, not to do away with it.

It is my feeling that the writer needs basic "milk" of the word before attacking the belief that we are indeed responsible to do a work with the knowledge that we have been given.

Again, thank you Laura for the work you are doing. Love Ruth

**Laura Lee writes:**

Thank you Ruth, we are in agreement with your above statement.

**Vic Williams writes:**

There is much in the article "Discipleship and Stewardship" that is well written, but there are some elements of great concern to me.

My initial disagreement is with the "by extension" in the following passage: "The commission given to the disciples and, "by extension," to all whom the Sovereign Father calls to become a part of his earthly family of king-priests has the following two basic parts:"

The flaw in the logic and reasoning of this article is the assumption that we are to do the disciples commission.

I am not saying we do not have a work to do in "working out our own salvation with fear and trembling".

But Christ has never given me the Apostles work "by extension".

**Laura Lee writes:**

So are you saying that if someone wanted to be taught what Christ's way of life is, that you would not help them with that because it is not your job or your responsibility? Be careful how you answer that, because if you say you won't help them because it isn't your job or your responsibility then you aren't much of a Christian and if you say that you will help them, then not only are you doing a work, but it is "by extension".

**Vic Williams writes:**

Our calling is personal, our gift of the earnest of the Spirit is tailored and special for each of us, we are individual members of the body, all ordained priests now, 1 Pet 2:9.

Our discipleship is not by the Old Covenant commands but by the new way of life of the Spirit.

Secondly in: "The Early Church", "The Father's children are to learn both the letter and the Spirit of the law."

A misconception under the New Covenant the saints were not required to learn the law at all, that is what Paul contended with the judaizers and those saints who were formerly Pharisees.

**Darwin & Laura Lee write:**

Your above statements are really good reasons why you personally should actually teach no one else "by extension" or other wise. Paul taught the law of God to God's people personally and all of God's people are required to know and keep the Law of God. Read Psalm 132:9. You can find the definition of righteousness in Psalm 119:172.

**Vic Williams writes:**

For example Rahab one of the faithful of Hebrews 11, never knew the law at all.

**Laura Lee writes:**

Joshua 6:25 "And Joshua saved Rahab the harlot alive, and her father's household, and all that she had; and she dwelleth in Israel even unto this day; because she hid the messengers, which Joshua sent to spy out Jericho." This scripture shows that Rahab gave up harlotry to dwell with Israel as a grafted in Israelite, similar to Ruth in the Book of Ruth. By dwelling with Israel she became one of them in every way.

Hebrews 11:31 "By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace." This verse shows Rahab believed and did as God wanted her to do and that she did not perish with those who believed not. Rahab did keep the law of God or there is no way she would have been listed in

Hebrews as one of the faithful.

Hebrews 11:13 "These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth." To have faith in God is to do everything that God tells us to do. Rahab kept the law of God and anyone who has faith in God will be keeping God's Law also.

**Vic Williams writes:**

"Organizational Structure", A misconception not an hierarchal structure one body, but a body whose members have job descriptions, not titles or authority, only Christ has pre-eminence, no one member is over another in anything.

Even the verses quoted 1 Cor 12:27-31 prove that these are gifts not titles. Please heed the instruction of v31... but earnestly desire the best gift.

**Laura Lee writes:**

God's church does have organization. Christ is the head of the church which does show a hierarchal structure. He is the head, the leader and yet we are all brethren. We as brethren are not to Lord it over each other, and the gifts are job descriptions that each person with in the Body of Christ is given to do a work with. So each of us in the Body of Christ do have a work to do according to our gifts.

**Vic Williams writes:**

What the best gift, LOVE the whole of Chapter 13 shows the greatest gift - LOVE.

**Laura Lee writes:**

1 John 5:2 "By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments." One does not even know what love is until or unless they are keeping the commandments (Law) of God. Love is not a gift, love is something you learn and do by keeping the Law of God. Love is not listed as a gift.

**Vic Williams writes:**

"The Early Church and Today." "Improve your chances to participate in the first resurrection and enter the Kingdom of God."

A flawed concept, we are in the body of Christ NOW.

While we can still "abort" from that body Heb 6 and Heb 10:26-30, God will never forsake or leave us.

Again I say that much in the article is well written, but as the rest of the article is colored by these misconceptions some of the impact is lost.

If these points could be addressed a good article could be made better. Vic

# The Church of God Messenger

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## Darwin & Laura Lee writes:

In our opinion the one who has misconceptions about a lot of things is you Vic Williams. Please we encourage you to study your Bible to clear up some of the misconceptions you seem to have in regard to this subject.

Those who are in or part of the body of Christ (Psalm 15:1-2) are those individuals who keep the commandments and testimonies of Jesus Christ. All those that teach against God's Commandments are imposters (weeds) who claim discipleship with Christ but are in actual fact Satan's agents teaching contrary to and against God's laws (1 John 3:10) saying they were nailed to the cross. See also: Dan. 12:3 and Matt. 5:10.

## Letter found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0043/12008-043-05.htm>

\*\*\*THE END\*\*\*\*\*

## Pen Pals (6-8-06)

by Janine M. Ziomek-Witek  
(Buffalo, New York)

This letter is in response to several letters "Need Pen Pals", Issue #33, "Follow God Always", Issue #33 and "Why Addresses of Sick People Should not be Included with Prayer Requests", Issue #30.

## Janine M. Ziomek-Witek writes:

I'm writing you this note for a few reasons. Also if you would like to print this in the newsletter you can. First I would like to say I'm glad all the get well cards were forwarded.

Also there's a little mix-up, you see when Doyle Carter wrote you **Need Pen Pals**," he should have wrote out my full name. You see my nick name is Jan! So Janine and Jan from Buffalo New York are one. So you know this now and I'm sorry for the mix up.

And the last thing I would like to write about is the letter **Follow God Always**," by Christopher Bartch (**Newsletter Issue #33, May/June 2006**)

I would like to share some things dealing with it. First, I would like to say I know Rhoda Young personally for over 15 years and I'm sorry to say she's still a little scared from what happened to her but is dealing with it better now. But still needs time yet.

But for good news, I have been pen-paling with 2 male inmates for over 6 months (this one also gets your **newsletter**) and 1 for 2 months. As Christopher Bartch said I'm using caution and common sense. When I get a letter/card from an inmate I write them, him/her that there are some ground rules that

I and my husband come up with, and the writer of the letter is told of them. If they can follow them, mainly safety ones so we don't end up with **problems like Rhoda Young did**, and if they agree to them, then I will write to them. So far they have kept them and they understand why we have them. Like Christopher Bartch knows some inmates are unscrupulous but others are good hearted as well.

I will have to say that the 2 inmates who write me are a blessing to me and I am to them. They don't ask for much, just someone who will write, listen to them, and share the truth. I like to draw and have sent drawings to both and my drawings or kind words make their day. And they have sent drawings, cards and just letters dealing with life here.

A lot of inmates don't have family or friends who care about them and the inmates are on their own. So they don't have friends and family that write to them.

I will admit not everyone has the calling to do this type of work. But I was told that this is a calling. And I would like to bless 1 or 2 female inmates now. I am on a low income and can't write to a lot because of cost of stamps. But if someone would like to help with this you can write me at: Janine M. Ziomek-Witek, 165 Stanislaus St., Apt. 1, Buffalo, NY 14212, but only if you like to. I have the time to write and paper/envelopes, just not the stamps as much. But I would just like to say, I'm glad to bless the ones I can and it's a blessing to me as well.

Well I guess that's it for now. I like the new look of the **newsletter** and thank you for your card as well. Well I must go for now, write soon or when you can. God Bless, Janine (Jan) M. Ziomek-Witek

## Laura Lee writes:

Hi Jan, we need to apologize to you and anyone else whose letter has taken this long or longer to answer or print. What we have are many letters and not always time to answer them. So we are sorry for that and we are trying to get through the many letters we have here yet.

I hope that you have been able to find some female inmates to write to and that all is still working out with the rest of your pen pals. Thank you for sharing this letter with all of us.

## Letter found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0043/12008-043-06.htm>

\*\*\*THE END\*\*\*\*\*

**Newsletter Subscriptions (7-13-07)**  
by Christopher Abiazem (Nigeria)

## Christopher Abiazem writes:

Brethren in Christ Jesus,

## SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL NOTICE --

I humbly apply that you renew my subscription of **"The Church of God Messenger"** via snail mail.

You cut me off since Sept./Oct. 2006 hence this application for subscription renewal.

I thank you and hope this application of mine will be duly considered. Yours Sincerely, Chris Abiazem

## Darwin & Laura Lee write:

Dear Chris Abiazem,

Hi, we received your **"Eulogy on Richard Nickels"** and we did print it in **Issue #42**. We are truly sorry for your loss.

As far as **newsletters** go, we would have sent you a "Renewal" notice back in Sept./Oct. 2006, either by snail mail or by email or both. We recently sent you a "Subscription" form, but also did not receive that one back either. If you do not fill out and send back the "Renewal" form when we send it to you, then we do drop you from our mailing list.

We have used renewals ever since we started printing a newsletter in order to keep our mailing list current. Hard copy **newsletters** do cost us money for materials and for postage and we are not rich people, so yearly renewals have been a way to keep our list current so we aren't sending **newsletters** to people who do not want them. When a person does not return the "Renewal" or the "Subscription" form, we assume they do not want the **newsletter**, so we do not send it.

Since 2004 we have required that you fill out the "Renewal" or "Subscription" form and mail it back to us. We have enclosed one so you can fill it out and return it to us. If you want to renew online, you can do so by going to: <http://darwinlauralee.com/data/05-17-06.htm>

Since June 1, 2007 we now require that all hard copy **newsletter** subscriptions need to be paid for. Please read the enclosed article titled **"Why a Paid Subscription?"** for a more complete reason why we have to charge for hard copy **newsletters** now. We sincerely hope you understand. If you have internet access you can download and print all copies of our **newsletter** yourself for free. If you do not have internet access and want a **newsletter**, you would have to fill out the enclosed "Subscription" form and mail it to us along with \$22.20 USD for a one year subscription. If for some reason you are unable to afford the \$22.20 USD for a one year subscription, then fill out the enclosed "Subscription" form and check the line that says, "I am a person who wants to receive a newsletter but cannot afford to pay for it. (In



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this case we will only send it to you if someone sends money to cover a gift subscription.)”

Whatever your situation is, we sincerely hope you will fill out the enclosed "Subscription" form and let us know so that we can once again start sending "The Church of God Messenger" newsletter to you. Darwin & Laura Lee

Letter found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0043/12008-043-07.htm>

\*\*\*THE END\*\*\*\*\*

## Mandan Indian Tribe (2-10-07)

by Gordon Bean

(St. Charles, Michigan)

This letter is in response to an article "What Ezekiel 38-39 Reveals about a Future World War III", which was published in Issue #28.

Gordon Bean writes:

I am just finishing up the book "ISRAEL'S TRIBES TODAY" by Steven Collins and find it perhaps one of the most brilliant researched texts I have read. He has put together in a very easy to understand format the migration of the ancient LOST tribes of Israel and places them quite correctly where they are today.

I found your web site which had his Ezkiel 38/39 prophesy concerning the

MAJOR current events today.

Within the text of the book I am currently reading he has referenced the MANDAN Indian tribe of your near locale.

Do you know what I am referencing here?

My daughter lives at Fargo ND and I am familiar with the location of Mandan but not of the current Indian nation or their history. Sincerely yours, Gordon

Steve Collins writes:

Dear Gordon Bean,

Thank you for your very positive comments about my book. It is gratifying to know that readers enjoy reading the book as much as I enjoyed writing it.

The tribe of Mandan Indians which interacted with the Lewis and Clark expedition and other early explorers of the American West no longer exists. In 1837, white traders infected the Mandan villages with a smallpox epidemic which wiped out almost all the tribe's members. I'll offer this quote from *Brave His Soul by Ellen Pugh* (p. 99) concerning what happened to the Mandan tribe after the smallpox plague:

"Only about 125 survived...these were taken captive by the neighboring Ricarees, who then moved into the empty Mandan villages. Many of the captive Mandans--made slaves--committed suicide. Thirteen years later, the census of 1850 recorded 350 Mandans living, but nearly all were of mixed blood."

For the above reason, it is impossible to

locate the remarkable Mandan tribe which was known to early American explorers. There may be some people today bearing the tribal name, but they are not the same people as the original Mandan tribe. Steve Collins

Letter found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0043/12008-043-08.htm>

\*\*\*THE END\*\*\*\*\*



## QUESTIONS SECTION ==

[the-cog-messenger@earthlink.net](mailto:the-cog-messenger@earthlink.net)

## KIDS KORNER ==

[the-cog-messenger@earthlink.net](mailto:the-cog-messenger@earthlink.net)

## PRAYER REQUESTS & UPDATES ==

[PrayerRequestsAndUpdates@darwinlauralee.com](mailto:PrayerRequestsAndUpdates@darwinlauralee.com)

### November 22, 2008--Rose Mary Knudson's Sister

Bismarck, North Dakota--Please pray for Rose Mary Knudson's Sister, she is in the hospital. Sent by Darwin & Laura Lee

### November 22, 2008--Bruce & Carolyn Swinney

Tyler, Texas--Please pray for Bruce & Carolyn Swinney, both have serious health issues at this time and need your prayers. Please pray that both will be healed. Sent by Bruce Swinney (request written by Laura Lee)

[Prayer Request Archives](#)

Item found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0043/pi2008-043-01.htm>

\*\*\*THE END\*\*\*\*\*

THE MESSAGE BOARD (ADS & INFO) --

the-cog-messenger@earthlink.net

SABBATH SCHEDULE--BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA

- December 22, 2007----Open for Hosting--Please Sign Up
December 28, 2007----Bible Study
December 29, 2007----Teaching the Law-- Lesson #204 & Lesson #205
January 5, 2008----Open for Hosting--Please Sign Up (Global Church of God Fast -- See Article Below)
January 12, 2008----Teaching the Law-- Lesson #206 & Lesson #207
January 19, 2008----Open for Hosting--Please Sign Up
January 26, 2008----Teaching the Law-- Lesson #208 & Lesson #209
February 2, 2008----Open for Hosting--Please Sign Up
February 8, 2008----Bible Study
February 9, 2008----Teaching the Law-- Lesson #210 & Lesson #211
February 16, 2008----Open for Hosting--Please Sign Up
February 23, 2008----Teaching the Law-- Lesson #212 & Lesson #213
March 1, 2008----Open for Hosting--Please Sign Up
March 8, 2008----Teaching the Law-- Lesson #214 & Lesson #215
March 15, 2008----Open for Hosting--Please Sign Up

If you want to host Sabbath Services and need 2 Sabbaths in a row for your presentation and/or would like to have your presentation listed on our Sabbath Schedule in our newsletter which is sent out to the public, the next deadline for that would be: February 15, 2008. On those Sabbaths of Open Hosting where no one signs up, we will just play a cassette tape by any of various speakers. All Sabbath Services are Hosted by Darwin & Laura Lee unless otherwise stated.

SABBATH SERVICES

Every Saturday at 2:00 PM at 320 N. Griffin St., Bismarck, North Dakota (701) 258-7172
Front Door Open at 1:00 PM for Fellowship

BIBLE STUDY

Every 6 weeks on Friday at 8:00 PM at 320 N. Griffin St., Bismarck, North Dakota (701) 258-7172
Front Door Open at 6:30 PM for Fellowship and Pot Luck Meal (Bring Food)

Christian COG
'Philadelphia Fast'
--Sabbath
January 5, 2008
Sent by Lori Johnson
(King William, Virginia)

And he said, "Take heed that ye be not deceived: for many shall come in my name saying I am Christ; and the time draweth near: go ye not therefore after them." — Luke 21:8

Greetings brothers and sisters in Christ!

From scripture it is clear that during the end times many will profess the name of Christ while seeking personal gain, power, and followers of men. This has been evident to us throughout history, even before the age of television and radio, but in modern times we have often seen these media tools used to benefit those about whom Christ warned us.

God's Word gives no indication that any church would be exempt from such deception. This letter finds you now to bear witness of such a situation which has been going on for almost two years, tearing families apart, and many of us believe it is our duty as Christians to do something about it.

Background:

Many of those receiving this letter already know about the Philadelphia Church of God (PCG), which is being ministered by a man named Gerald Flurry.

On December 10, 2005, Mr. Flurry decreed that his church members should entirely shun anyone — including even their own closest family members — who had previously been disfellowshipped from "the Church" and/or judged as "marked", by a PCG church leader of appropriate authority and ranking -- basically, to shun all those who are deemed sinners by the PCG's own judgment!

Mr. Flurry's mandate can be found here: http://www.cogwriter.com/PCGNon-contactPolicy-PGRDecember2005.pdf

Based on the context where Mr. Flurry

mentions "the Church", it is plain that he is speaking of the Worldwide Church of God, which split in the 80's and from which the PCG was born (among many other Sabbatarian offshoot congregations).

However, he apparently believes that the Philadelphia COG alone is a continuation of "God's True Church", while he refers to all other sister congregations as "Laodicean groups". In so doing he is claiming for his church, and his church alone, the praises of the angel of God (Christ Himself) in Revelation 3 for the church in Philadelphia, while condemning all other congregations to the judgment reserved for the Laodicean church.

Apparently, the PCG decree was somehow intended to encourage all those in other sister churches to leave their church and join "the [True] Church" which he considers to be PCG alone.

It is noteworthy to mention that in all of the praises and warnings to the seven churches found in Revelation — which were physical churches in Asia at the time, not some kind of metaphor for "church eras" — the message was to repent of their ongoing sins and hold fast to the truth of Christ. Not

one of these messages suggests in the least for Christians to leave their church and join the Philadelphia church.

We believe that God's true Church is a spiritual one, not a man-made physical organization. Therefore, no physical church of God can rightly assume this title — including the "Philadelphia COG" of today. Church is like a hospital for sinners, and we're all sick and in need of healing and salvation through the blood of Christ.

As a result of this mandate, there have been reported many horror stories, for unfortunately many within Mr. Flurry's flock have fallen for this false teaching hook, line, and sinker.

Examples of Family Situations:

One example which comes to mind is of an unbaptized teen boy in Cincinnati, OH, who upon seeking baptism was warned by his aging grandmother that she would never speak to him again if he was not baptized into the Philadelphia COG, thus negatively affecting his baptism decisions which could be potentially detrimental to his walk with Christ during his adolescent years.

His parents had already been rejected by her, but she requested to have the grandchildren visit. The grandkids decided they would not see their grandmother since she had rejected their father and mother.

In Lexington, KY, a lady with terminal cancer and a member of PCG was told by the doctors she had but a few months to live, which proved to be correct. During her last months of life, her own son was not allowed to visit his dying mother. She petitioned Gerald Flurry, who eventually gave his consent for the mother to receive her son on her deathbed.

These are only two examples, but there are many people within the family of Christ among various congregations who have been and continue to be witness to several other such tragedies.

God's will is to grow His family. However, this decree from Flurry to the PCG congregation is only serving to cause destruction in God's family — this surely cannot be the will of God!

So, what can we as brothers & sisters in Christ do about this to help? Many have been praying about the situation, but now we feel we need to do something more.

Recently, one of our brethren in our local church congregation whose family has been persecuted by these events, announced that his entire family was partaking in a fast from food and water for this cause.

We talked about it and came to the conclusion that we would like to participate in a global day of fasting as a result of this continued persecution of God's children.

Action:

Therefore, we have decided to hold a special Christian COG "Philadelphia Fast" on Jan 5, the first Sabbath of 2008.

In this fast we pray in the name of Christ, that the Father will intervene in order to touch the hearts and minds of Gerald Flurry along with his PCG leadership and members unto repentance and healing, so as to put an end to this teaching which is plaguing the growth of God's family — God's spiritual Church.

Furthermore, through this fast, we ask that God will guide the various COG congregations into the "unity of the faith" by removing man-made organizational boundaries and stumbling blocks, most noteworthy, the pitfall of following after a man rather than Christ.

We pray that God's Spirit will move you to join us in this special Christian COG "Philadelphia Fast". PLEASE share this message with everyone you know who is in the COG faith, without regard to "post-Worldwide" man-made organizational "denominations".

Put it on your calendar now so you won't forget! It would be good to again send this announcement letter one week before the fast date as a reminder, perhaps by Jan 1. Also, don't forget those you know who do not use email — there's always snail mail!

With love and in Christ YHWH, Fellowship of the WORD

Item found on line at: http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0043/i2008-043-01.htm

\*\*\*THE END\*\*\*

Flurry's Folly

by David Ben-Ariel (Toledo, Ohio)

It's BEWILDERING to see an organization that apparently started out so good and strong and righteous degenerate into a personality CULT that rules through intimidation and fear and borders emperor worship! Yet the Philadelphia Church of God has more truth in many regards than the others, just like Herbert Armstrong saw Sardis (Church of God, 7th Day) did however impotent! Strange but true! Perhaps it's like Saul was still the anointed until he was punished by death for his sins and then David reigned...

When PCG Pastor General Gerald Flurry wasn't anything in his own sight or mind God used him and now, unfortunately, it appears to have gone to his head, all the new revelation [simply a deeper understanding of some things], and he

forgets that all truth is from and belongs to GOD and that God can use a donkey to deliver it! (1 Cor. 4:7). Mr. Flurry has become so swollen in his own imagination that he fails to see that he is the leader of LAODICEA! He knows what warning God is giving the Laodiceans, of which he is chief! He had better heed his own words!

Under Herbert W. Armstrong Pasadena, California was the headquarters of the Philadelphia era of God's Church; now Edmond, Oklahoma is the headquarters of the Laodicean era, and next in God's plan is the restoration of His headquarters to Jerusalem!

Editor's Note:

Church era's are not found in the Bible. If you believe they are found in the Bible, then please send us book, chapter and verse so we can look at it. Laura Lee

Item found on line at: http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0043/i2008-043-02.htm

\*\*\*THE END\*\*\*



Subscription Update For Those Who Are Unable to Pay a Subscription Price for "The Church of God Messenger":

Gift Donations Received: Previous Balance: \$202.00

11-11-07 -- SK -- \$14.00
12-24-07 -- RL -- \$5.00
Total = \$19.00 THANK YOU!

Total Gift Donations: \$221.00

Subscriptions Requested: 12-02-07 -- Bruce Swinney

1 Year Subscriptions Paid: Bruce Swinney -- \$12.84

Amount Left: \$208.16

Subscription Requests Pending at this Time: None



Check out our newly remodeled Web Site Home Page at: http://darwinlauralee.com



## Life's Unnecessary Burdens

by Richard Markland (Lebanon, Ohio)

(c) 2007 By Richard Markland

Even though God promises to lighten our burdens,  
many people are wearing shoes too heavy  
and the imprints from one step after another  
is far deeper than each one should be.

When we fail to follow the path God intended,  
we soon find ourselves barely hanging onto the edge of an unexpected cliff.

God will be our guide through life's rugged terrain.  
He will provide the light during the darkest hours.

When we trip and fall,  
He will pick us up and heal us of our deadly cuts and wounds.

If we will realize and admit our shoes are too heavy,  
and the imprints from our steps are too deep,  
God's footprints will always be in front of ours  
faithfully guiding the way.

Item found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0043/i2008-043-05.htm>

\*\*\*THE END\*\*\*\*\*

## Needs Money for Lawyer

by P. F. Lazor (Ione, California)

I have been in prison 24 years (try to picture that in your own life, the past quarter century, essentially); and under the worst kind of prison conditions imaginable, most of these years. And I haven't committed a crime to be imprisoned. Though we are all sinners, for sure, I never in my life lived any kind of a life of crime, as those who know me can attest to. I have never ceased for 24 years to rectify this grave injustice, through spiritual means (prayer, etc.), and actions of most every sort imaginable (the courts, media, parole boards, public outrage, etc.). Although late, these efforts have paid off in that I now have, for the first time ever, a very realistic chance of getting my freedom by parole and, once free, can become completely exonerated (as only prison obstacles have prevented that all these years, and still do). I have a very good chance of paroling, which is long overdue, by law. But I cannot do it without professional legal help. Toward that end, we have just hired an attorney for \$8000. \$4000 of that still needs to be paid before they can file the petition they've worked the past couple months on. Dear Christian-hearted people have put up the initial part already, so most of the legal work has already been done. We are also running against court-imposed deadlines which,

alone, could block relief permanently, if we don't raise the fees quickly. Please do not ever send any monetary contributions to me, to my name, nor to the prison (as the prison administration takes 100% of it permanently, with no chance of ever getting any of it back). If you can help with any amount, please, send it to my dearest friend who is like a second mother to me and already gave more than she could, to this cause: Gayle Travis 21736 Orange Avenue Castro Valley, CA 94546. You can also call her if you wish to talk, verify anything, or learn more about me/my situation: (510) 885-9858. Thank you. (Hebrews 13:1-3; Matthew 25:34-46). P. F. Lazor C-73842 A5-147, Box 409020 Ione, CA 95640. (You can write me here, but please don't send money here).

Item found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0043/i2008-043-03.htm>

\*\*\*THE END\*\*\*\*\*

## Threats

by Darwin & Laura Lee  
(Bismarck, North Dakota)

On November 6, 2007 we received a **post card** which was post marked November 2, 2007 and stamped as going through the Detroit, Michigan Post Office. We can only guess at who sent the **post card**, because we don't know who sent the **post card**. We

believe the threat is in regard to the article, "Homer Kizer's Trash in Pictures Rather than Words" which was printed in "Issue #42". We are printing what the **post card** said and posting the **post card** on our **Web Site** for the reason of making it a public record of a threat against us.

For those who wish to send us threats in the future, please send them to our complaint department at: [the-cog-messenger@earthlink.net](mailto:the-cog-messenger@earthlink.net) and we would be happy to post them on our **Web Site** for future use by Law Enforcement Agencies if and when needed.

The **post card** said: "He that works deceit shall not dwell within my house: he that teleteth lies shall not tarry in my sight. I will early destroy all the wicked of the land: that I may cut off all wicked doers from the city of the Lord."

It is our policy to be honest with all people to the best of our ability. It is our policy to be fair to all people to the best of our ability. If you do not want bad press then let your speech and doings be without reproach whether to us or to others as you never know who is listening or watching. It is also our policy to expose the evils of this world and we will continue to do that without fear even in light of threats and all manner of false accusations.

Item found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0043/i2008-043-04.htm>

\*\*\*THE END\*\*\*\*\*

## Radio Broadcast & Literature

by Gary Miller  
(Pocahontas, Arkansas)

**THE INTERNATIONAL CONGREGATION OF YAHWEH** Invites you to listen to ICY's radio broadcast, THE GOOD NEWS OF THE KINGDOM, on the Internet each week hosted by ICY Elder Gary Miller.

The program airs SATURDAY EVENING AT 9PM CDT on 1090 KAAY radio and is simultaneously broadcast on the Internet at the website: <http://www.1090kaay.com/>

To listen on the Internet at your location you will need to allow for the time difference between Central Daylight Time (CDT) with central meridian at 90 degrees west longitude and your location. Allow one hour for each 15 degrees of longitude east or west. For example, those of you in the Philippines, Korea (120 degrees East Longitude) will listen at 11 AM Sunday  
\*\*\*CONTINUED ON PAGE 16\*\*\*