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Publisher: Church of God, Bismarck, Darwin & Laura Lee, **Editor:** Laura Lee, **Assistant Editor:** Darwin Lee We do not necessarily agree with all contributors, or their works submitted and printed in this newsletter. It is up to you to get out your Bible and see whether these things are true. Iron sharpens Iron

Contributors: Gregory Diaz, Dwight Fleming, Richard Frates, William P. Goff, Ronny H. Graham, Darwin Lee, Laura Lee, Kasuba Manad, James Steinle, Rich Traver

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1Co 14:26 How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying.

The Third Day

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Which day of the week did Jesus Christ rise from the dead? Did Jesus die on Friday and then was later resurrected the following Sunday?

Millions believe that Jesus of Nazareth was crucified on a Friday; put into a tomb late Friday afternoon, then resurrected early Sunday morning before sunrise. But there are those who challenge that belief. Christ stated that He would be “three days and three nights” in the tomb (heart of the earth). See Matthew 12:38-40. There is no way to count “three days and three nights” between Friday afternoon and early Sunday morning before sunrise. The most that you can count, are two days and two nights.

Another view is that Jesus died and was buried late Wednesday afternoon and then was resurrected 72 hours later. This means that He would have risen on a Sabbath day just before sunset and not on the first day of the week as many believe.

What is the truth? Does it matter which day of the week that Jesus rose from the dead? Does the Bible provide enough clues so that we can determine which day of the week that Jesus died and later rose from the dead? Which theory do you sub-scribe to, if any?

The reason that many believe that Jesus died on a Friday is because it was the day before the Sabbath. They assume that it must have been the weekly Sabbath that falls on the seventh day of the week. This error stems from ignorance of God’s holy days or festivals that are listed in Leviticus 23. After the weekly Sabbath is mentioned, the next festival is Passover which falls on the 14th day of the first month. On the 15th day of the first month is the first day of unleavened bread which is an annual Sabbath.

Since Jesus was crucified on the 14th day of the first month as a Passover lamb, the Sabbath that drew near was an annual Sabbath and not the weekly Sabbath. John called that Sabbath “a high day” to indicate that it was not the weekly Sabbath. An annual Sabbath may fall on any day of the week. Thus, there were two Sabbaths the week of Christ’s crucifixion. An annual Sabbath on the 15th followed by the weekly Sabbath on the seventh day of the week.

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This understanding alone should clear up any misunderstandings. But human nature does not want to let go of long-standing, cherished beliefs. So, they continue to argue against common sense. Yet, those who recognize the error of a Friday crucifixion, since "three days and three nights" won't fit between Friday and Sunday, make similar errors with their reasoning. How so?

First, they argue that "three days and three nights" **must** equal 72 hours. Then Daniel 9:27 is used to support that Jesus was crucified on a Wednesday. Since Jesus was laid in the tomb late in the afternoon, the conclusion is made that He was resurrected exactly 72 hours later from Wednesday afternoon to arrive at a Sabbath day resurrection. And, for those who recognize and observe the seventh-day Sabbath, this conclusion is very appealing. But is it correct?

Jesus forewarned His disciples about His death before they went to Jerusalem: "Now while they were staying in Galilee, Jesus said to them, 'The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him, and the **third day** He will be raised up'" (Matthew 17:22-23).

The apostle Paul confirmed this important detail: "For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures. And that He was buried, and that He rose again the **third day** according to the scriptures" (1 Corinthians 15:3-4).

There are many more scriptures that mention Christ being raised on the third day. Refer to a good Bible concordance if you want to see how many there are. If you believe that Jesus was buried late Wednesday afternoon and resurrected 72 hours or three days later on the weekly Sabbath, then that Sabbath would be the **third day**. This theory may appear to fit the "three days and three nights" that Jesus gave as a sign, but **which day** of the week **does the Bible say** was the **third day**?

Turn to Luke 24:1, "On the **first day of the week**, very early in the morning, the women came to the tomb..." Keep reading to verse 21. As you will see, they found the tomb empty. Two angels reminded them what Jesus had taught them about being raised on the **third day**. Later, that **same day** (verse 13) two disciples were walking to a village outside of Jerusalem discussing what things had happened the last few days. Jesus joined them but was not recognized by them. He asked them for more details. They responded:

"The events involving Jesus of Nazareth,' they answered. 'This man was a prophet, powerful in speech and action before God and all the people. Our chief priests and rulers delivered Him up to the sentence of death, and they crucified Him. But we were hoping He was the One to redeem Israel. And besides all of this, it is the **third day** since these things took place" (Luke 24:19-21).

They said this to Jesus. If they were wrong about the day, then Jesus had the perfect chance to set them straight. Luke 24 makes it absolutely clear that the **first day** of the week was the **third day** when Jesus was raised from the dead.

Luke 24:21 messes up the 72-hour theory that provides for a Sabbath resurrection which is why it is either ignored or explained away. Yet, a Sunday resurrection was eventually used as an excuse for not keeping the Sabbath. Neither a Sabbath resurrection nor replacing the Sabbath with Sunday are correct. Why would Jesus be raised on the **first** day of the week rather than on the seventh-day Sabbath?

After the Days of Unleavened Bread are listed in Leviticus 23, the next festival is the Feast of **Firstfruits**. It is a 50-day harvest festival. It begins on the **first** day of the week and ends 50 days later on the **first** day of the week. On the first day, a wave-sheaf offering was made with the first cut grain of the harvest.

Christ is called the **firstfruits** of those raised from the dead (1 Corinthians 15:20). He fulfilled the wavesheaf offering on the **first** day of the week when it was supposed to be offered. Then on the 50th day, known as Pentecost, two wave loaves were offered which picture the resurrection of the elect at Christ's return. This is called the **first** resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:23; Revelation 20:4-6).

If Christ is the **firstfruits** from the dead and the **first** resurrection occurs at Christ's return, then it is fitting that both resurrections occur on the **first day of the week**.

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But there will always be those that remain hung up on Christ's statement about being in the tomb for “three days and three nights.” They will insist that this has to mean a period of 72 hours. There is a major flaw in their explanation by insisting on a 72-hour period. If you have watched any videos on how they count 72 hours, did you notice any problems?

Christ **did not say** that He would be in the tomb for three *FULL* days and three *FULL* nights as they want to imply. And just as important, Christ **did not say** that He would be in the tomb for THREE NIGHTS and THREE DAYS as they come up with in their 72-hour scenario.

What's the difference you ask as long as they equal 72 hours? What's the difference if you put your shoes on first or your socks on first? Christ said days then nights.

If Christ wanted to say that He would be in the tomb for 72 hours, then he could have just said that He would be in the tomb for three FULL days. He included nights because that is how it is expressed in Jonah 1:17. Instead of demanding that this expression must mean 72 hours to prove a pet theory, we need to realize something else that Jesus was indicating by including nights with days.

Genesis 1:4-5: “And God saw that the light was good and He separated the light from the darkness. God called the light ‘**day**,’ and the darkness He called ‘**night**.’”

So, Christ said that He would be in the tomb for three periods of light (day) and three periods of darkness (night). As we all know, Christ first went into the tomb when it was light (day). This was according to the **order** that Christ expressed with the “three days and three nights.” Thus, the correct sequence should be: day-night, day-night, day-night. Christ would then exit the tomb at **night**.

However, if you want to follow human reasoning rather than what Christ said, you end up with Christ entering the tomb during the day and exiting the tomb during the day. You then end up with something that is not according to what Christ said. The “three days and three nights must harmonize with the third day; not contradict it.

Does the Bible say that Christ was resurrected and exited the tomb at night? In a strange way, it does. Recall that guards were placed at the tomb by the Jewish leaders to prevent any disciples from taking the body in an effort to prove what Jesus had previously proclaimed.

However, Christ's disciples were devastated by His death. They had no interest in faking a resurrection from the dead to draw a following after themselves. Without Jesus, they were lost. When Mary Magdalene found the tomb empty, she thought the gardener had done something with the body (John 20:1-15). Something happened to the body alright.

The guards standing outside of the tomb must have been stunned witless when the stone rolled away and a bright light shone from the tomb. Do you think that any of them would ever admit that they ran away like scared rabbits? When the guards reported their news to the chief priests, the evil rulers knew that Jesus had fulfilled His promise to rise on the third day. They could not allow any news of His being raised from the dead to get out. So, they came up with a plan to hide the truth.

“While the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests **everything that had happened**. And after the chief priests had met with the elders and formed a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money and instructed them, “You must tell everyone, “His disciples came by **night** and stole Him away while we were asleep”” (Matthew 28:11-13).

In their evil attempt to hide the truth of the resurrection, they inadvertently revealed that Jesus exited the tomb at **night** just as He had said. This probably happened after midnight which means that it was definitely on the first day of the week both by Jewish reckoning and Roman reckoning. Why do I say midnight?

The apostle Paul said that Jesus is the **firstborn** among many brethren. See Romans 8:29. When did the death angel come to strike down the firstborn at the first Passover? It was at midnight (Exodus 12:29). Consequently, Jesus exited the tomb at **night** on the **first day of the week** and on the **third day** since His death.

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He was also “three days and three nights” in the tomb (in the right order) as a sign to the Jews of His day. This sign was given to a “wicked and adulterous generation.” It was the sign of Jonah. Jonah was also sent to give warning to a wicked, gentile city. The city of Nineveh was given **40 days** to repent (Jonah 3:4). It is interesting that Jesus spent **40 days** on earth after His resurrection. Does the number “40” have something to do with judgment?

“For the time has come for **judgment** to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the **outcome** for those **who reject the gospel** of God?” (I Peter 4:17).

While many Jews did respond to the gospel of Christ, the majority of them failed to repent as did ancient Nineveh many years before. Does history repeat itself?

Moses had sent 12 spies into Canaan to search it out. This took **40 days**. When the Israelites allowed a negative report from ten of the spies to destroy their faith, God used the 40 days of searching as judgment against that generation. They would wander in the wilderness for **40 years** until everyone 20 years and up died.

Jerusalem was taken captive and the Temple destroyed by the Romans in 70 AD. **Forty years** prior would be 30 AD. Is this the year that Jesus was crucified?

No one is certain of the year of Christ’s death. The calendar years suggested depend on the day of the week that someone believes that Christ died. It is obvious that He died on Passover day, the 14th day of the first month. The year of Christ’s death is then chosen depending on when Passover is believed to have occurred. If it is on a Friday, then 33 AD is designated. For those who believe Christ died on a Wednesday, 31 AD is claimed as the year of Christ’s death.

However, neither a Friday or a Wednesday crucifixion will meet the criteria given by the scriptures we have so far covered. The best conclusion would be a Thursday crucifixion with a Sunday resurrection. This theory would allow a fulfillment of the “three days and three nights” time in the tomb in the **right** order; and have Christ going into the tomb during the day and exiting the tomb at night on the **third day**.

Those who demand that Christ be in the tomb for 72 hours actually have Christ in the tomb for “three days and three nights and a day” or “three nights and three days.” It is unlikely they would accept a shorter period despite any evidence.

Another objection will be Mark 16:1. It appears to say that the women bought spices after the Sabbath which is deemed to have been the annual Sabbath. Then after preparing the spices, the women “rested on the [weekly] Sabbath according to the commandment” (Luke 23:52-56).

This appears to prove that there must have been a workday between the annual Sabbath and the weekly Sabbath. Thus, the conclusion is made that the Passover that year fell on a Wednesday and the annual Sabbath on a Thursday. The women then bought and prepared spices on Friday, then rested on the weekly Sabbath.

Translations are not perfect. For example, see John 19:34 and Luke 23:43. Nearly all translations have Jesus saying to the thief on the cross that he would be with Jesus in Paradise that very day. Jesus went into the tomb that very day not Paradise. As many of you realize, a better rendering of Luke 23:43 would be, “Truly I tell you today, you shall be with me in Paradise.”

The same problem exists with most English translations of John 19:34. The Roman soldiers were going to break Jesus’ legs but found that He was already dead. Verse 34, as translated, says that a soldier pierced His side with a spear. If Christ was already dead, why would a soldier pierce His side? Rather, Christ was already dead because a Roman soldier had previously pierced His side which caused Christ’s death. Christ died from loss of blood from His wound same as a Passover lamb.

If you are able to recognize the time order problems of Luke 23:43 and John 19:34, then you should be open to the same possibility of Mark 16:1. Did Mark actually say that the women bought spices after the Sabbath or that they were coming to anoint the body of Christ with the spices that they had previously bought? Looking at the context, it suggests that Mark is referring to the weekly Sabbath and not the annual Sabbath.

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When did the women purchase the spices? Mark also records that Joseph of Arimathea **bought** a linen cloth to wrap around the body of Jesus (Mark 15:46). It is likely that the women after seeing where Jesus was laid also went and bought spices the same day. Luke simply says that after the women saw where Jesus was laid that they returned to prepare spices but then rested on the Sabbath **according to the commandment** which is a reference to the weekly Sabbath.

If Jesus died and was buried on Thursday afternoon and the women bought spices the same day before sunset, then they had to prepare the spices on Friday which was also the annual Sabbath. Those who believe Jesus died on a Wednesday will have trouble with this concept. Many Pharisees had trouble with Jesus healing on the Sabbath and accused His disciples of breaking the Sabbath when they plucked some grain in the field to satisfy their hunger.

Review Leviticus 23:1-7. Verse three gives details about the weekly Sabbath. A Sabbath of complete rest. No work is to be done (with certain exceptions listed elsewhere). However, verse seven, regarding the first day of unleavened bread, only forbids regular work, meaning your normal occupation. Thus, the preparation of spices would have been allowed on the annual Sabbath but not on the weekly Sabbath.

Despite the clear evidence of Luke 24:21 that the third day when Jesus rose from the dead was on the first day of the week, it is highly unlikely that what has been presented in this article will change anyone’s previous held thinking on when Jesus died and was resurrected. This is largely a technical discussion and not something that will affect anyone’s opportunity for salvation.

To keep things in perspective, what is important is that a person accepts the death of Jesus for the remission of his or her sins after coming to repentance. And then acknowledges that Jesus is risen whereby we have hope of the Resurrection at His return. This is what baptism symbolizes and is a profession of our commitment to Jesus as our Lord and Savior.

May we walk in unity as the Elect of Christ even though we have differences in our understanding of certain details found in the Holy Scriptures. 2 Peter 3:17-18:

“Therefore, beloved, since you already know these things, be on your guard so that you will not be carried away by the error of the lawless and fall from your own steadfastness. But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen”

See Dwight Flemings other articles at:
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Resolutions: Man’s and God’s

(Copyright 2017) by Ronny H. Graham (Charlotte, North Carolina)

On the Roman calendar that much of the world uses, one year has ended, and another has begun. The beginning of a new year is when countless millions of people make New Year’s resolutions. Perhaps many church of God members have done so as well.

The tradition of making a New Year’s resolution—promising or vowing to oneself to do an act of self-improvement or something kind toward others—is more common in the Western hemisphere. As we know from experience, most of these resolutions focus on the self.

Not to be the bearer of bad news, but depending on which survey one reads, the success rate for accomplishing these resolutions is quite bleak: 88 to 92 percent of people never reach their goal. According to *Time* magazine, the top ten most-forgotten New Year’s resolutions are:

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1. lose weight and get fit,
2. quit smoking,
3. learn something new,
4. eat healthier and diet,
5. get out of debt and save money,
6. spend more time with family,
7. travel to new places,
8. be less stressed,
9. volunteer, and
10. drink less.

The world would probably be a better place if people would keep their promises to themselves!



Reasons for Failure

Many of the things church of God members endure over the last months of the year stem from pagan origins, and the New Year's resolution is no different. This tradition is believed to have originated with the Babylonians making vows to their gods. Similarly, the Romans began each year by making promises to their god, Janus, after which the month of January was named. In the Medieval era, the beginning of winter was when knights would take the "Peacock Vow" to reaffirm their commitment to chivalry.

As it has done for centuries, Catholicism practices similar things during the time of Lent. Even Jewish people make New Year's resolutions, though, of course, they do it when they believe the new year begins, at the Feast of Trumpets. Many church members do these same things. At the Feast of Tabernacles, one commonly hears people say something like, "After the Feast, I'm going to do such and such."

Well, how did it go? If we promised to change something in our lives, are we part of the 10 percent who reach their goals, or have we succumbed to the pressures of life and failed like the 90 percent? Making resolutions and setting goals are not necessarily wrong, but why do so many fail? According to *Time*, the reasons people abandon their resolutions are actually twofold: First, they set unrealistic goals, and second, they set too many of them. It is commonly suggested that setting smaller goals on the way to reaching the larger or long-term goal will help a person see a progression of

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accomplishment.

Many of us have been in the church for decades. What goals did we set during our early years as babes in Christ? Have we made progress toward them, or are we still struggling to perform some of the basic things of God? Have we progressed to meat, or are we still taking milk, as Paul says in Hebrews 5:12-14?

Did we make any resolutions last year, perhaps last Passover or last Feast? It will not be long until Passover is once again upon us, when we are commanded to examine ourselves (II Corinthians 13:5). Doing so is not always an enjoyable task, but it is one we must face if we are to reach our ultimate goal of eternal life in the Kingdom of God.

While the words “goal” and “resolution” do not appear in the Bible, it contains endless instructions on how we are to live our lives, whether from a self-help, physical, or spiritual perspective. Perhaps the first set of instructions that comes to mind would be God’s law in the form of the Ten Commandments. As we have all heard before, if everyone kept just one of God’s laws—say, “You shall not steal” (Exodus 20:15)—we would live in a totally different world! How much healthier would everyone be if the whole world kept the food laws given by God in Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14?

Apostolic Put-Ons

Consider another list of instructions. It is not a formal list of numbered laws, but it is indeed a list that we should be making a part of our everyday lives. The apostle Paul is not the only one to speak in these terms, but throughout his writings he uses quite a few “put ons”:

And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts. (Romans 13:11-14)

It makes an interesting Bible study to go through the New Testament and note all the times the apostle tells us to put on some character trait or virtue. There are quite a few of them. We “put” something on or off or away or through or in or down or up all the time, and doing so oftentimes does not require a lot of thought. Being a transitive verb, “put” cannot stand alone; it must have an object. There must be a thing to which that the action is done.

The English word “put” is used several hundred times in the Bible. The Greek equivalent is used 29 different ways, and the Hebrew uses its similar word in almost twice as many ways. It is a little word that we take for granted most of the time!

For the most part, Paul’s use of “put on” is positive, but in our day a put-on can be and is frequently used in a negative way: to mislead someone, perhaps as an act of teasing or for amusement. The entertainment world is full of these. Many televangelists do the same things, putting on an act to get the people to respond and support them.

In Romans 13, Paul, having mentioned several of the commandments of God, writes, “It is high time to awake out of sleep” and then “put on the armor of light” and “put on the Lord Jesus Christ.” First, we see that he is attempting to wake the Roman congregation up! Maybe he is referring to the Parable of the Ten Virgins, in which the virgins were all asleep. The apostle says that we do not have time to waste! In his inimitable way, he is urgently scolding them: “You’ve been asleep too long! Wake up and get dressed!”

One of the first things we do after waking from a night’s sleep is that we dress—we “put on” our clothes for the day. The Bible contains scores of references to clothing, and depending on the context, its significance can be physical, economic, social, moral, or spiritual. While clothing is indeed functional, it has multiple uses: It can protect, conceal, decorate, or display or represent a person’s current moral and spiritual state, good or bad.

When we see what people wear—or perhaps worse, do not wear!—in public, most Christians are astounded or perhaps dumbfounded. Too much is being displayed that ought not to be! How people clothe themselves can give an observant person a window of insight into the wearer’s moral character, social status, or just his or her present circumstance. When we add a situation to a person’s choice of clothing, as shown by the man not wearing a wedding garment in the Parable

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of the Wedding Feast (Matthew 22:1-14), we can also ascertain a great deal about a person’s attitude toward others, especially toward God.

What do we put on for the world to see? What spiritual state or attitude toward others do we display in what we put on? When I was growing up, and as boys do, would get a hole in my clothes, my mother would patch them so I did not have to go to school with clothes that were full of holes. As my mother used to say, “You don’t want to go out looking like a hobo!” But now it is fashionable to buy clothes with holes already in them!

More Than Clothing

Needless to say, the world around us is in a sad spiritual state, but its condition does not mean that we are without options. We always have a choice in how we react to what is going on in our culture. Job provides us succinct guidance in Job 29:14, saying, “I put on righteousness, and it clothed me.”

His words parallel what Paul writes in Romans 13:12: “Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.” “Cast off” can also be translated as “put off,” but the translators probably used “cast off” to indicate a stronger action, meaning not just “remove” but “fling away.” Kids do them when they change their clothes, usually flinging them all over the room!

In this verse, the apostle paints a word-picture of someone casting off clothing that is so foul and disgusting that all he wants to do is to throw it as far from him as possible. He does not want to be contaminated by it anymore, nor does he want to be identified by it any longer. As Christians who live under the light of God’s truth, we should likewise not want to have any contact with those “works of darkness.”

The goal of putting on Jesus Christ should be at the top of our list. It is a lofty goal that will take our entire lifetimes to accomplish. It goes hand in hand with, as Paul states it, “put[ting] on the armor of light.” As we know, light illuminates. It is a symbol of truth, which we have been granted the insight and help not only to understand but also to practice. Given that our society is moving toward uncritical open-mindedness and false tolerance for all, truth is becoming a rare and thus valuable commodity that we must hold closely—in fact, wear it as a garment! As deceit abounds, it becomes more urgent that we put it on and guard it.

In Colossians 3 appears another passage in which the apostle Paul expands this “put on” metaphor, instructing us what to put off and then what to put on:

If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. . . .Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. . . .

But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. (verses 1-2, 5, 8-14)

First, Paul tells us why we should start making changes: We have been raised with Christ in baptism, and now it is time to seek heavenly things. But this means putting to death whatever is in us that reeks of earthliness—all those sins of the flesh. This is putting off the old man, what we were before our calling, along with all our evil deeds.

Then, we must get to work on the new man. Paul even provides a list as to how to go about it! As we diligently begin to put on the attitudes and actions of Christ, the weaknesses and sins of the old man will begin to fall away because the heavenly and the earthly, the old and the new, cannot coexist for long. If we keep at it, and it becomes an ingrained habit, putting on the new man will become as easy as getting dressed for the day!

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Our list of goals or resolutions has already been made for us in the pages of God's Word. Unlike this world and its New Year's resolutions, we cannot just abandon them after a week or two. They must become part of us as we prepare to put on eternal life and immortality in the Kingdom of God.

See Ronny H. Graham's other articles at:

Graham, Ronny H. – Church of God, Bismarck (church-of-god-bismarck.org)

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<https://www.cgg.org/>

The 144,000 Virgins

(Copyright 2024) by Gregory Diaz (Wayne, New Jersey)

Many Christians and Bible students have wondered who the 144,000 will be. They are mentioned in both the seventh and fourteenth chapters of the book of Revelation. Let us explore what we may find out about them from these chapters and other places in the Bible. (The KJV will be quoted unless noted otherwise.)

Let us consider what seems to be the key and most important fact concerning them. Revelation 14:4 tells us, "These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins." Therefore, in order to answer just who the 144,000 virgins are, we must understand what it means to be a virgin in this context. Let us consider this concept from a biblical perspective.

First notice that the apostle Paul refers to the Corinthians in 2 Cor 11:2 (NKJV) as a virgin betrothed to Jesus. "For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ." He goes on to say in verse 3 (KJV), "But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ."

Now, let us carefully consider verse 4. "For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him." Here, let us notice the significance of this verse. The idea, in other words, is that if we bear with those preaching another Jesus, if we receive another spirit, or if we accept another gospel, we are no longer virgins. From the biblical point of view, if we are not virgins, we are fornicators.

Remember Jesus said in Matt 24:4-5 "Take heed that no man deceive you. For MANY shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many." Jesus also tells us in Matt 16:6, "Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees." He defines this leaven as their doctrine (in Matt 16:12) and their hypocrisy (in Luke 12:1).

How are we then to understand the real Jesus? Notice that Jesus said in John 6:37, "All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I WILL IN NO WISE CAST OUT." He seeks out the lost sheep (Matt 18:12-14). Matt 11:19 tells us the people at that time described Jesus as a "friend of publicans and sinners." On the other hand, the pharisees did practice the doctrine of separating from sinners. They asked Jesus (in Luke 5:30), "Why do ye eat and drink with publicans and sinners?" In verses 31-32, Jesus replied, "They that are whole need not a physician; but they that are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." The pharisees went as far as to cast out of fellowship a man whose eyes Jesus had miraculously opened (John 9:34). Jesus called the Pharisees blind leaders of the blind (Matt 15:14). Jesus tells the Laodicean church to "anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see" (Rev 3:18).

In 2 Pet 3:15-16, Peter tells us that some things in Paul's epistles are "hard to be understood." Consider what he meant. On the one hand, Paul tells the church not to bear with those who preach another Jesus. As our physician, Jesus does

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not cast out sinners. Yet in 1 Cor 5:13, we see Paul seeming to do just that! Referring to a fornicator, he seems to preach another Jesus by commanding the church to "put away from among yourselves that wicked person."

Did Paul actually command the church to physically remove a sinner from its presence? If so, Paul would have been contradicting himself. This would not make sense. However, if Paul was telling the church NOT to bear with someone preaching another Jesus, it would make sense. Now think about this. If the church was JOINED to a man in judgment, a man preaching another Jesus, a Jesus that DID remove sinners, the church would be fornicating with that man.

Keep in mind that in the beginning of Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, he admonishes them against divisions (1 Cor 1:10). At that time, the church was divided, just as Christianity continues to be divided today. Corinthian believers each followed a particular person or group. It went beyond enjoying the preaching of a particular person. The problem was that they had become "joined" to the JUDGMENT of each man or organization. However, Paul desired them to be "perfectly JOINED together in the same mind and in the same judgment." To accomplish this, he insisted they be joined to the supernatural judgment of Jesus. We see this explained throughout the first six chapters of his letter. In them, Paul contrasts the power of Jesus and the gospel with the power and wisdom of the world.

We can better understand this fornication by considering the behavior of the great whore of Revelation 17 and 18. The kings of the earth, wielding their power to enforce her will, have committed fornication with her. In other words, they have "joined" themselves to her judgment. This relationship of unity is illustrated by sexual fornication.

Jesus warns us to beware of the leaven of the pharisees (Luke 12:1). As we read through Paul's first letter to Corinth, let us consider that he clearly warns us against the same leaven. He shows us that when we unite to the judgment of men, we become "puffed up" as well as becoming fornicators. 1 Cor 4:6 tells us we should not be "puffed up for one AGAINST another." In verse 7, Paul says, "For who maketh thee to differ from another? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive?" In other words, we should acknowledge that the righteousness we have is a gift from God and not something to boast about. The Bible also tells us our righteousness is as filthy rags (Isa 64:6).

It is vital to realize that Paul did not command the Corinthian church to remove the fornicator by the power of man. He instead tells them they are "puffed up" (for one against another, as chapter 4:6 tells us), "and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed MIGHT be taken away from among you." Here, let us understand that mourning and fasting may be considered the same thing (Joel 2:12). This is clearly not something to be done with earthly power. 1 Cor 5:4 specifically tells us to use "the power of our Lord Jesus Christ" to deliver the fornicator unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh. Let us also consider that Young's Literal Translation renders the end of verse 13 "put ye away the evil from among yourselves." Notice it does not add in the word "person" after evil, as in most other versions. The "evil" here is the leaven present in the entire church, as it was "puffed up for one against another."

In the very next chapter, Paul clearly warns the church against using the power of the world's justice system (1 Cor 6:1-8). Just as Jesus taught that it is the meek that shall inherit the earth (Matt 5:5), Paul asked the Corinthians (1 Cor 6:7), "Why do ye not rather take wrong? why do ye not rather suffer yourselves to be defrauded?" These verses must guide us to the correct understanding of church organization.

We must understand that changes in church organization are necessary. Jesus tells us that He chastens those whom He loves (Rev 3:19). Paul desires that the church (1 Cor 1:7) "come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." Yet, it is because of the divisions produced by the unions with governments of men that we have come behind in gifts and blessings from God.

The church must "earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3). Christians, with God's help, must and will return the church to the way it was organized in its beginning. It must come out of Babylon and the world. Christians must become pure from any union with man's authority and controlling judgment. In doing so, Christians may depend on the protection of God's government since Jesus prayed that His church would be kept from the evil of the world (John 17:15). The 144,000 are those Christians able to learn this new understanding or new "song," as Revelation 14:3 puts it. As Jesus tells us in Revelation 3:22, "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."

See Gregory Diaz's other articles at:

[Diaz, Gregory – Church of God, Bismarck \(church-of-god-bismarck.org\)](http://church-of-god-bismarck.org)

Miraculous Power

(Copyright 2021) by William P. Goff (Myrtle Beach, South Carolina)

In last week's Bible study, we were discussing the miracles that Jesus performed while on this earth. Today let us continue looking at a few more of His miracles, and then let us learn something that is very important.

Where did Jesus get all that Power from. Let us find out in today's Bible study, Where Jesus received all the Power to perform such Mighty Miracles?

It takes Power to turn water into wine. It takes Power to move Mountains. Well, where does all this Miraculous Power come from?

And let us ask another question in today's Bible study. Is it possible for us (yes you and I) to also have this Power to do Such Mighty Works? The Scriptures are quite clear concerning these questions, so let us see what they say.

(First let us read about a few more miracles.)

Once more Jesus visited Cana in Galilee, where he had turned the water into wine. And there was a certain royal official whose son lay sick at Capernaum. When this man heard that Jesus had arrived in Galilee from Judea, he went to him and begged him to come and heal his son, who was close to death.

[\(John 4: 46-54\)](#)

Notice verse 50 says when Jesus said to the man "*Go thy way; thy son liveth*" that the man "**Believed**" what Jesus had spoken. YES, he "**Believed**" the Word of God. IF we want Miracles, we must have "**Belief**".

Another day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret (That is the Sea of Galilee) the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God.

Jesus saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch." Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets."

When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. So, they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners.

Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people." So, they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

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[\(Luke 5:1-11\)](#)

Notice in verse 10 Jesus said: “*Henceforth (from now on) you will be fishers of men.*” That is what a disciple of Christ is to be doing, “fishing for men” or teaching people about God and His wonderful Kingdom that is soon coming.

There is another place that Jesus told His disciples they were to become “*Fishers of Men!*”

[\(Matthew 4:19\)](#)

Another time Jesus was in the synagogue (church) and a man in their church who was possessed by an impure spirit cried out, “What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!” “Be quiet!” said Jesus sternly. “Come out of him!” The impure spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek. The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, “What is this? A new teaching—and with authority! He even gives orders to impure spirits, and they obey him.” News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee.

[\(Mark 1:21-28\)](#)

After they left church that day, they entered into Simon’s house. Simon’s mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they immediately told Jesus about her. So, he went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them.

[\(Mark 1:30-31\)](#)

Look what happened next:

[\(Mark 1:32-35.\)](#)

Yes, Jesus healed a lot of people that day; He had a lot of Power. But where did He get all this Power?

Notice verse 35 says that Jesus rose up early in the morning and went out to a private place and “Prayed.” He Prayed to His Father. Our Heavenly Father is the one who gave Jesus all that Power.

Jesus couldn’t do those miracles by Himself; (He was just flesh & blood like you and I, very weak.) He needed to be connected to the Father to have that Power. Let’s see that by reading Jesus’ own words:

[\(John 5:19\)](#)

Jesus was connected to the Father, that’s where He got all that Power. And how was Jesus connected so closely to the Father? Through Prayer! Remember our recent Bible study on Prayer, and how praying (talking to God) connects us to Him?

How “*Praying without Ceasing*” is accomplished by talking with God always, not just “intermittently” when the snake bites, or we cut our leg with the ponga (machete) and need immediate help from Him, but all the time, because God is close, He can hear our every thought.

We also talked in that Prayer Bible study about what we called “Formal Prayer” with the examples of Daniel and David praying on their knees three times a day. And Jesus also often prayed on His knees before the Father.

All the Power to perform these miracles comes from the Father Himself. Jesus said “*I can of my own self do nothing*”

[\(John 5:30\)](#)

Yes, it was the Father who gave Jesus (a mere man) all that Power. We can see that again in the miracle in:

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[\(Matthew 9:1-8\)](#)

Yes, the people *marveled* that “God” (God the Father) had *given such Power to men*”.

Has God the Father ever given such Power to other men besides Jesus?

[\(Luke 10:1\)](#) [\(Luke 10:17\)](#) [\(Acts 5:12\)](#)

Yes, they were at “one accord” at Solomon’s porch. They were “Believers” full of Faith.

Well how about us? Will we be able to perform Might Miracles like Jesus and the Apostles did?

[\(John 14:12\)](#)

Yes, God can give us the Power to perform Great Works, but only **IF** we have “**Belief**” only **IF** we have “**Faith**”.

[\(Mark 16:17-18\)](#)

Not everyone is given Power to perform miracles, but to those who Believe, that Power shall be given.

Do we Believe? Do we have Faith? Remember, Belief and Faith go “hand in hand” and they start with Prayer, walking and talking with God.

How are our Prayers doing? Are we becoming closer to God, has our Faith and Belief been increasing, or do we like many, have doubt and unbelief?

Today there is little Faith around, remember our Lord questioned if He would even find Faith on the earth at the end time, the time in which we are now living.

[\(Luke 18:8\)](#)

Again, I ask, do we have Faith? (And more importantly) Is our Faith Alive? Many say they have faith, but the faith of many is dead.

Faith starts with Prayer, but it doesn’t end there. One has to add “Works” to Faith in order to have Living Faith.

[\(James 2:20\)](#)

In our next Bible study we will discuss “Works” Just what are these “Works” that we need to be doing?

See William P. Goff’s other articles at:

[Goff, William P. – Church of God, Bismarck \(church-of-god-bismarck.org\)](http://church-of-god-bismarck.org)

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Thank You!

Transgender is a Phantom: That Only Exists in Devil-Deceived Minds! (Copyright 2023) by Richard Frates (Easley, South Carolina)

Honoring LGBT is Devil-Worship: Men and boys pretending to be women are sexual perverts not "transgender." Dr Frankenstein cannot drug or mutilate a man into a woman. The end result is: Drugged and mutilated Dr Frankenstein's child. That medical malpractice will result in Self-deception, depression, or suicide. **Truth-Paranoia:** "Truth has stumbled in the street honesty not welcomed" Isaiah 59:14.15. The DEVIL is using: Media, congress, judges, education, some Christians, and Jews to **form you - America - into his own Evil Image**. Success: Most honor LGBT sexual perverts parading sin against God.

Accommodate sexual perverts, crazy's adopting personal pronouns, sexual perverts pretending the opposite gender: And they will multiply like rabbits. What will idiot judges do when crazy insists my salutation or pronoun is Judge or your honor?

Gender-Phobia: Infected minds blind themselves to - Reality! Gender Phobia on display: Devil-Media New anchors: Mock God by referring someone they know is a man as a woman. Their Devil-Media minds will not distinguish between "good and evil" deception and reality! **Gender-Phobia and Homophobia is:** Fear of Not worshipping the Devil and being called a "hater" or accused of "discrimination."

Anti Salvation Law: The evil motive for the Devils "Non Discrimination Law" "Discriminate" against all who believe God, and Devil-Worship. Honoring what God decreed evil is Devil-Worship. Jesus Christ preached "repent" to warn of Judgment and offer salvation - Luke 13:1-5. "Non-discrimination-law" preaches - DON'T REPENT - parade sin against God and accuse all who will not join your parade of "discrimination."

Child Sacrifice State-Religion: Schoolteachers promote - Sacrifice of innocent minds! Children worship the Devil honor LGBT sexual perverts parading sin against God or be accused "discrimination." Respect the fraud and evil concept that a classmate has two daddies or be called a "hater."

Jeremiah 23:14 - Describes congress, Judges, and education today "They strengthen the hands of evildoers, so no one repents of sin." And - Isaiah 3:9 "They parade their sin like Sodom." Democratic party Serpents in **New Jersey serve the Devil and Decreed** "Transgender Identities Education for children. Children enter the world with **God given "gender Identity."**

MONKEYS HAVE MORE WISDOM THAN DEMOCRATS. Democratic party voted to confirm they do Not see any distinction between male and female. Monkeys know the difference. **Sexual perverts flaunting sin against God - Like the Devil - demand worship: Matthew 4:8-9 - the Devil said to Christ "worship me" and the world is yours!**

Gender-Phobia: Female democrats also applaud a man, pretending to be a woman, winning in female sports. Female monkeys would not tolerate male monkeys pretending to be a female so they can win all the bananas. They would gang up on the monkey-fraud pervert - beat the hell and delusions out of him and take back the bananas. Female athletes stupidly compete with sexually perverted male monkeys, mocking them by pretending to be female. **Women take back your - God given honor and self-respect. Do not, Worship the Devil by competing with sexual perverts mocking you.**

America: **Drop the Phantom-Transgender word and LGBT mask call them what they are - homosexuals perverts!** Women protest: Call on Big Monkey and Chief President - JOE BIDEN - Gender-Phobia democratic party monkeys in congress - fearful of admitting the God given distinction between male and female to - RESIGN.

A "Gender-Phobia" afflicted Judged ordered Alaska Airlines to pay a fraud pretending to be a woman 70 thousand dollars because, he wanted to dress as a woman at work, and the "distress" of being "misgendered." The deceitful pervert

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“misgenders himself.” Transgender, nonbinary, gender-neutral are phantoms that only exist in the minds of sexually perverted frauds and - Leftist Political Snakes. **Bratty-Self-Obsessed-Tantrum:** Honor my pronoun-image or I will kill myself.

August 26, 2023 - An evil - Federal Judge ruled Children must learn to honor LGBT sexual perverts parading sin against God, in Maryland - Montgomery County schools. States: Reject Judges playing God and dictating “good and evil” regarding morality issues of - special rights - based on sex, marriage, or race!

TRANSGENDER CURE: A simple cure for a man pretending to be a woman is the Moses-Medicine. Moses wrote: Deuteronomy 25:2 “If the guilty man deserves to be beaten, the judge shall make him lie down and have him flogged in his presence with the number of lashes his crime deserves.” Several good lashes would cure: The fraud pretending to be a woman and save him from being drugged and mutilated by Dr. Frankenstein. The Moses cure is, accelerated, **reality denying** counseling. And will also cure Gender-Phobia, afflicted - Lawmakers and Judges. Cure Transgender madness and put Dr. Psycho out of business! Proverbs 20:30 “Blows and wounds cleans away evil.”

Governors Ban-Sex-Education K-12 in your state: Send a boy or girl to school and Dr. Frankenstein’s comes home. **State Tyrants and Judges - Play God: Assume authority to dictate “good and evil.”** Genesis 2:17 “You must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.” **Socially Dead America:** Congress Devils, educators and Judges have - Socially Killed America: Most are Mind-slaves of Devil-Media. Reality and truth revoked: Replaced with Delusion, Depravity.

Democratic Party Lawmakers and Judges and many republicans: The fear of God has been sucked out of your minds and replaced with the fear of Devil-Media. Most have consciences that have been seared and can no longer see the distinction between “good and evil.” Romans 1:28 “Since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to depraved minds.” The Devil’s faithful ask people like me: “How would you treat LGBT sexual perverts? Repeat Christ’s warning to all sinners and Snakes who honor what God decreed evil: “Unless you repent you too will all perish” Luke 13:1-5.

“Repent” and embrace God’s promise of salvation. God sacrificed his Son and paid our debt of sin: Christ Jesus Crucified is Light that shines beyond the grave!

See Richard Frate’s other articles at:
[Frates, Richard – Church of God, Bismarck \(church-of-god-bismarck.org\)](http://church-of-god-bismarck.org)

Need Free Literature for Distribution
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1 COR 3:9

Dearest Saints of our Lord Jesus Christ, I really send my love and very Special Christian greetings to you all and your beloved families in the precious Name of our dear Lord Jesus Christ, who is soonest to come and take all His faithful Servants.

Our 40 orphans under my care and all the dear brethren at our church are greeting each one of you with much love!

Continue being faithful to Him who called you and sent you to labor in His vineyard, for many are called but very few are chosen.

If we can work together, we can raise the roof off the Kingdom of God and cause the Angels in Heaven to continually rejoice. For each soul that is saved, the angels rejoice (LUKE 15:7,10). The Lord, of course, will bless your lives for your concern for others. The Lord will reward you with mercy as you sow mercy. Those that sow sparingly shall reap sparingly

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and those that sow abundantly shall reap abundantly. 2 Cor 9:6

The power that anchors us into Jesus is the winning of souls. When you lay your head down at night, you'll know that you've accomplished the real duties God has called us to do, to work together to increase the kingdom of Heaven. We are one body (ROM 12:4-5, 1COR 12:12,18, EPH 5:30). We cannot accomplish this alone, but by working together we shall raise the roof off Heaven and keep the angels continually rejoicing.

I am here humbly requesting you in the precious Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, if you can send me some BIBLES, BOOKS, BIBLES IN LOCAL LANGUAGE, TRACTS AND DVD'S for free distribution to unsaved people after conducting crusades and door to door Evangelism. I will send photos of those materials being distributed if you send me the requested materials.

Poor souls are dying for want of the present truth, and some who professed to believe the truth are letting them die by withholding the necessary means to carry forward the work of God. When the cause of God called for some of their property, like the young man who came to Jesus (MATH 19:16-22) they went away sorrowful, and that soon the overflowing scourge would pass over and sweep their possessions all away, and then it would be too late to sacrifice earthly goods and lay up a treasure in Heaven.

May the Great and Holy God continue to bless, to comfort and encourage each one of you, as you will continue to labor in His vineyard faithfully is my sincere prayers.

It will be very much encouraging to hear from you soon, SHALOM SHALOM, ELDER KASUBA MANAD

MY POSTAL ADDRESS IS ELDER KASUBA MANAD, NCHELENGE AIDS ORPHANS EDUCATION MISSION, P.O. BOX 7400009, NCHELENGE 740000, LUAPULA PROVINCE, ZAMBIA.

Donor Letter January 20, 2024
(Copyright 2024) by William P. Goff (Myrtle Beach, South Carolina)

Our Kenyan Brethren are going through a very rough time. As I mentioned in a recent "open letter to the churches of God"

<https://khofh.com/open-letter-to-the-churches-of-god-january-6-2024/>

Starvation amongst our brethren is worse now than I've ever seen it since first visiting Kenya back in 2005. We lost one widow and two orphans to starvation in the past few weeks. And today I was informed that another widow aged 64 from the boarder group died this morning. She was living with John Moseki, a 12-year-old orphan. The boy is still alive, but also close to death from starvation.

These are terrible times, so many of our brethren are currently starving to death. I received the following from Douglas (the overseer at the Getionko congregation) yesterday:

"Hello pastor, I trust this message finds you well. I wanted to share with you the challenges our brethren are facing in our group. This week, I've been receiving numerous calls for help, and today, several individuals came to my house seeking food assistance.

I'm currently out of food supplies and, despite my efforts, I couldn't provide for them. During a visit to six families on a motorbike, I discovered that some are residing in empty houses without access to food, while others were asleep at noon, due to weakness and distress. Please help if possible, or we will be burying more soon. Douglas"

Brethren, the condition is dire. Please continue to help if you can. And please try to inform others of the situation. If only a few others would join hands with us, the suffering would ease significantly. Bill Goff



- Two recent deaths from the boarder group orphans.

See William P. Goff's other articles at:

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Have You Heard?

(Copyright 2023) by Dwight Fleming (Oroville, California)

Where is the real Mount Sinai? If this interests you, then watch the preview to: "Journey to Mount Sinai." The second part will be released on May 15 and 17 at select theaters nationwide. The first part was released last October. The 2-part film explores six possible locations for Mount Sinai. Three were covered in the first part. The other three will be covered when the second part is released in May.

To find out if the film will be showing near you go to www.patternsofevidence.com. If you can't make it to a theater for

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viewing, both parts will later be available on DVD in addition to other films that they now have available on the Exodus. These films support the historical accuracy of the Bible.

In addition, a **free magazine** is available from the **Armstrong Institute of Biblical Archaeology**. I have linked below their video that identifies the Pharaoh of the Exodus. Notice a portrait of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong in the top left corner of the video interview. Christopher Eames also has a well-written article on their website where he argues for a Gulf of Suez crossing. He provides some critique of the Patterns of Evidence films. That article is also linked below if you want to consider it as well.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VChHt30IYj4> "Journey to Mount Sinai" preview

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UdZSYUJfBo8> Pharaoh of the Exodus video

[Where Did the Red Sea Crossing Take Place? | ArmstrongInstitute.org](https://www.armstronginstitute.org)

See Dwight Fleming's other articles at:

[Fleming, Dwight – Church of God, Bismarck \(church-of-god-bismarck.org\)](https://www.church-of-god-bismarck.org)

War Breaks Out in the Middle East
(Copyright 2023) by James Steinle (Swanville, Minnesota)

Beware of the U.S. Media One-Sided Coverage: + SPIRITUAL INSIGHTS

<https://healthimpactnews.com/2023/war-breaks-out-in-the-middle-east-beware-of-the-u-s-media-one-sided-coverage/>

There is a reason to get the views from both sides. The above author is a pretty good analyst per the emails I get from him every day. We like to think our side is *all* righteous hero's and would do no wrong. I heard today the PA took captive a woman whom they apparently believed to be a local Jewish woman, (she was a tourist) and paraded her around naked in the bed of a pickup truck. If you take the time to read the above article you will find the Israelite soldiers supposedly had done something similar to PA women a month or so before.

You will also read up to date info on the red heifer that many are looking towards. Plus does a 3rd Temple need to be built? (basic answer: No) per the author.

See James Steinle's other articles at:

[Steinle, James – Church of God, Bismarck \(church-of-god-bismarck.org\)](https://www.church-of-god-bismarck.org)

Have a Great Sabbath!

Iron Sharpening Iron

New American Standard Bible (Proverbs 27:17)
As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.

In regard to: Is Yayshua God?

Article by James & Patt Steinle
Comments by Darwin Lee (Bismarck, North Dakota)

This is concerning Avram Yehoshua's take on who is Yayshua, God the Father and the Holy Spirit-Comforter.

Some main points-teachings he has on that subject include;

1. The Holy Spirit- Comforter is a she-mother. He uses mainly Proverbs to prove this.

Proverbs: **8:1** ¶ Doth not wisdom cry? and understanding put forth her voice? **Pr 8:2** She standeth in the top of high places, by the way in the places of the paths. **Pr 8:3** She crieth at the gates, at the entry of the city, at the coming in at the doors.

2. That then is a trinity doctrine of the God family. Just a different form of that of mainstream Christianity.

A closer look at all of the book of Proverbs, one can understand, with a bit of wisdom, that much of proverbs is written in poetic language. With that in mind there are many references to wisdom throughout the thirty-one chapters.

A good introspective for what is needed to be a mature person can be found starting with Proverbs chapter one. It tells one to get understanding, wisdom, knowledge, discretion, justice, perception, instruction, all spiritual tools for a moral way to conduct one's life. Wisdom cannot be some person any more than knowledge and others mentioned above can be a person.

As for the Holy Spirit Avram writes of Joh 15:26, he trades the pronoun he for she. This is how new doctrines arise. The only way to make your doctrine fit is to change words and sentences to fit one's narrative. Seems like many do this without "batting an eye"!

Jesus says, "I am the light". **Joh 8:12** Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

Joh 9:5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.

Joh 11:9 Jesus answered, Are there not twelve hours in the day? If any man walk in the day, he stumbleth not, because he seeth the light of this world. **Joh 11:10** But if a man walk in the night, he stumbleth, because there is no light in him.

Joh 12:35 Then Jesus said unto them, Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth. **Joh 12:36** While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light. These things spake Jesus, and departed, and did hide himself from them.

Joh 12:46 I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.

Yes, Jesus is the light and truth, but that light and truth emanates from Jesus's spirit essence. There isn't any "her" in any of that.

Jesus says, "I am the truth". **1Jo 5:6** ¶ This is he that came by water and blood, *even* Jesus Christ; not by water only,

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but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth.

Furthermore, John 14:16,26; John 15:26; John 16:7; are all masculine pronouns (he). Only one needing to get their doctrines to fit their narrative will need to change the written word to fit their false teachings.

Joh 16:13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, *that* shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

Joh 14:17 *Even* the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you and shall be in you.

Again, all that above is masculine (he-him).

The Comforter is He not she or even a person.

Joh 15:26 ¶ But when the **Comforter is come**, whom I will send unto you from the Father, *even* the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, **he shall testify of me**:

Joh 14:16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

Joh 14:18 ¶ “I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you”. Jesus is the comforter. Did you catch that?

Joh 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, **I am the way, the truth**, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

The Comforter is the “spirit of truth”, Joh. 15:26. Spirit is truth and truth is Jesus; 1Joh. 5:6; Joh 14:6. Truth dwelt with His disciples, “for he dwelleth with you...”, Joh 14:17.

Jesus is the Comforter, not some she god.

The scriptures are clear, Jesus is the Light, the Truth, the Comforter. Wisdom (she) in proverbs is written in poetic language and is not a person any more than understanding is a person. Get wisdom. Get understanding, all of that comes from God the Father and God the Son, Jesus. They each have a spirit essence that emanates from them, for they are one. At some point in the future, They are going to do this: **Ac 2:17** And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, **I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh**: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:

That Spirit is Holy, and one can't pour out a person onto others. If you have God's Holy Spirit in your mind, good.

Jesus and God, their spirit bodies are not in you or in your mind. They are in Heaven. Their Spirit essence is with and in you and they are both masculine (He), not any hint of any she in the equation.

Here we see that understanding, “puts forth her voice”; **Pr 8:1** ¶ Doth not wisdom cry? and understanding put forth her voice? Understanding here is portrayed as her (she).

Pr 7:4 Say unto wisdom, Thou *art* my sister; and call understanding *thy* kinswoman:

Are we to make out, that since understanding (attributed to as- “her”) is wisdoms kinswoman, that understanding then is a person too?

With all scriptures mentioned, what can one make of those?

1. God and Jesus have a Spirit essence that flows out from Their minds and can penetrate our minds for various purposes, and we can respond to that by choice or not.
2. That Spirit is light, truth and comforter all in one, (trinity if you must).

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3. Wisdom is a part of that Spirit as is truth. Wisdom comes from God’s Spirit essence. **Ro 8:9** But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.
4. **1Ki 3:5 ¶** In Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night: and God said, Ask what I shall give thee. **1Ki 3:6** And Solomon said, Thou hast shewed unto thy servant David my father great mercy, according as he walked before thee in truth, and in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with thee; and thou hast kept for him this great kindness, that thou hast given him a son to sit on his throne, as *it is* this day. **1Ki 3:7** And now, O LORD my God, thou hast made thy servant king instead of David my father: and I *am but* a little child: I know not *how* to go out or come in. **1Ki 3:8** And thy servant *is* in the midst of thy people which thou hast chosen, a great people, that cannot be numbered nor counted for multitude.
5. **1Ki 3:9** Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people? **1Ki 3:10** And the speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing. **1Ki 3:11** And God said unto him, Because thou hast asked this thing, and hast not asked for thyself long life; neither hast asked riches for thyself, nor hast asked the life of thine enemies; but hast asked for thyself understanding to discern judgment; **1Ki 3:12** Behold, I have done according to thy words: lo, **I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart;** so that there was none like thee before thee, neither after thee shall any arise like unto thee. **1Ki 3:13** And I have also given thee that which thou hast not asked, both riches, and honour: so that there shall not be any among the kings like unto thee all thy days.
6. To get true understanding and wisdom, is to and comes from The Spirit of God the Father and Jesus our Savior as in Solomon’s case.
7. Please, God or Jesus is not a “she”.
8. There isn’t any she, therefore there are no three persons in the God Head.
9. A comprehensive study of the Spirit throughout, especially The New Testament, one can come to no other conclusion then, that Spirit is an essence emanating from God and Jesus Christ.
10. You too, can ask God for wisdom and understanding and God perhaps may give it to you, if you’re really serious.

Wisdom cries out! Understanding is her kinswoman. Proverbs is written in poetic language making it’s point understandable to those who have ears to hear and eyes to see.

In regard to: Is Yayshua God?

Article by James & Patt Steinle

Comments by James Steinle (Swanville, Minnesota)

Laura, I appreciate your input. This subject is a very difficult an involved one to try to understand. I and some others have gone over this subject for a long time and we are not all on the same conclusions even at this time. There is still one set of scriptures I have to say seems to throw a roadblock into my understanding, which I will mention at the last in responding to your analysis. All I can do is try to give you (and likely many others) why I think what I do (always subject to change if new evidence or understanding comes along).

You mention Ex.22:9 where the KJV shows “judges” (H430 Elohim or elohim) which I used as a proof of men being “gods”; while some other versions show “God” which you felt is more likely a translation error. For me, I see Deut.25:1-2 as a proof that it is Israelite men (judges/gods) that were selected to help Moses judge the problems that arose between Israelites. Judges try to do the same as the real God in determining who is innocent or guilty, and administer what ever punishment is required. Really the same responsibility parents have in raising their children per Scriptural requirements. Our Elohim gives we humans who have been called, training in guiding and rendering right judgments; which is one area that we will be doing when our Savior returns to earth for 1000 years.

Laura, in giving me another example of where you believe I did not properly understand something, you mention, “If you look closely at John 10:34, Christ is saying that them being gods is written in the law of the Jews. He is not saying it is written in the law of God.” You are right in one point, I did not address that of Messiah saying the law “of the Jews.” However if Yayshua meant the Jew’s extra-biblical writings do say that, (which I was not able to find any reference to) so also does our Elohim say so in Ps. 82:6. In John 10:34 “law” of the Jews is G3551, which supposedly means “through

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the idea of prescriptive usage, gen. (regulation), spec. (of Moses [including the volume]; also of the Gospel), or fig. (a principle):-law”. In John 10:35 Yayshua said, “if **he** said unto you..” The question must be asked “he” who? To me, “he” is the one who gave Moses the instructions; the God of the OT. There are a couple other examples of humans being called “god”, Ex. 7:1 (see also 4:16).

One other point Laura you make from that section, “In the end most people will be born into the God family which would make us all like God, but we are not there yet.” However as you know, 1 John 3:2 says, “Beloved, **now** are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.”

Laura you wrote in regard to me saying the God of the OT was Yehovah the Father, that is where it can be really difficult to try to pin down what is what. Yes I agree Yayshua was “the Rock” and it was he who showed his backside to Moses. Also the pillar of fire at night and the cloud that lead the way and the Power of God.

The tricky part: Acts 3:13 says the Elohim [God] OF Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, our fathers, glorified His Son Jesus. See also Acts 5:30 for a second witness. So if the God OF the OT was Jesus or Yayshua, then logically Jesus was the God who sent Himself down to earth! So how could Jesus who is the Son of God (1 John 4:15) be the God of the OT who “glorified His Son”? Did he glorify himself?

I listened to a study some time ago by Tom Bradford of Torahclass.com wherein he gave an explanation that Yayshua was THE AGENT OF the Almighty God, El Shaddai or the Father. Maybe similar to a State Highway Patrol Officer who might say, “Stop in the name of the Law!”, if I might put it into my own words. The Law (of any particular State) is the Authority (which has a real name) which power or authority is given to the agent or patrol officer.

Laura, this is getting long but here one more quote from you in regard to Rev. 3:14: “The Bible is pretty clear that God the Father did not make anything. So, what this is talking about is the power of God (the Holy Spirit) impregnated Mary and she had Christ as a baby who grew into a man and walked among us as a man.”

Question Laura; in my understanding the Son was not just the Son when he was sent to the earth to be born as a human being. Proverbs 30:4 “Who hath ascended up into heaven, or descended? who hath gathered the wind in his fists? who hath bound the waters in a garment? who hath established all the ends of the earth? what *is* his name, and what is his son's name, if thou canst tell?” (or in original Hebrew, “surely you know”). In 1 John 4:14 it says the Father sent His Son. Yayshua was the Son from before anything was created. To me that includes any angels or spiritual beings were created by the Son. John 17:8 the Son said, “*have known surely that I came out from thee..*”. How? When? For me, Prov. 8:22 is in the running, “Yehovah [the LORD] possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old. 23 I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was. 24 *When there were no depths, I was brought forth*” **[H2342; born, to be in labor (childbirth), amongst other meanings**. So what was brought forth? Just wisdom or the One who was the Agent of the Father's Wisdom, the Son?

That is the tough question I struggle with. Maybe I have to stop thinking so logically. Psalm 83:18 says, “That men may know that thou, whose name alone is Jehovah, art the most high over all the earth.” And yet Zechariah 14:9 says when Yayshua [meaning, he is salvation] the Son returns to rule the earth, “And the Lord [JEHOVAH] shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one Lord [JEHOVAH], and his name one.” Happy studying everyone!

In regard to: Is Yayshua God?
Article by James & Patt Steinle
Comments by Laura Lee (Bismarck, North Dakota)

James Iron Sharpening Iron:

Laura, I appreciate your input. This subject is a very difficult an involved one to try to understand. I and some others have gone over this subject for a long time and we are not all on the same conclusions even at this time. There is still one set of scriptures I have to say seems to throw a roadblock into my understanding, which I will mention at the last in responding

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to your analysis. All I can do is try to give you (and likely many others) why I think what I do (always subject to change if new evidence or understanding comes along).

You mention Ex.22:9 where the KJV shows “judges” (H430 Elohim or elohim) which I used as a proof of men being “gods”; while some other versions show “God” which you felt is more likely a translation error. For me, I see Deut.25:1-2 as a proof that it is Israelite men (judges/gods) that were selected to help Moses judge the problems that arose between Israelites. Judges try to do the same as the real God in determining who is innocent or guilty and administer whatever punishment is required. Really the same responsibility parents have in raising their children per Scriptural requirements. Our Elohim gives us humans who have been called, training in guiding and rendering right judgments, which is one area that we will be doing when our Savior returns to earth for 1000 years.

Laura writes:

Thank you for your appreciation. I will try to go a little slower and try to explain what I see scripture as saying and perhaps this will help you with at least some understanding on this subject.

Exo 22:9 For all manner of trespass, *whether it be* for ox, for ass, for sheep, for raiment, *or* for any manner of lost thing, which *another* challengeth to be his, the cause of both parties shall come before the judges; *and* whom the judges shall condemn, he shall pay double unto his neighbour.

Deu 25:1 If there be a controversy between men, and they come unto judgment, that *the judges* may judge them; then they shall justify the righteous, and condemn the wicked. **Deu 25:2** And it shall be, if the wicked man *be* worthy to be beaten, that the judge shall cause him to lie down, and to be beaten before his face, according to his fault, by a certain number.

None of the above scriptures support men or women in the flesh being God’s at this time. It is also not supported in scripture.

Yes, we are many times throughout scripture called sons of God and children of God, but that does not make us God’s while we are yet in the flesh. We are also not “Born Again” at this time. In order for us to be “Born Again” we have to be perfect (sinless) and then be changed into spirit. That has not happened yet. The point here is that until you are changed into spirit you cannot be a God.

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

1 Co 15:50 shows that as long as you are in the flesh you cannot even inherit the kingdom of God. Look at the words “corruption” and “incorruption” in Strong’s. As long as you are decaying flesh and blood you cannot live forever and the goal of being born again is to be changed into a spirit and live forever. That change from flesh and blood does not happen until the “First Fruits Resurrection”. So no, there are none of God’s elect that are considered to be God’s.

Look at all the judges on earth today, they are all flesh and blood men and women. None of them are God’s and many of them do not make sound judgements according to God’s Law. Yes, at a later time when we are spirit beings many of those who are changed to spirit beings will judge others, but that is only a temporary job, because once all the flesh and blood people that will be changed to spirit are gone there will be no one left to judge and we will all move on to other jobs.

James Iron Sharpening Iron:

Laura, in giving me another example of where you believe I did not properly understand something, you mention, “If you look closely at John 10:34, Christ is saying that them being gods is written in the law of the Jews. He is not saying it is written in the law of God.” You are right in one point; I did not address that of Messiah saying the law “of the Jews.” However if Yeshua meant the Jew’s extra-biblical writings do say that, (which I was not able to find any reference to) so also does our Elohim say so in Ps. 82:6. In John 10:34 “law” of the Jews is G3551, which supposedly means “through the idea of prescriptive usage, gen. (regulation), spec. (of Moses [including the volume]; also of the Gospel), or fig. (a principle):-law”. In John 10:35 Yeshua said, “if **he** said unto you..” The question must be asked “he” who? To me, “he”

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is the one who gave Moses the instructions; the God of the OT. There are a couple other examples of humans being called “god”, Ex. 7:1 (see also 4:16).

Laura writes:

Joh 10:34 Jesus answered them, *Is it not written in your law, I said, Ye are gods? Joh 10:35* If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken; **Joh 10:36** Say ye of him, whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world, Thou blasphemest; because I said, I am the Son of God? (KJV)

Joh 10:34 Jesus answered, “Isn’t it written in your Scriptures that God said, ‘You are gods?’ The Scriptures cannot be denied or found to be in error. **Joh 10:35** So if those who have the message of the Scriptures are said to be ‘gods,’ then why would you accuse me of blasphemy? **Joh 10:36** For I have been uniquely chosen by God and he is the one who sent me to you. How then could it be blasphemy for me to say, ‘I am the Son of God!’ (TPT)

In John 10:34-36 above in context this is an argument between Christ and the Pharisees. Christ is asking them why they are accusing Him of blasphemy for saying He is the son of God, when the Pharisees also have it in their law that they are gods. The King James is a little hard to understand but I think the TPT wording should help clear this up for you. (Start with verse 24 and read the whole argument in context.)

As far as finding this reference to the Pharisees law, I am not sure that is necessary to find since it is in scripture and Christ is the one that said it.

The same word in Strong’s for “Law” can be used for Moses law or any law not pertaining to Moses law. Many Strong’s words include a number of meanings.

Psa 82:6 I have said, Ye *are* gods; and all of you *are* children of the most High.

This needs to also be read in context. Look at verse number one. This is a meeting between God and some wicked “gods” with a small “g”. We know it is not talking about angels because God does not call angels sons or children. We also know it is not talking about men because of verse 7 where it says they will die like men, meaning they are not men. Whatever these entities are they were probably created and in heaven to start with now are on earth probably because they are evil/wicked. Since this set of verses is not really clear as to who these entities are you cannot use this set of verses to prove these are men and that men are gods.

Exo 7:1 And the LORD said unto Moses, See, I have made thee a god to Pharaoh: and Aaron thy brother shall be thy prophet.

This verse is flat out saying that God has made Moses a “god” to Pharaoh. It is not saying that Moses is a god. Read the verse for what it says. God will just make Moses look like a god to Pharaoh because of all the miracles he will perform through Moses.

Exo 4:14 And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Moses, and he said, *Is not Aaron the Levite thy brother? I know that he can speak well. And also, behold, he cometh forth to meet thee: and when he seeth thee, he will be glad in his heart. Exo 4:15* And thou shalt speak unto him, and put words in his mouth: **and I will be with thy mouth, and with his mouth**, and will teach you what ye shall do. **Exo 4:16** And he shall be thy spokesman unto the people: and he shall be, *even* he shall be to thee instead of a mouth, and thou shalt be to him instead of God. **Exo 4:17** And thou shalt take this rod in thine hand, wherewith thou shalt do signs.

Here again it is not saying that men are gods. Read it in context. God/Christ is telling them he is going to direct Moses’s mouth and Aaron’s mouth as to what they will say to Pharaoh so that Pharaoh believes he is dealing with a god. See verse 17 where some miracles will also be performed using God’s power through Moses and Aaron. It is not saying men are gods.

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The power of God speaking through anyone of us can happen at any time, and does not mean we are gods. See the below scriptures:

Luk 12:11 And when they bring you unto the synagogues, and *unto* magistrates, and powers, take ye no thought how or what thing ye shall answer, or what ye shall say: **Luk 12:12** For the Holy Ghost shall teach you in the same hour what ye ought to say.

James Iron Sharpening Iron:

One other point Laura you make from that section, “In the end most people will be born into the God family which would make us all like God, but we are not there yet.” However, as you know, 1 John 3:2 says, “Beloved, **now** are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.”

Laura writes:

1Jn 3:1 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. **1Jn 3:2** Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. **1Jn 3:3** And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

Again, read all verses in context of what is being said. There are many scriptures that talk about God’s elect being His children or His sons (daughters). That does not mean that you are gods now.

Notice verse 3 where you have to be pure like Christ in order to be like Christ. In verse 2 it says when Christ appears we shall be like Him. Has Christ appeared yet. This section of scripture is talking about the “First Fruits Resurrection”. That resurrection has not happened yet. In order to make that resurrection you have to be sinless. Are you sinless now?

James Iron Sharpening Iron:

Laura, you wrote in regard to me saying the God of the OT was Yehovah the Father, that is where it can be really difficult to try to pin down what is what. Yes, I agree Yayshua was “the Rock” and it was he who showed his backside to Moses. Also, the pillar of fire at night and the cloud that lead the way and the Power of God.

The tricky part: Acts 3:13 says the Elohim [God] OF Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, our fathers, glorified His Son Jesus. See also Acts 5:30 for a second witness. So, if the God OF the OT was Jesus or Yayshua, then logically Jesus was the God who sent Himself down to earth! So how could Jesus who is the Son of God (1 John 4:15) be the God of the OT who “glorified His Son”? Did he glorify himself?

Laura writes:

Act 3:13 The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified his Son Jesus; whom ye delivered up, and denied him in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let *him* go.

God the Father is the Father of all of us, not just Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Not sure why you even question that part as God the Father would still be the Father of us all whether He was the God of the Old Testament or not.

It was the Father that glorified Christ, but the second part of this verse is talking about the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ and has nothing to do with who was the God of the Old Testament. Actually, none of this verse has anything to do with who was the God of the Old Testament.

Act 5:30 The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree.

Again, God the Father is the one that raised Christ from the dead. Act 3:13 and Act 5:30 are both talking about things which were done in the New Testament, specifically the crucifixion, and resurrection.

1Jn 4:14 And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son *to be* the Saviour of the world. **1Jn 4:15** Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.

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God the Father and Christ the Son had this set up before the foundation of the world that Christ would be the Saviour. The way that God sent Christ to the earth to be the savior was to use His power, the Holy Spirit, to impregnate Mary and He Christ came into the world as a baby.

1Pe 1:19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: 1Pe 1:20 Who verily was **foreordained before the foundation of the world**, but was manifest in these last times for you, 1Pe 1:21 Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.

James Iron Sharpening Iron:

I listened to a study some time ago by Tom Bradford of Torahclass.com wherein he gave an explanation that Yayshua was THE AGENT OF the Almighty God, El Shaddai or the Father. Maybe similar to a State Highway Patrol Officer who might say, “Stop in the name of the Law!”, if I might put it into my own words. The Law (of any particular State) is the Authority (which has a real name) which power or authority is given to the agent or patrol officer.

Laura writes:

I am not sure what you are trying to say here, if you are trying to say the Father is over the son, that would be true and Christ even says the Father is greater than he is, however Father and Son are one so Christ is working on His own in agreement with the Father.

James Iron Sharpening Iron:

Laura, this is getting long but here is one more quote from you in regard to Rev. 3:14: “The Bible is pretty clear that God the Father did not make anything. So, what this is talking about is the power of God (the Holy Spirit) impregnated Mary and she had Christ as a baby who grew into a man and walked among us as a man.”

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Laura writes:

Rev 3:14 **And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;**

The Bible is pretty clear that God the Father did not make anything. So, what this is talking about is the power of God (the Holy Spirit) impregnated Mary and she had Christ as a baby who grew into a man and walked among us as a man. Then Christ was crucified and then resurrected by God the Father. And yes, Christ is the First Fruit of the First Fruits but that is because He became a man and died and was resurrected. So, in that sense He is the first, but it is not saying He was created. Christ would not be able to create Himself anymore than He was able to resurrect Himself. God the Father has a part in all of this, but Christ is the one who is creating everything and when everything is complete, Christ will present the finished product to God the Father like a gift.

Col 1:15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: Col 1:16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether *they be* thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: Col 1:17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. Col 1:18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all *things* he might have the preeminence.

Here you are trying to prove that Christ was created by God the Father and I am telling you that is not true. When it uses

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the word beginning here it is talking about Christ being the beginning of the God Family. When He died and was resurrected, He was the beginning because He was the First of the First Fruits.

Pro 30:4 Who hath ascended up into heaven, or descended? who hath gathered the wind in his fists? who hath bound the waters in a garment? who hath established all the ends of the earth? what *is* his name, and what *is* his son's name, if thou canst tell?

Proverbs 30:4 is a prophecy about Christ coming as our Savior. This is about the crucifixion and resurrection and how He created things on earth.

1Jn 4:14 And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son *to be* the Saviour of the world.

And here again God did send Christ to the earth as a baby to be the Savior of the world.

Joh 17:8 For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received *them and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me.*

This is again talking about how God sent Christ as a flesh and blood human baby growing to adulthood to preach the gospel and die for the sins of all mankind.

Pro 8:22 The LORD possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old. **Pro 8:23** I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was. **Pro 8:24** When *there were* no depths, I was brought forth; when *there were* no fountains abounding with water.

This is from the wisdom chapter which is not talking about a person. Of course, wisdom has been with the Father and the Son forever. If they did not possess wisdom things would not go well for us either.

James Iron Sharpening Iron:

That is the tough question I struggle with. Maybe I have to stop thinking so logically. Psalm 83:18 says, “That men may know that thou, whose name alone is Jehovah, art the most high over all the earth.” And yet Zechariah 14:9 says when Yayshua [meaning, he is salvation] the Son returns to rule the earth, “And the Lord [JEHOVAH] shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one Lord [JEHOVAH], and his name one.” Happy studying everyone!

Laura writes:

Psa 18:18 They prevented me in the day of my calamity: but the LORD was my stay.

Zec 14:9 And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one.

When it is talking about one Lord there, it is talking about the oneness of God. If you are married, you have a wife and you are one in purpose but two separate people. God the Father and Christ His Son are one in purpose and will rule that way, but they will always be two separate beings.

In conclusion, I believe you want to read into scripture your own words and ideas. Everyone does that some of the time, but you do it a lot. It is like you are on a mission to prove that Christ was created and that you are a god now both of which are not in scripture.

I understand that some subjects are really hard to understand for some people but if you would take the time to read each scripture in context you would understand what is being said. Another thing to do is read the entire bible from cover to cover and keep doing that for the rest of your life. When you finish the first time, start over again. Each time you do this, new understanding will be opened up to you. I have been reading a chapter a day and I do miss that sometimes. This time I am reading the 1611 King James Bible and I have been working on it since December of 2019. So, I know it takes a long time at a chapter a day, but you will be happy doing this as part of your studies.

In regard to: The Third Day

Article by Dwight Fleming
Comments by Laura Lee (Bismarck, North Dakota)

Iron Sharpening Iron

Dwight's Article:

Which day of the week did Jesus Christ rise from the dead? Did Jesus die on Friday and then was later resurrected the following Sunday?

Laura writes:

Christ died on a Wednesday just before sunset and his resurrection was on a Saturday before sunset.

Dwight's Article:

Millions believe that Jesus of Nazareth was crucified on a Friday; put into a tomb late Friday afternoon, then resurrected early Sunday morning before sunrise. But there are those who challenge that belief. Christ stated that He would be "three days and three nights" in the tomb (heart of the earth). See Matthew 12:38-40. There is no way to count "three days and three nights" between Friday afternoon and early Sunday morning before sunrise. The most that you can count are two days and two nights.

Laura writes:

Friday afternoon to Saturday afternoon = 1 day and 1 night total
Saturday afternoon to Sunday morning = ½ a day and 1 night total

Dwight's Article:

Another view is that Jesus died and was buried late Wednesday afternoon and then was resurrected 72 hours later. This means that He would have risen on a Sabbath day just before sunset and not on the first day of the week as many believe.

Laura writes:

That is scriptural.

Dwight's Article:

What is the truth? Does it matter which day of the week that Jesus rose from the dead? Does the Bible provide enough clues so that we can determine which day of the week that Jesus died and later rose from the dead? Which theory do you subscribe to, if any?

Laura writes:

I like the 72 Hour Theory because it can be proven from scripture.

Dwight's Article:

The reason that many believe that Jesus died on a Friday is because it was the day before the Sabbath. They assume that it must have been the weekly Sabbath that falls on the seventh day of the week. This error stems from ignorance of God's holy days or festivals that are listed in Leviticus 23. After the weekly Sabbath is mentioned, the next festival is Passover which falls on the 14th day of the first month. On the 15th day of the first month is the first day of unleavened bread which is an annual Sabbath.

Laura writes:

You are correct, the Holy Days of God are all listed in Leviticus 23, but you still don't seem to understand that Passover and the First Day of Unleavened Bread are the same day, and both start at sunset as the 14th turns into the 15th.

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Dwight’s Article:

Since Jesus was crucified on the 14th day of the first month as a Passover lamb, the Sabbath that drew near was an annual Sabbath and not the weekly Sabbath. John called that Sabbath “a high day” to indicate that it was not the weekly Sabbath. An annual Sabbath may fall on any day of the week. Thus, there were two Sabbaths the week of Christ’s crucifixion. An annual Sabbath on the 15th followed by the weekly Sabbath on the seventh day of the week.

Laura writes:

The annual Sabbath the year Christ was crucified was on a Thursday and the weekly Sabbath was on Saturday. And yes, Christ was crucified on the 14th of Nisan which was a Wednesday that year.

Dwight’s Article:

This understanding alone should clear up any misunderstandings. But human nature does not want to let go of long-standing, cherished beliefs. So, they continue to argue against common sense. Yet, those who recognize the error of a Friday crucifixion, since “three days and three nights” won’t fit between Friday and Sunday, make similar errors with their reasoning. How so?

First, they argue that “three days and three nights” **must** equal 72 hours. Then Daniel 9:27 is used to support that Jesus was crucified on a Wednesday. Since Jesus was laid in the tomb late in the afternoon, the conclusion is made that He was resurrected exactly 72 hours later from Wednesday afternoon to arrive at a Sabbath day resurrection. And, for those who recognize and observe the seventh-day Sabbath, this conclusion is very appealing. But is it correct?

Jesus forewarned His disciples about His death before they went to Jerusalem: “Now while they were staying in Galilee, Jesus said to them, ‘The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him, and the **third day** He will be raised up’” (Matthew 17:22-23).

The apostle Paul confirmed this important detail: “For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures. And that He was buried, and that He rose again the **third day** according to the scriptures” (1 Corinthians 15:3-4).

There are many more scriptures that mention Christ being raised on the third day. Refer to a good Bible concordance if you want to see how many there are. If you believe that Jesus was buried late Wednesday afternoon and resurrected 72 hours or three days later on the weekly Sabbath, then that Sabbath would be the **third day**. This theory may appear to fit the “three days and three nights” that Jesus gave as a sign, but **which day** of the week **does the Bible say** was the **third day**?

Turn to Luke 24:1, “On the **first day of the week**, very early in the morning, the women came to the tomb...” Keep reading to verse 21. As you will see, they found the tomb empty. Two angels reminded them what Jesus had taught them about being raised on the **third day**. Later, that **same day** (verse 13) two disciples were walking to a village outside of Jerusalem discussing what things had happened the last few days. Jesus joined them but was not recognized by them. He asked them for more details. They responded:

“The events involving Jesus of Nazareth,’ they answered. ‘This man was a prophet, powerful in speech and action before God and all the people. Our chief priests and rulers delivered Him up to the sentence of death, and they crucified Him. But we were hoping He was the One to redeem Israel. And besides all of this, it is the **third day** since these things took place” (Luke 24:19-21).

They said this to Jesus. If they were wrong about the day, then Jesus had the perfect chance to set them straight. Luke 24 makes it absolutely clear that the **first day** of the week was the **third day** when Jesus was raised from the dead.

Laura writes:

Luk 24:19 And he said unto them, **What things?** And they said unto him, Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people: Luk 24:20 And how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him to be condemned to death, and have crucified him. Luk 24:21 But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, **to day is the third day since these things were done.**

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One verse that people use to change the fact that there were two Sabbaths that year with a day between is this scripture:

- **Luk 24:21** But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, today is the third day since these things were done.

In context the above verse is about the conversation Christ had on the road to Emmaus. They use this verse to claim that Christ rose on Sunday because it says, “the third day since”. Because of this they invalidate all the verses in regard to the crucifixion where it says the third day just because this one seems out of line with the others. If you count back three days from Sunday, you end up on Thursday.

There was something that happened on Thursday which was a Sabbath, and they are counting it in this verse as part of all the events that happened surrounding the crucifixion.

- **Mat 27:62** **Now the next day, that followed the day of the preparation**, the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate, **Mat 27:63** Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again. **Mat 27:64** **Command therefore that the sepulcher be made sure until the third day**, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead: so the last error shall be worse than the first. **Mat 27:65** Pilate said unto them, Ye have a watch: go your way, make *it* as sure as ye can. **Mat 27:66** So they went, and made the sepulcher sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch.

Dwight’s Article:

Luke 24:21 messes up the 72-hour theory that provides for a Sabbath resurrection which is why it is either ignored or explained away. Yet, a Sunday resurrection was eventually used as an excuse for not keeping the Sabbath. Neither a Sabbath resurrection nor replacing the Sabbath with Sunday are correct. Why would Jesus be raised on the **first** day of the week rather than on the seventh-day Sabbath?

Laura writes:

Luke 24:21 messes nothing up for the 72-hour theory if you use all the scriptures available to you when you study.

Dwight’s Article:

After the Days of Unleavened Bread are listed in Leviticus 23, the next festival is the Feast of **Firstfruits**. It is a 50-day harvest festival. It begins on the **first** day of the week and ends 50 days later on the **first** day of the week. On the first day, a wave-sheaf offering was made with the first cut grain of the harvest.

Laura writes:

The count to Pentecost starts the day after the Passover or on the 16th of Nisan which can fall on various days of the week.

Dwight’s Article:

Christ is called the **firstfruits** of those raised from the dead (I Corinthians 15:20). He fulfilled the wavesheaf offering on the **first** day of the week when it was supposed to be offered. Then on the 50th day, known as Pentecost, two wave loaves were offered which picture the resurrection of the elect at Christ’s return. This is called the **first** resurrection (I Corinthians 15:23; Revelation 20:4-6).

Laura writes:

The wave sheaf offering takes place on the day after Passover known as Nisan 16. The wave sheaf offering does not represent Christ. The wave sheaf offering represents the First Fruits.

The wave sheaf offering does not represent Christ. Christ was accepted by the Father the minute He died for us which is why it was dark from noon until about 3 PM when Christ died, and the veil was ripped.

Mat 27:51 And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent.

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The wave sheaf represents the ecclesia.

Read Albert Edersheim:

. . . They [delegates from the Sanhedrin] cut down barley to the amount of one ephah, or ten omers, or three seahs, which is equal to about three pecks and three pints of our English measure. The ears were brought into the Court of the Temple, and thrashed out with canes or stalks, so as not to injure the corn; then 'parched' on a pan perforated with holes, so that each grain might be touched by the fire, and finally exposed to the wind. The corn thus prepared was ground in a barley mill, which left the hulls whole. According to some, the flour was always successfully passed through thirteen sieves, each closer than the other. The statement of a rival authority, however, seems more rational - that it was only done till the flour was sufficiently fine (*Men.* vi. 6, 7), which was ascertained by one of the 'Gizbarim' (treasurers) plunging his hands into it, the sifting process being continued so long as any of the flour adhered to the hands (*Men.* viii. 2). Though one ephah, or ten omers, of barley was cut down, only one omer of flour, or about 5.1 pints of our measure, was offered in the Temple on the second Paschal, or **16th day of Nisan**. The rest of the flour might be redeemed and used for any purpose. The omer of flour was mixed with a 'log,' or very nearly three-fourths of a pint of oil, and a handful of frankincense put upon it, then waved before the Lord, and a handful taken out and burned on the altar. The remainder belonged to the priest. This was what is popularly, though not very correctly, called 'the presentation of the first or wave-sheaf on the second day of the Passover-feast, or **the 16th of Nisan**. (pp. 204-205, *The Temple: Its Ministry and Services*, updated edition)

The wave sheaf requires going through fire and being refined which is exactly what is happening right now to the first fruits.

In temple times (at the time of Christ) the wave sheaf was always done on the 16th of Nisan or the day after the Passover. Passover and the First Day of Unleavened Bread are on the same day. Christ was crucified and died on the afternoon of the 14th of Nisan between the two evenings or about 3 PM.

Even the Bible tells us that the wave offering is for those who give service to God, in other words, the First Fruits.

Num 8:11 And Aaron shall offer the Levites before the LORD *for* an offering of the children of Israel, that they may execute the service of the LORD. **Num 8:12** And the Levites shall lay their hands upon the heads of the bullocks: and thou shalt offer the one *for* a sin offering, and the other *for* a burnt offering, unto the LORD, to make an atonement for the Levites. **Num 8:13** And thou shalt set the Levites before Aaron, and before his sons, and offer them *for* an offering unto the LORD. **Num 8:14** Thus shalt thou separate the Levites from among the children of Israel: and the Levites shall be mine. **Num 8:15** And after that shall the Levites go in to do the service of the tabernacle of the congregation: and thou shalt cleanse them and offer them *for* an offering.

Jamieson, Fausset and Brown Commentary
Numbers 8:11-13

And Aaron shall offer the Levites — *Hebrew*, “as a wave offering”; and it has been thought probable that the high priest, in bringing the Levites one by one to the altar, directed them to make some simple movements of their persons, analogous to what was done at the presentation of the wave offerings before the Lord. Thus were they first devoted as an offering to God, and by Him surrendered to the priests to be employed in His service. The consecration ceremonial was repeated in the case of every Levite who was taken (as was done at a later period) to assist the priests in the tabernacle and temple. (See on [2Ch 29:34](#)).

Joseph Benson Commentary
Numbers 8:11

Aaron shall offer — *Hebrew*, *Shall wave the Levites for a wave-offering*; not that Aaron did so wave them, which he could not do, but it is probable that he lifted up his hands, and turned to all quarters of the heavens, as he did when he offered a wave-offering; and that he caused them to imitate his motions, and to wave themselves toward the several parts of the world; in order that they might hereby signify their readiness to serve God, according to their capacity, wheresoever they should be. End Quote

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In other words, the wave sheaf represents the First Fruits not just because they are being put through the fire now, but because they are in service to God now and in the future. The wave sheaf offering represents the First Fruits, those who will be and are serving God.

Dwight’s Article:

If Christ is the **first**fruits from the dead and the **first** resurrection occurs at Christ’s return, then it is fitting that both resurrections occur on the **first day of the week**.

Laura writes:

Christ rose on Saturday just before sunset. And Pentecost is on Sivan 6 every year so it does not always fall on a Sunday.

Dwight’s Article:

But there will always be those that remain hung up on Christ’s statement about being in the tomb for “three days and three nights.” They will insist that this has to mean a period of 72 hours. There is a major flaw in their explanation by insisting on a 72-hour period. If you have watched any videos on how they count 72 hours, did you notice any problems?

Christ **did not say** that He would be in the tomb for three *FULL* days and three *FULL* nights as they want to imply. And just as important, Christ **did not say** that He would be in the tomb for THREE NIGHTS and THREE DAYS as they come up with in their 72-hour scenario.

Laura writes:

Perhaps you should take a math class. 3 days and 3 nights adds up to 72 hours. I believe the flaw is in your thinking. I will give you some advice, quit listening to so many evangelical videos and stick your nose in the bible where it should be when you study any subject.

Dwight’s Article:

What’s the difference you ask as long as they equal 72 hours? What’s the difference if you put your shoes on first or your socks on first? Christ said days then nights.

Laura writes:

Based on everything you have said so far, I bet you put your shoes on first and then your socks. Sort of like you listen to and watch evangelical videos before you read your bible. What you are sputtering out here is just a lot of non-sense and word games made up in your own mind.

Dwight’s Article:

If Christ wanted to say that He would be in the tomb for 72 hours, then he could have just said that He would be in the tomb for three FULL days. He included nights because that is how it is expressed in Jonah 1:17. Instead of demanding that this expression must mean 72 hours to prove a pet theory, we need to realize something else that Jesus was indicating by including nights with days.

Laura writes:

Now you are getting over the top ridiculous. Christ doesn’t have to say 3 Full days because He already told you He would be in the grave for 3 Days and 3 Nights. One Day and One Night makes one Full Day and if you have three of these, then you have three full days.

Dwight’s Article:

Genesis 1:4-5: “And God saw that the light was good and He separated the light from the darkness. God called the light ‘**day**,’ and the darkness He called ‘**night**.’”

So, Christ said that He would be in the tomb for three periods of light (day) and three periods of darkness (night). As we all know, Christ first went into the tomb when it was light (day). This was according to the **order** that Christ expressed with the “three days and three nights.” Thus, the correct sequence should be: day-night, day-night, day-night. Christ would then exit the tomb at **night**.

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Laura writes:

The Bible shows that Christ died just before sunset on the preparation day. So, if you count 3 days and 3 nights from that, He then rose on Saturday just before sunset which is 3 Full Days consisting of day and night times 3. Please go back to school and take math. Your false doctrine is worse than the Friday to Sunday one because you have Christ in the grave longer than 3 Full Days.

And the day night, night day thing from Genesis is just you twisting scripture in to pretzels so you can once again make up your own false doctrine.

Dwight's Article:

However, if you want to follow human reasoning rather than what Christ said, you end up with Christ entering the tomb during the day and exiting the tomb during the day. You then end up with something that is not according to what Christ said. The “three days and three nights must harmonize with the third day; not contradict it.

Laura writes:

The bible scripture harmonizes a whole lot better than your false doctrine does.

Dwight's Article:

Does the Bible say that Christ was resurrected and exited the tomb at night? In a strange way, it does. Recall that guards were placed at the tomb by the Jewish leaders to prevent any disciples from taking the body in an effort to prove what Jesus had previously proclaimed.

Laura writes:

Christ was placed in the tomb during daylight hours. Just before sunset it is still light outside. Christ also rose during daylight hours. He rose on Saturday just before sunset which is also considered daylight hours.

Dwight's Article:

However, Christ's disciples were devastated by His death. They had no interest in faking a resurrection from the dead to draw a following after themselves. Without Jesus, they were lost. When Mary Magdalene found the tomb empty, she thought the gardener had done something with the body (John 20:1-15). Something happened to the body alright.

The guards standing outside of the tomb must have been stunned witless when the stone rolled away and a bright light shone from the tomb. Do you think that any of them would ever admit that they ran away like scared rabbits? When the guards reported their news to the chief priests, the evil rulers knew that Jesus had fulfilled His promise to rise on the third day. They could not allow any news of His being raised from the dead to get out. So, they came up with a plan to hide the truth.

“While the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests **everything that had happened**. And after the chief priests had met with the elders and formed a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money and instructed them, ‘You must tell everyone, ‘His disciples came by **night** and stole Him away while we were asleep’” (Matthew 28:11-13).

In their evil attempt to hide the truth of the resurrection, they inadvertently revealed that Jesus exited the tomb at **night** just as He had said. This probably happened after midnight which means that it was definitely on the first day of the week both by Jewish reckoning and Roman reckoning. Why do I say midnight?

Laura writes:

By your own words you say the guards made up the story, but we are supposed to believe the part of the fake story that Christ exited the tomb by night. I don't see that in the timeline found in the Bible.

Dwight's Article:

The apostle Paul said that Jesus is the **firstborn** among many brethren. See Romans 8:29. When did the death angel come to strike down the firstborn at the first Passover? It was at midnight (Exodus 12:29). Consequently, Jesus exited the tomb at **night** on the **first day of the week** and on the **third day** since His death.

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Laura writes:

So, what you are saying here is that Christ died on Passover/The First Day of Unleavened Bread (Nisan 15) at midnight and then rose on Sunday morning at midnight, 3 days later. Or since I believe you keep an early 14 Passover; Christ would have died on Nisan 14 at midnight and rose 3 days later on Sunday. Unfortunately, Nisan 14 started at sunset on a Tuesday in 30 AD (Midnight would have been on a Wednesday) and Sunday at midnight would have been 4 days in your scenario.

The Bible says this:

- [Joh 19:14](#) And it was the preparation of the Passover, and about the sixth hour: and he saith unto the Jews, Behold your King!
- [Joh 19:31](#) The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day, (for that sabbath day was an high day,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and *that* they might be taken away.

There is no way the bible backs up your false doctrine. Christ died on the preparation day and was put in the tomb. In other words, He died just before sunset on Wednesday afternoon and was placed in the tomb. Passover and the First Day of Unleavened Bread in 30 AD was on a Thursday. These scriptures do not back up your midnight death or resurrection.

Dwight's Article:

He was also “three days and three nights” in the tomb (in the right order) as a sign to the Jews of His day. This sign was given to a “wicked and adulterous generation.” It was the sign of Jonah. Jonah was also sent to give warning to a wicked, gentile city. The city of Nineveh was given **40 days** to repent (Jonah 3:4). It is interesting that Jesus spent **40 days** on earth after His resurrection. Does the number “40” have something to do with judgment?

“For the time has come for **judgment** to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the **outcome** for those **who reject the gospel** of God?” (I Peter 4:17).

Laura writes:

Please think about what you just said here, because when you make up false doctrines you are rejecting the true gospel.

Dwight's Article:

While many Jews did respond to the gospel of Christ, the majority of them failed to repent as did ancient Nineveh many years before. Does history repeat itself?

Laura writes:

Read your Bible, at the time of Jonah, Nineveh did repent and it did not take them 40 days to do so:

[Jon 2:10](#) And the LORD spake unto the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry *land*.

[Jon 3:1](#) And the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the second time, saying, [Jon 3:2](#) Arise, go unto Nineveh, that great city, and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee. [Jon 3:3](#) So Jonah arose, and went unto Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceeding great city of three days' journey. [Jon 3:4](#) And Jonah began to enter into the city a day's journey, and he cried, and said, Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown. [Jon 3:5](#) So the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them. [Jon 3:6](#) For word came unto the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, and he laid his robe from him, and covered *him* with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. [Jon 3:7](#) And he caused *it* to be proclaimed and published through Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying, Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste any thing: let them not feed, nor drink water: [Jon 3:8](#) But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily unto God: yea, let them turn every one from his evil way, and from the violence that *is* in their hands. [Jon 3:9](#) Who can tell *if* God will turn and repent, and turn away from his fierce anger, that we perish not? [Jon 3:10](#) And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did *it* not.

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Dwight’s Article:

Moses had sent 12 spies into Canaan to search it out. This took **40 days**. When the Israelites allowed a negative report from ten of the spies to destroy their faith, God used the 40 days of searching as judgment against that generation. They would wander in the wilderness for **40 years** until everyone 20 years and up died.

Jerusalem was taken captive and the Temple destroyed by the Romans in 70 AD. **Forty years** prior would be 30 AD. Is this the year that Jesus was crucified?

Laura writes:

Finally, you guessed something correctly. According to the Hebrew Calendar 30 AD would have been the year Christ was crucified.

Dwight’s Article:

No one is certain of the year of Christ’s death. The calendar years suggested depend on the day of the week that someone believes that Christ died. It is obvious that He died on Passover day, the 14th day of the first month. The year of Christ’s death is then chosen depending on when Passover is believed to have occurred. If it is on a Friday, then 33 AD is designated. For those who believe Christ died on a Wednesday, 31 AD is claimed as the year of Christ’s death.

Laura writes:

31 AD does not quite work out according to the Hebrew Calendar:

Passover/The First Day of Unleavened Bread Nisan 15, 3786 = March 21, 26 AD and was on a Saturday
Passover/The First Day of Unleavened Bread Nisan 15, 3787 = April 8, 27 AD and was on a Thursday
Passover/The First Day of Unleavened Bread Nisan 15, 3788 = March 28, 28 AD and was on a Tuesday
Passover/The First Day of Unleavened Bread Nisan 15, 3789 = April 15, 29 AD and was on a Sunday
Passover/The First Day of Unleavened Bread Nisan 15, 3790 = April 4, 30 AD and was on a Thursday
Passover/The First Day of Unleavened Bread Nisan 15, 3791 = March 25, 31 AD and was on a Tuesday
Passover/The First Day of Unleavened Bread Nisan 15, 3792 = April 13, 32 AD and was on a Tuesday
Passover/The First Day of Unleavened Bread Nisan 15, 3793 = April 2, 33 AD and was on a Saturday

Passover/The First Day of Unleavened Bread Nisan 15, 5781 = March 28, 2021, AD and was on a Sunday
Passover/The First Day of Unleavened Bread Nisan 15, 5782 = April 16, 2022, AD and is on a Saturday

Dwight’s Article:

However, neither a Friday or a Wednesday crucifixion will meet the criteria given by the scriptures we have so far covered. The best conclusion would be a Thursday crucifixion with a Sunday resurrection. This theory would allow a fulfillment of the “three days and three nights” time in the tomb in the **right** order; and have Christ going into the tomb during the day and exiting the tomb at night on the **third day**.

Laura writes:

Don’t you think 27 AD would have been a little early for Christ to be crucified?

Dwight’s Article:

Those who demand that Christ be in the tomb for 72 hours actually have Christ in the tomb for “three days and three nights and a day” or “three nights and three days.” It is unlikely they would accept a shorter period despite any evidence.

Laura writes:

Christ died on Wednesday Nisan 14 just before Sunset and He rose on Saturday Nisan 17 just before sunset. According to good math, that turns out to be exactly 3 days and 3 nights, just like Christ said, but apparently you do not believe what Christ says.

Dwight’s Article:

Another objection will be Mark 16:1. It appears to say that the women bought spices after the Sabbath which is deemed to have been the annual Sabbath. Then after preparing the spices, the women “rested on the [weekly] Sabbath according to the commandment” (Luke 23:52-56).

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This appears to prove that there must have been a workday between the annual Sabbath and the weekly Sabbath. Thus, the conclusion is made that the Passover that year fell on a Wednesday and the annual Sabbath on a Thursday. The women then bought and prepared spices on Friday, then rested on the weekly Sabbath.

Translations are not perfect. For example, see John 19:34 and Luke 23:43. Nearly all translations have Jesus saying to the thief on the cross that he would be with Jesus in Paradise that very day. Jesus went into the tomb that very day not Paradise. As many of you realize, a better rendering of Luke 23:43 would be, “Truly I tell you today, you shall be with me in Paradise.”

The same problem exists with most English translations of John 19:34. The Roman soldiers were going to break Jesus’ legs but found that He was already dead. Verse 34, as translated, says that a soldier pierced His side with a spear. If Christ was already dead, why would a soldier pierce His side? Rather, Christ was already dead because a Roman soldier had previously pierced His side which caused Christ’s death. Christ died from loss of blood from His wound same as a Passover lamb.

Laura writes:

- **Mar 16:1** And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the *mother* of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him. **(In this verse notice that it says they had bought sweet spices. Some Bibles have it “bought”, “had bought” or “brought”. In the original Greek it is rendered “bought”. Whether your Bible says “bought” or “had bought” it does not matter as they are both past tense. The word “brought” is not in the original text.)** **Mar 16:2** And very early in the morning the first *day* of the week, they came unto the sepulcher at the rising of the sun.
- **Mar 16:9** Now when *Jesus* was risen early the first *day* of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils. **(The earliest manuscripts and some other ancient witnesses do not have verses 9–20 of Mark, meaning that someone may have added them later. This is still a debate by scholars. See: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mark_16 Commas were added to scripture later and depending on where the commas are placed it can throw the entire intent of the verse off. In Mark: 16:9 there are two commas in the KJV, one after week and one after Magdalene. There should probably only be one comma and it should be after risen. Read it both ways to see how a comma changes everything. The reason a person can change this comma and put it after risen here is that the other gospels back up the same meaning when you do this. To be more clear, the other gospels say he was risen (past tense) meaning on Saturday, where this verse makes it sound like Christ rose on Sunday just because of where they placed the comma.)**

Yes, there are translation errors in some scriptures, but Mark 16:1 is not one of them. Notice the women are bringing the spices on the first day of the week, verse 2 and verse 1 says they did this after the Sabbath had passed. First comes Friday (the day they prepared the spices and then comes Saturday the day they rested on the weekly Sabbath and then comes the first day of the week, Sunday. Looks like everything is in order for a Wednesday crucifixion.

Dwight’s Article:

If you are able to recognize the time order problems of Luke 23:43 and John 19:34, then you should be open to the same possibility of Mark 16:1. Did Mark actually say that the women bought spices after the Sabbath or that they were coming to anoint the body of Christ with the spices that they had previously bought? Looking at the context, it suggests that Mark is referring to the weekly Sabbath and not the annual Sabbath.

When did the women purchase the spices? Mark also records that Joseph of Arimathea **bought** a linen cloth to wrap around the body of Jesus (Mark 15:46). It is likely that the women after seeing where Jesus was laid also went and bought spices the same day. Luke simply says that after the women saw where Jesus was laid that they returned to prepare spices but then rested on the Sabbath **according to the commandment** which is a reference to the weekly Sabbath.

Laura writes:

Read verses Mark 16:1-2 in context.

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Mar 16:1 And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the *mother* of James, and Salome, **had bought** sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him.

Mar 16:2 And very early in the morning the first *day* of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun.

They had already bought and prepared these spices on Friday. “had bought” is past tense language. Once the Sabbath was past they came to the tomb to anoint Christ early in the morning on the first day of the week which would follow a weekly Sabbath.

Dwight’s Article:

If Jesus died and was buried on Thursday afternoon and the women bought spices the same day before sunset, then they had to prepare the spices on Friday which was also the annual Sabbath. Those who believe Jesus died on a Wednesday will have trouble with this concept. Many Pharisees had trouble with Jesus healing on the Sabbath and accused His disciples of breaking the Sabbath when they plucked some grain in the field to satisfy their hunger.

Review Leviticus 23:1-7. Verse three gives details about the weekly Sabbath. A Sabbath of complete rest. No work is to be done (with certain exceptions listed elsewhere). However, verse seven, regarding the first day of unleavened bread, only forbids regular work, meaning your normal occupation. Thus, the preparation of spices would have been allowed on the annual Sabbath but not on the weekly Sabbath.

Despite the clear evidence of Luke 24:21 that the third day when Jesus rose from the dead was on the first day of the week, it is highly unlikely that what has been presented in this article will change anyone’s previous held thinking on when Jesus died and was resurrected. This is largely a technical discussion and not something that will affect anyone’s opportunity for salvation.

Laura writes:

One more verse that people use to change the fact that there were two Sabbaths that year with a day between is this scripture:

- **Luk 24:21** But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, today is the third day since these things were done.

In context the above verse is about the conversation Christ had on the road to Emmaus. They use this verse to claim that Christ rose on Sunday because it says, “the third day since”. Because of this they invalidate all the verses in regard to the crucifixion where it says the third day just because this one seems out of line with the others. If you count back three days from Sunday, you end up on Thursday.

There was something that happened on Thursday which was a Sabbath, and they are counting it in this verse as part of all the events that happened surrounding the crucifixion.

- **Mat 27:62** Now the next day, that followed the day of the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate, **Mat 27:63** Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again. **Mat 27:64** Command therefore that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead: so the last error shall be worse than the first. **Mat 27:65** Pilate said unto them, Ye have a watch: go your way, make *it* as sure as ye can. **Mat 27:66** So they went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch.

Keeping Holy days on the correct day is a salvational issue whether you want to believe it or not and when you spin these false tales you are causing some people to stumble. You do not understand the Holy Days yourself, so you should not be teaching them to anyone.

Dwight’s Article:

To keep things in perspective, what is important is that a person accepts the death of Jesus for the remission of his or her sins after coming to repentance. And then acknowledges that Jesus is risen whereby we have hope of the

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Resurrection at His return. This is what baptism symbolizes and is a profession of our commitment to Jesus as our Lord and Savior.

May we walk in unity as the Elect of Christ even though we have differences in our understanding of certain details found in the Holy Scriptures. 2 Peter 3:17-18:

“Therefore, beloved, since you already know these things, be on your guard so that you will not be carried away by the error of the lawless and fall from your own steadfastness. But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen”

Laura writes:

What you are teaching here is a false doctrine because of your inability to understand and put together scripture in a correct way. This is not a small error on your part, it is a major error if you would actually take the time to study what your bible says.

For a better understanding of this subject read: “The Spices and the Visits to Christ’s Tomb” by B. L. Cocherell especially the “Iron Sharpening Irons” attached to it in Issue #69.

Here is the timeline:

Remember a 24-hour Day and Night period of time is measured from Sunset to Sunset.

Sunset on Wednesday	Thursday Night	Thursday Daylight
Christ was buried before sunset on the preparation day for the Passover/First Day of Unleavened Bread.	First Night	First Day
Passover/First Day of Unleavened Bread started at Sunset		Christ’s tomb was sealed

Sunset on Thursday	Friday Night	Friday Daylight
At Sunset the High Holy Day was over	Second Night	Second Day
The preparation day for the weekly Sabbath begins		Plenty of time to buy and prepare spices

Sunset on Friday	Saturday Night	Saturday Daylight
The Weekly Sabbath started at Sunset	Third Night	Third Day

Sunset on Saturday	Sunday Night	Sunday Daylight
Christ rose just before sunset exactly 3 Days from when he was buried.		The women came to the tomb early while it was still dark to anoint Christ and found He was <u>risen</u> .
		Road to Emmaus – “...Three Days Since...” See Luke 24:21 and Mathew 27:62-66 (It was literally three days since all these things happened.) See Chart for Thursday Daylight above.

Letters

Letter from Kasuba Manad (January 12, 2024)

Dearest Saints of our Lord Jesus Christ,

Warmest Christian greetings to each one of you, your beloved families and all the dear brethren at your Church in the Precious Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Myself, my beloved families, the Orphans under my care and all

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the dear brethren at our Home Churches we all greet each one of you with so much Christian love!

Thank you so much for your kind response towards my request. I am waiting to start receiving your wonderful newsletter. Please feel free to pass my name and my email address to people or Ministries you know can start sending me free materials for free distribution to unsaved people.

I will continue to pray for you, your beloved families, all the dear brethren at your Church and God's work you are faithfully doing. Please continue to pray for me, my beloved families, all the dear at our Church and God's work I am doing here.

It is really encouraging to hear from you soon again,

**SHALOM, SHALOM,
ELDER KASUBA MANAD**

All the World's a Stage... (Part 10) (Copyright) by Rich Traver (Clifton, Colorado)

While we live life as though there's no purposeful direction or underlying cause in what transpires, there's ample evidence – though veiled – to indicate otherwise. As it regards the religious situation in the Judaeo - Christian World, there's ample Evidence to suggest that God's Hand is, and has been, orchestrating events to further His Plan for the ultimate Redemption of humanity.

People often ask, “Why does God allow all this evil in the world?” “Why doesn't He intervene in human affairs?” We might wish to advise God in how He ought to respond to certain matters at times, expecting our assessment of what ought to be done to be omniscient. It's when we see what God is doing, for the most part ‘behind the scenes’ that a whole new realization emerges.

A BIG Picture

That Shakespearian play of 600-years ago contains a famous line that's more insightful than we might give it credit for. It states, “*All the world's a stage, And all the men and women merely Players...*” This, of course, suggests that someone is directing what transpires on a broad scale. While we may consider this premise in the context of individuals, there's a greater picture where it involves whole nations, and involving one particular ethnicity, there's an underlying Plan being orchestrated by the Creator God! He's tasked, and is preparing, a particular people for an important part in what He's to do.

While there should be no question of the involvement on the part of God in human events, we have also the factor of evil spiritual forces working at the unseen spirit level in opposition to the other.

Prophetic Evidence

But it's not so much the evil spiritual component that's the focus here. It's the major situation that accounts for what we see in the world, not only of today, but through a great span of history from deepest antiquity. While God employs those evil forces at times to fulfil His Will, we don't often see it for what it is. Just looking at Bible prophecy, seeing it being fulfilled, is evidence in itself: Not only of God's direction, but of His overall Plan for His Creation. God is not only predicting what will happen, but He has in most cases decreed well in advance that those things happen. Two insightful scriptures help us get our bearings in these matters.

“Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure: Calling a ravenous bird from the east, the man that executeth my counsel from a far country: yea, I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it.” (Isaiah 46:9-11) Does this sound like God is aloof to everything that's going on?

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Also, Daniel 4:11, *“This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men.”* Have the many inept and corrupt rulers known throughout history been just a fluke? Is the caliber of the ones we have at present explained by this? God wants us to know that He is very much involved with what’s going on in the world, but with intent to cause an end result that we may not yet be aware of.

Suspended Rationality

Consider a practical situation, that of Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon: *“And he was driven from the sons of men; and his heart was made like the beasts, and his dwelling was with the wild asses: they fed him with grass like oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven; till he knew that the most high God ruled in the kingdom of men, and that he appointeth over it whomsoever he will.”* (Daniel 5:21)

To emphasize the point with him and with Daniel, who ‘stood-in’ for him during the seven years of his insanity, his own testimony in chapter 4, after this episode was, this: *“Nebuchadnezzar the king, unto all people, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth; Peace be multiplied unto you. I thought it good to shew the signs and wonders that the high God hath wrought toward me. How great are his signs! and how mighty are his wonders! his kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion is from generation to generation. I Nebuchadnezzar was at rest in mine house, and flourishing in my palace: Read the full account of this in Daniel 4:*

This was the account of his removal from power for seven years by having his mental faculties suspended: “And at the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up my eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honoured him that liveth for ever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation: And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?”

At the same time my reason returned unto me; and for the glory of my kingdom, mine honour and brightness returned unto me; and my counsellors and my lords sought unto me; and I was established in my kingdom, and excellent majesty was added unto me. Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk-in pride he is able to abase.”

This was Nebuchadnezzar’s personal realization. God had this secular ruler compose the entire chapter 4 of the book of Daniel to bear this testimony. Is there any more potent witness of the fact of God’s intervention in the affairs of men, even in the political arena?

Does this cast light on the question raised in the opening paragraph of this chapter?

Standing Back

While it should be obvious that God is taking pretty much a ‘hands-off’ approach in routine day-to-day situations, the inescapable conclusion from history and from prophecy being fulfilled shows that He is very much aware of and in control of the major drift of events continually. We do see angelic interventions at the personal level at times, which shows He is concerned with our personal needs.

That’s why we pray. Answered prayer addresses this to a limited degree, knowing that He cares, but it’s the overall world stage that’s the bigger issue.

A Transcendent Task

Earlier it was demonstrated that God has selected a particular ethnicity to administer His program of salvation that’s eventually to be opened to the whole world, not just the living, but all who have ever lived. At present, there’s a category of called-out ones who are to be in the first echelon. We know them as “firstfruits”.¹

An earlier chapter focused on the House of Israel. It was Jesus’ mission to ‘go to’ that ethnicity in particular. His Apostles

¹ Revelation 14:4 We see 144,000 individuals selected and assigned to one particular ethnicity, they being not just Jews, but of and from the whole House of Israel.

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also. But that was a means to an end! That end being World Salvation!

In Luke 2:32 Simeon’s exclamation was that He would be “*A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.*” Acts 26:23 adds: “*That Christ should suffer, and that he should be the first that should rise from the dead, and should shew light unto the people, and to the Gentiles.*” This alludes to the job assignment for His firstfruits.

Acts 13:47 explains: “*For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth.*” [Which quotes: Isaiah 49:6] “*And he said, It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth.*”

The overall Plan being worked out here below is not trivial or merely local. It’s a Plan where Salvation will be extended to all of humanity (that’s not to say that all will avail themselves of it). Our major concern is to realize that Plan that supersedes any other concern. Time and chance happens to all of us. Wars and accidents occur. The innocent are occasionally caught-up in a milieu of unfortunate circumstances. Sometimes Faith is the comforting remedy. But salvation is the ultimate objective.

That’s what we need to focus on, as it manifests in world developments, past, present, and future.

See Rich Traver’s other articles at:

[Traver, Rich – Church of God, Bismarck \(church-of-god-bismarck.org\)](http://church-of-god-bismarck.org)

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Holy Days 2024

Passover – April 23, 2024 (Observed at Sunset the Evening Before)

Passover/Unleavened Bread – April 23-29, 2024

Pentecost – June 12, 2024

Trumpets - October 3, 2024

Atonement – October 12, 2024

Tabernacles –October 17, 2024, to October 23, 2024

Last Great Day – October 24, 2024

Notes

Notes