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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

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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.

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"I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit (abyss), and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old (ancient) serpent, which is the Devil...Satan, and bound him a thousand years, and cast him into the bottomless pit (abyss), and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more... and after that he must be loosed a little season" (Rev. 20:1-3).

The vision of the conflict between good and evil in the Book of Revelation comes at length to a time when a mighty angel is seen descending from heaven with a great chain in his hands; he takes forcible hold of the great red dragon which alone survives of the enemies of righteousness, binds him with the chain, casts him into the abyss, and seals the entrance with the sign of Divine authority that the nations should be deceived no more throughout the thousand years—the Millennium. Ardent longing for that day has led many to watch earnestly the signs of the times, and the question "Is Satan now bound? Is he in process of being bound? Is he yet to be bound?" are common.

The literal personality of the Devil is not always accepted nowadays; many feel that the Scripture references to Satan and Satanic power can be well understood as allusions to the presence and influence of evil in an abstract sense over humanity. There is no doubt, however, that the New Testament writers believed in Satan as a powerful celestial being in a state of open rebellion against God, directly responsible for the introduction of evil into the world and its promotion and development throughout human history. Origen in the 2nd century claimed that not only all humanity, but eventually the Devil himself, will succumb to the drawing power of Christ and so become reconciled and attain eternal life, but on the other hand at least three of the inspired writers—John, Isaiah, and Ezekiel—foresee the extinction of the personal Satan with the passing of evil from Divine creation and any exposition of Revelation 20 can only be on the basis that a personal being is referred to, and he is, and will be until his end, incorrigibly and persistently evil.

This 20th chapter of Revelation pictures the work of the Millennial Age, when the Lord Christ is the acknowledged ruler of this earth and all its peoples are to be made fully conversant with the Divine standards of life and enjoy the opportunity to make their momentous choice, for good or evil, for life or death. The decision is to be a personal one, and none will be able to say that powers of evil from outside have hindered or thwarted their desire to be converted and find reconciliation with God. In that Age a man will die only for his own sin, only because, with full knowledge and ability to choose and practice that which is right in God's sight, he nevertheless elects to remain evil for the love of it. Hence this picture in these few verses, drawn to delineate the suppression of the power of external evil so that it can no longer adversely influence or affect men against their will. In that Age it is to be true that *"they shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain."* (Isa. 65:25). In order to accomplish that end it is obvious that the Devil must be deprived of power to instil evil and sin into the hearts and actions of men, and this preliminary to the work of the Millennial Age logically introduces this 20th chapter.

What is this binding? Quite evidently, it is closely connected with the restraint of evil which is a feature of the Millennial Age. Rev. 20:1 indicates clearly that its fulfilment is at the beginning of that Age. This does not necessarily mean, though, that the binding takes place simultaneously with the commencement of the Second Advent. The dragon of Rev. 20 is the last enemy of righteousness to be dealt with after the other great enemies, the "Beast" and the "False Prophet" have been cast into the Lake of Fire. Now, since Rev. 19, dealing with the warfare between the Rider on the White Horse and these two enemies, is evidently a phase of the Advent, the binding of the Dragon, coming next in order, would seem to belong to a later phase of that Advent. This binding also coincides with the commencement of the reign of the saints, and since that reign does not commence until the saints have been "changed" and the marriage of the Lamb completed, and the Lord must first come "for" his saints before the marriage feast and his subsequent revelation to the world "with" his saints, it would seem clear that the "binding of Satan" is to occur after all these things at the time of the establishment of Christ's kingdom in power in the earth. That time has not yet come.

The background is this world at that time during the course of the Second Advent when the Lord Christ, having

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already resurrected his Church to be associated with him in his Millennial work, has destroyed those factors in society which have stood in opposition to his assumption of power. Included in these forces are those institutions of men which are in themselves evil and have oppressed the sons of men. Under symbols of the “beast,” the “false prophet,” the “kings of the earth,” in chapter 19, these are pictured as drawn up in battle array to contend with the Rider on the White Horse from heaven—the Lord Christ in martial guise—and they all are defeated and destroyed, their destruction being symbolized by the fiery lake. Only the dragon remains, and this 20th chapter identifies this dragon of Revelation with the serpent of Eden and Satan the destroyer, so completing the identification. The lesser evil powers having been dealt with, and the time having come for the resurrection of the dead to experience the call to conversion and life of the new Age, it remains to deal with Satan so that the last hindering influence is removed. Hence the angel descending from heaven with a great chain in his hand is another representation of our Lord at his Second Advent, specifically as respects that aspect which has to do with the restraint of the Evil One.

From that time onward, the practice of evil will be restrained. “Nothing will hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain” (Isa. 11:9 NLT). Men will not be prevented from thinking evil thoughts or harbouring evil designs; some will yield “feigned obedience” (Psa. 18:44 marg.); but the power to inflict evil or harm, physical, mental or moral, upon another will be lost. We do not know how. Divine power will be exercised here in a fashion of which we have little, if any, conception today. But it will be true that although a man may formulate an intention to do evil to another, he will find himself physically or mentally unable to put that intention into effect. That restraint will operate throughout the Millennial Age.

This “binding of Satan,” that he should “deceive the nations no more,” (v.3) presupposes that he has possessed and exercised the power to deceive men and instil evil thoughts and influences into their minds during the present and past spans of human history and this supposition is confirmed by our Lord’s reference to him as the “prince of this world” and Paul’s “the god of this world.” (John 14:30; 2 Cor. 4:4). It is this power and freedom which will be taken from Satan throughout the whole period of the Millennium, and this constitutes his “binding.” His personal freedom of movement, so to speak, may not be limited any more than will be the personal freedom of evilly disposed men on earth during that Age, but he will be powerless to reach men’s minds in any way.

A glance at daily events should make it clear that the binding of Satan has not yet taken place and is not yet even in progress. The powers of evil have greater control today in earth’s affairs than they have ever had, except, perhaps, in the early days at the period of the Deluge. Many of the devices and acts of certain classes of men are characterized by a coldblooded ferocity and disregard for human suffering which can quite literally be said to be Devil-inspired. The fearful experiences through which so many of earth’s peoples must pass are evidence that the archangel of evil is still the god of this world, and that his subjects still render him service. It is sometimes suggested that these facts are the result of Satan’s struggles to resist his binding and are evidence therefore that his binding is actually in progress. This reasoning is built upon a human conception of the binding as though the Most High finds it necessary to wage war and use the heavenly equivalent of physical force to achieve his end of rendering Satan powerless. Nothing of the sort. God is always master of the situation, and when in his wisdom the time comes for Satan to be bound and his influence restrained, one word from the Almighty and it will be done. It will not require battalions of angels drawn up in martial array, archangels in command of detachments and some spiritual equivalent of carnal weapons, with which to wage an invisible conflict with the hosts of Satan in the fashion in which men wage war today. God is omnipotent. *“He spake, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast.”* (Psa. 33:9). His ends are achieved by means of orderly development, and He permits the continuance of evil to a pre-determined limit for a wise purpose, yet when his time has come to act against evil and evildoers, none can resist his will. So Divine power will operate from heaven to end, in one moment of time, every scrap of influence Satan has over man and spirit.

One may begin to wonder at this point just what is the attitude of Satan himself to all this. How does he regard this already well-publicized picture of his approaching doom? After a very successful career of crime, what, if any, preparation is he likely to make to resist any threat to the continuance of his present activities? What, if any, resistance *can* he offer to the omnipotent power of God? Is there any likelihood that Origen was right after all, and that eventually the Devil will abandon his evil ways and embrace righteousness? In the face of the positive statements of Scripture above referred to this would not seem likely. What perhaps is more probable is that in fact Satan, a fallen being separated from God by millenniums of sin, does not really believe in his heart that the threatened fate will ever materialize. The position is much the same with many of mankind. People today, in general,

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do not really believe in God. They have lost their knowledge of him, and with that any vital belief in his powers or interest in them. “If there is a God, He either does not care or has no power to put right things that are wrong in this world!” That sentiment fairly expresses the considered judgment of the natural man who has been separated from God by sin from the beginning. Yet in that beginning man knew God, walked with God, talked with God; that is clear from the Genesis story. The difference has been affected by sin. It is reasonable to think that the same principle can hold good in the case of Satan. He also had the privilege of knowing God, walking with him, talking with him, and appreciating his power. He embraced sin, and since nothing that is of sin can stand in the Divine Presence, he too from that moment must have been banished, separated from God just as truly as was Adam. Would it be surprising, therefore, if Satan, blinded by his own sin, concludes that after all this time God is evidently unable to complete his designs, and that sin can continue indefinitely on its apparently successful course?

If this hypothesis be well founded, the great enemy of man will continue busily with his plans, waging war against all that is holy and true and lovely upon earth, unbelieving until the hour has struck. In the heyday of his dominion, attendant angels carrying out his dark orders, the cry of his suffering prisoners going up to heaven, his power will vanish as one snaps off the electric light. Suddenly he will find himself bereft of power, of influence, of servants, of an empire—alone. Too late, he will realize that the omnipotence of God has waited for this moment, and that his long course of rebellion against his Creator, with all its terrible consequences for humanity, has ended.

Can one picture that lonely spirit through all the thousand years of earth’s jubilee? Free to roam through the vast spaces of God’s creation, free to observe, to meditate, to scheme, but powerless to affect or influence in any way the mind or the heart of the weakest or humblest of God’s creatures. Seeing all, hearing all, unable to interfere, the seal of Divine authority marks him out and sets him apart like Cain, an outcast, an exile, one upon whom is the judgment of God. He may translate himself out of our material universe into that spiritual sphere which is beyond the scope of human sense or understanding, and wander through the celestial land as alone and remote from the presence of God as when he presided over earth’s destinies. He may come back into our world of time and space to find the thousand years of restitution still in progress, but wherever he goes and whatever he does, Satan will be bound, altogether unable to interfere further in the plans of God for his creation.

Strangely, this is not the end. One might expect that, having destroyed the power of Satan in the world and established a rule of righteousness in which evil finds no place, God would ensure that there will be no revival of sin, by executing the penalty of sin—death—upon this arch-rebel against him. But no; he is bound, restrained, impotent to do evil, for the thousand years, but he lives still. God has not taken away his life. Further, at the end of the Millennium he is to be loosed again, set free to resume his evil work among men, if then he will. Of this “loosing” it is necessary to speak guardedly, for the statement appears in only one text of Scripture, Rev. 20:7, and the words are vague and obscure. A little thought, however, seems to indicate that this final “loosing” is logical and in harmony with the general principles of the Divine Plan. All of mankind are to have such an opportunity to decide for good or evil after they have witnessed and experienced, during that last thousand years, the benefits of universal adherence to the righteous laws of God and full loyalty to him. The “spirits, in prison,” those rebellious angels who fell from their high estate in the days before the Flood (Jude 6; 2 Pet. 2:4; Gen. 6), and have since that day been under a form of restraint witnessing the evil that has come upon the world, will in that Age have the same opportunity as men to repent, and convert, and be reconciled to God. (1 Cor. 6:3). Is it not logical and in keeping with the known character of God, who is “*not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance*” (2 Pet. 3:9), that Satan himself should at least be treated similarly, and have the same opportunity after seeing for himself the results of the Messianic reign of righteousness? Is this “loosing” in fact an opportunity for him to demonstrate whether, after all that he has seen, he may yet, at the eleventh hour, repent of his evil deeds? If he should so repent, it must be that, despite his evil deeds, God would receive him.

There are, though, three prophetic Scriptures which seem to indicate that the die is already cast, that the opportunity will not be taken. Here is concerned the revealed foreknowledge of God, which is something that we as human beings cannot hope to understand and into which we may not intrude. John in Rev. 20:10, after the episode of the “loosing,” says that “*the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire*” which in v.14 is defined as the “second death.” This is destruction, eternal death, the wages of sin. This is stated as an event that is certainly going to happen. Then Ezekiel in chap. 28 describes one under the cognomen (additional name) of the “king of Tyre” (v.12 RSV) who had been in Eden as a “protective cherub,” created perfect and sinless by God, lapsed into rebellion and sin, and receives Divine condemnation. “*I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth...and never shalt thou be any*

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more.” (vv.18-19) Isaiah in chap. 14, under guise of a Divine declaration addressed to the “king of Babylon,” (v.4) speaks of Lucifer, son of the morning, the morning star, who aspired to be equal with the Most High and to rule all creation conjointly with him but in the process “*made the world as a wilderness*” (v.17) and in consequence will be brought down to the lowest hell, the place from which there is no return. (A significant point justifying the application of these two passages to a supernatural being rather than to the kings of Tyre and Babylon is that although the kings of some peoples such as the Romans and Egyptians did identify their kings with their gods, neither the kings of Babylon nor of Tyre ever did this; they always insisted they were the “servants” of their respective gods; the language and allusions in both passages are impossible of application to human beings.) If these three passages are to be taken as meaning what they say, the implication is that the Lord already knows that the case is, hopeless, and has revealed this knowledge “*to his servants the prophets.*”

A celebrated Anglican minister, Dr. Paterson Smyth (1852-1932), an advocate of Future Probation, laid down the maxim that it is possible for a man, continuously sinning against light, and knowing that he is sinning, to destroy his own capacity for repentance. After that there is nothing, God can do, because the man is spiritually dead; there is nothing left upon which God can work. The man has committed spiritual suicide. His incorrigible antagonism to righteousness has led him to renounce the possible life which can only subsist when righteousness is accepted as the way of life. If there is anything at all in this, it illustrates how God, who knows the hearts of all his creatures, can look upon this one and know that despite the opportunity which may yet be given, he will not repent, and so sentence has to be passed. So, the decree can already have gone forth, before the days of John, before the days of Ezekiel, before the days of Isaiah, to be recorded on the pages of the Book just as it is already recorded in the annals of Heaven. We do not know.

Perhaps even then, at the end of the Millennium, Satan does not really believe that “*the wages of sin is death.*” (Rom. 6:23) Blinded by his own sin, obsessed with his desire to rule at least over men as God rules over all creation, fortified in his evil ways by the forbearance of God through the ages and apparent inability or unwillingness even then to inflict the final penalty of death, perhaps there is nothing left but an irrevocable determination to fight against God. Once, a long time ago, in the beginning, he deceived Eve, saying “*ye shall not surely die.*” (Gen. 3:4) Can it be that at the end he even deceives himself? If that should in fact be the case, in face of all that he knows of the goodness and love of God, there can be only one possible end. There is a terrible finality in those words spoken through the prophet Ezekiel “*I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth... and never shalt thou be any more.*” (Ezek. 28:18-19)

See Albert Hudson’s other articles at:

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

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A Matter of History!
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It isn’t often that you encounter a reference by one of our politicians to a particular biblical situation. Least of all in an article this week in the Mail on Sunday, one of our Sunday newspapers. He was reminding us as to what our political position within the European Union rightly is! We are not and should not give the appearance of being supplicants. Daniel Hannan, Conservative member of the European Parliament for the Southeast of England, wrote that it was Winston Churchill who in 1946 first proposed Britain’s rightful position relative to any future combination of nations of Europe. Churchill called for a United States of Europe comprising France, Germany, and their satellite countries. Britain would look on benignly but would not participate. ‘In all this urgent work, France and Germany must take the lead together, he said. ‘Great Britain and the British Commonwealth of Nations must be the friends and sponsors.’

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We have quoted Winston Churchill in previous editions of the Newsletter. He made it clear that Britain is in Europe but not of it! **Mr Hannan went to the bible, a higher authority.** In the second book of Kings, chapter 4 there is the account of a woman of an area called Shunem who recognised Elisha, the prophet, as a man of God as he travelled backwards and forwards through the area. She and her husband showed great courtesy to Elisha giving him a bed for the night and sharing dinner with him. Accordingly, he wanted to do something for her as she had no children, and her husband was old. So, Elisha talked to her and asked her if he could speak to the king, or the army leader, to do something for her in return.

The passage in the bible says how she was a “great woman” in other words, one who was already rich and influential. To Elisha’s suggestion she responded by saying “I dwell among my own people!” So, Mr Hannan’s suggestion when our politicians are patronised by other nations’ politicians is this, and I quote, “Our present leaders would do well to ponder his (Churchill’s) reason: “We have our own dream and our own task. We are with Europe, but not of it.” Should European statesmen address us, like Elisha, in the same words he used – “Shall I speak for you to the King or the Captain of the Host?” – we should reply, as the Shunnamite woman, who was already influential and wealthy, did “No, thank you, we live among our own people.”

Like the Shunnamite, Britain has been and still is rich and influential. We live among our own people. The British Commonwealth of Nations is worldwide. The English language is virtually the world’s language. Britain, for all its mistakes, has generally meant well in the world. It has governed many nations, within the Commonwealth, basically justly. Britain ended a number of practices in many of those nations which were harsh and cruel and instituted a proper form of justice. Although, because of other factors, Britain totally misunderstood the truth of the bible nevertheless Britain took the bible all over the world and is responsible for the fact that the bible is now printed in virtually every known language. And what is more, is freely available to anyone who wants a copy.

There is only one other nation that does this, and that is the United States, our brothers, helping to carry out this great task. Both nations have international bible societies. Societies which have truly been making the word of God freely available. Understanding it is another issue! However, that it IS clearly understood and that understanding is also freely available is again due to the efforts and dedication of those of the United States and Great Britain who were, and still are, called into the true church of God. But are there any other nations with similar programmes? We don’t know of any! Over the years citizens of both nations have tried hard to guide others in eradicating very wrong practices. Practices such as the Hindu one in India whereby, upon the death of her husband, the widow would cremate herself upon her husband’s funeral pyre in the practice of suttee! A practice ended by the British many years ago when governing the sub-continent.

Obviously both nations have made their mistakes and haven’t always got things right. But on balance we would say that both the United States and Great Britain have been of service to the world at large more than not! Both have, at times, recognised the true God but have failed to understand Him and His purpose for Man on earth. This failure has caused both to embrace pagan doctrines, practices and beliefs calling them Christian when they certainly are not! However, that’s another story.

One of the keys to understanding the bible is to understand the movements of peoples over the centuries. Man originated in the Middle East most likely in the area known as Mesopotamia. Another key is the one that unlocks our understanding of world events today. It is to identify the descendants of various individuals and where they are located today. One nation actually does know where it came from, who they are descended from. It actually does understand its history. That is the nation of Israel today, collectively called the Jews! Why? Because they know they are descended from Judah one of the sons of Jacob. Jacob was renamed by God to then be known as Israel.

Jacob, now named Israel had 12 sons, one of which was Judah, and in chapter 49 of Genesis just as he is about to die he calls them all together and tells them what the future holds for each of them. He puts it this way: “gather yourselves together, that I may tell you that which shall befall you in the last days.” Now it can’t be the individuals themselves, it has to be referring to the descendants of each at the time of the end of the world, or more accurately, the world society and system. When, in the bible, the term “Last Days” is used it should be taken to be referring to the end of the world system and the replacement of it by the rule of Jesus Christ on his return to the earth. A return which will end the conflict afflicting mankind throughout the planet which has been generated through the activities of Satan and the demons who have been infecting and affecting the planet ever since they rebelled against God and were then contained on the earth.

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A masterstroke of the Satan and the demon forces is to convince the people of the world that they don't really exist, they are figments of an over-worked imagination that affects some people. Satan has even got mankind to believe, in general, that God and the angels don't exist either. However, we never thought that a man would ever walk on the surface of the moon. But he did! Even just a few short years ago you would never have believed it possible to take a few cells of the human body and grow a new body part. It seems now, however, as though the science has developed so far and fast that it will be possible to grow even a new eye. One that could replace a diseased one.

However, God and the spirit world do exist – the events recorded in the bible did happen. The things that the bible speaks of that are yet in the future are going to occur. We see Satan's approach in Genesis chapter 3 where he appears as a serpent to Adam and Eve – there he convinces them that God had told them not to eat the fruit of one particular tree because He, God, wanted to keep some things from them. So, Satan engineered the first breaking of God's law. The spirit of Satan today fills the entire world society. He is intent on destroying the planet and every living thing whether animal or human. Have you ever wondered why the earth is filled with violence? Worse now that we are in the “last days” The very last book of the bible is Revelation. It deals mainly with what is yet future. Chapter 12 and verse 9 speaks of Satan and what happened originally, it says “.... Satan, which deceives the whole world, he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. Now the book moves forward to our time now and verse 12 says ... Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has but a short time.

Have you ever known the world filled with so much violence as we are experiencing today? I was listening to BBC radio a little earlier today as I wrote. The focus was upon Greece. Not much has appeared in the press but the accounts of life today in Greece were frightening. People are in despair. The society has almost collapsed. Crime and violence are virtually out of control. Violence fills the Middle East. Accounts of life today in Syria alone are similarly frightening. The outlook for Russia is not good. And as for Britain! We have continued to live with our air of sublime complacency that these things happen in other countries but not in ours. Have we so quickly forgotten the events of earlier this year? The street riots in London and a number of other of our cities! Shops, department stores, smashed, set on fire and robbed by not just the odd one or two, but the whole crowd. These things can't happen in Britain we might have earlier said but can say no longer!

Then waiting in the wings for us is a confrontation with the European Union. More reports from Europe that were broadcast on BBC television and radio as to the European attitude towards our prime minister in particular and Britain in general. You will know that France and Germany virtually forming a new axis are endeavouring to push forward a new arrangement of financing and governing the EU. The prime minister told Europe that unless we have arrangements made to allow us to opt out of the agreement, we will veto it.

That, in European eyes, is almost a declaration of war. We may get by it this time, but it will not be forgotten in Europe. Added to which we have broken just about every law of God, we have mocked Him, even the churches who pretend to worship Him, follow none of God's commandments. **As a result, this nation, once a Great Britain, is headed for an unprecedented time of trouble before the return of Jesus Christ.**

See John Jewell's other articles at:

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The Messiah told his disciples to "remember" him in his death, but there is not a word in scripture, from Genesis to Revelation, which tells us to celebrate his birth. Moreover, who knows exactly when, and in what month, he was born? The Bible is silent thereon. Not surprisingly then, the ancient Jews did not celebrate birthdays, regarding them as Pagan.

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HOIM does not necessarily endorse anything outside or beyond the testimony against the pagan practice of birthday keeping in, or from, any of the information or sources quoted in this article.

There is an affinity of such commemoration among the wicked as recorded in *The Satanic Bible* (Anton Szandor LaVey, (Air) *Book of Lucifer – The Enlightenment*, Avon Books, 1969, Ch XI, "Religious Holidays," p. 96) regarding Birthdays:

"The highest of all holidays in the Satanic religion is the date of one's own birthday. This is in direct contradiction to the holy of holy days of other religions, which deify a particular god who has been created in an anthropomorphic form of their own image, thereby showing that the ego is not really buried. The Satanist feels: 'Why not really be honest and if you are going to create a god in your image, why not create that god as yourself.' Every man is a god if he chooses to recognize himself as one. So, the Satanist celebrates his own birthday as the most important holiday of the year. After all, aren't you happier about the fact that you were born than you are about the birth of someone you have never even met? Or for that matter, aside from religious holidays, why pay higher tribute to the birthday of a president or to a date in history than we do to the day we were brought into this greatest of all worlds? Despite the fact that some of us may not have been wanted, or at least were not particularly planned, we're glad, even if no one else is, that we're here! You should give yourself a pat on the back, buy yourself whatever you want, treat yourself like the king (or god) that you are, and generally celebrate your birthday with as much pomp and ceremony as possible."

It is interesting that birthdays are considered the most important holiday to these Satan worshipers (the founding of their "church", called Walpurgisnacht, and Halloween are the other ones of importance to them).

Of course, early Christians did not celebrate birthdays nor did the early Jews. Nor have real Christians ever celebrated Halloween.

Origen of Alexandria, writing over two centuries after the death of Messiah follows this same line when he recorded a diatribe against the memories of birthdays, indicating that at the time of his writing, a day to remember the birth of the Messiah was not part of the church calendar. In his *Homilies on Leviticus*, speaking on the aspect of birth, Origen states:

"...not one from all the saints is found to have celebrated a festive day or a great feast on the day of his birth. No one is found to have had joy on the day of the birth of his son or daughter. Only sinners rejoice over this kind of birthday. For indeed we find in the Old Testament Pharaoh, king of Egypt, celebrating the day of his birth with a festival, and in the New Testament, Herod. However both of them stained the festival of his birth by shedding human blood.... But the saints not only do not celebrate a festival on their birth days, but, filled with the Holy Spirit, they curse that day (after the example of Job, Jeremiah and David)." (Barkley, *Homilies on Leviticus*: 1–16 / Origen, 1990, 156.)

What is the origin of birthday celebrations?

Birthday celebrations are actually rooted in paganism.

The *Encyclopedia Americana* (1991 edition) states:

"The ancient world of Egypt, Greece, Rome, and Persia celebrated the birthdays of gods, kings, and nobles."

Authors Ralph and Adelin Linton reveal the underlying reason for this. In their book *The Lore of Birthdays*, they write:

"Mesopotamia and Egypt, the cradles of civilization, were also the first lands in which men remembered and honoured their birthdays. The keeping of birthday records was important in ancient times principally because a birth date was essential for the casting of a horoscope."

So, there is a direct connection between the Pagan practice of birthday celebrations and astrology (horoscopes and fortune telling).

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Not surprisingly then, the ancient Jews did not celebrate birthdays, regarding them as Pagan.

Also, *The World Book Encyclopedia* (volume 3, page 416) states:

"The early Christians did not celebrate His [the Messiah's] birth because they considered the celebration of anyone's birth to be a pagan custom."

Down to the fourth century Christianity rejected the birthday celebration as a pagan custom.

To satiate this point, notice also the record of the first century historian Josephus: The Jews in the Messiah's Day knew YEHOVAH's attitude toward birthday celebrations, "Nay, indeed, the law does not permit us to make festivals at the births of our children" (Flavius Josephus, *Against Apion*, Book II, section 26).

History of Celebration of Birthdays in the West

It is thought that the large-scale celebration of birthdays in Europe began with the cult of Mithras, which originated in Persia but was spread by soldiers throughout the Roman Empire. Before this, such celebrations were not common; and, hence, practices from other contexts such as the Saturnalia were adapted for birthdays. Because many Roman soldiers took to Mithraism, it had a wide distribution and influence throughout the empire... (*Wikipedia*. Birthdays. July 12, 2007 version).

Christmas is also relevant because December 25th was the day of celebration of the birthday of the sun-god Mithra.

The *World Book Encyclopedia* notes,

"Christmas...In 354 A.D., Bishop Liberius of Rome ordered the people to celebrate on December 25. He probably chose this date because the people of Rome already observed it as the Feast of Saturn, celebrating the birthday of the sun" (Sechrist. Christmas. *World Book Encyclopedia*, Volume 3. 1966, pp. 408-417).

Long ago, the average person never paid any attention whatsoever to the anniversary of their birth. The initial pattern that developed concerned the celebrating of the birthday of their deity, once each year, at the winter solstice. This is the origin of Christmas, since the winter solstice was considered the "re-birth" or "birthday" of the solar deity (Natalis Sol Invictus, or the Nativity of Sol, the unconquerable). This alone marks the behavior as originating from the rebellion against YEHOVAH, Who is the one and only Elohim of Heaven and Earth. Remember that YEHOVAH commanded that we not learn the ways of the heathen (Dt. 12).

Later, people began to celebrate the annual birth of their king at the same time as their deity, aligning their ruler with the same honors given to their deity. In their minds, their ruler became an anthropomorphic version of their deity. In the east, average people slowly began to celebrate their personal "birth day" once each year on what they believed to be "new year's day." Eventually, people developed the custom of observing their personal birth day on the annual day they were actually born.

Christmas was not among the earliest festivals of the Church. Irenaeus and Tertullian omit it from their lists of feasts; Origen, glancing perhaps at the discreditable imperial *Natalitia*, asserts (in *Lev. Hom.* viii in Migne, P.G., XII, 495) that in the Scriptures sinners alone, not saints, celebrate their birthday; Arnobius (VII, 32 in P.L., V, 1264) can still ridicule the "birthdays" of the gods.

In their essay titled *Birthdays, Jewishly*, Lisa Farber Miller and Sandra Widener point out that the *Encyclopedia Judaica* is very blunt on this topic:

"The celebration of birthdays is unknown in traditional Jewish ritual."

Originally, even as more and more Gentiles began to profess the Messiah (so much so that they outnumbered those of Jewish heritage that did), the early Gentile leaders also did not endorse the celebration of birthdays. No early church writer endorsed the observance of birthdays by Christians, nor are they ever listed in the early observances of the Christian church.

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Therefore, the celebration of birthdays, was clearly not part of "the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints" (Jude 3).

No early religious/church writing from the second century that I have seen (and I have read most that are available) seems to endorse (or even suggest) the celebration of birthdays by any who professed the Messiah. Although he was not part of the Ecclesia of YEHOVAH God, the writings of the early third century Catholic theologian Origen of Alexandria show that, even that late, Orthodox Catholics were against the celebration of birthdays. The **Catholic Encyclopedia** states:

"Origen, glancing perhaps at the discreditable imperial Natalitia, asserts (in Lev. Hom. viii in Migne, P.G., XII, 495) that in the Scriptures sinners alone, not saints, celebrate their birthday" (Martindale C. Christmas, 1908).

Christmas is coming! Quite so: but what is "Christmas?" Does not the very term itself denote its source -- "Christ-mass." Thus it is of Roman origin, brought over from paganism. But, says someone, Christmas is the time when we commemorate the Savior's birth. It is? And WHO authorized such commemoration? Certainly, YEHOVAH God did not.

The Messiah bade his disciples "remember" him in his death, but there is not a word in scripture, from Genesis to Revelation, which tells us to celebrate his birth. Moreover, who knows when, in what month, he was born? The Bible is silent thereon. It is without reason that the only "birthday" commemorations mentioned in YEHOVAH's Word are Pharaoh's (Genesis 40:20) and Herod's (Matthew 14:6)? Is this recorded "for our learning?" If so, have we prayerfully taken it to heart?

See HOIM Staff's other articles at:

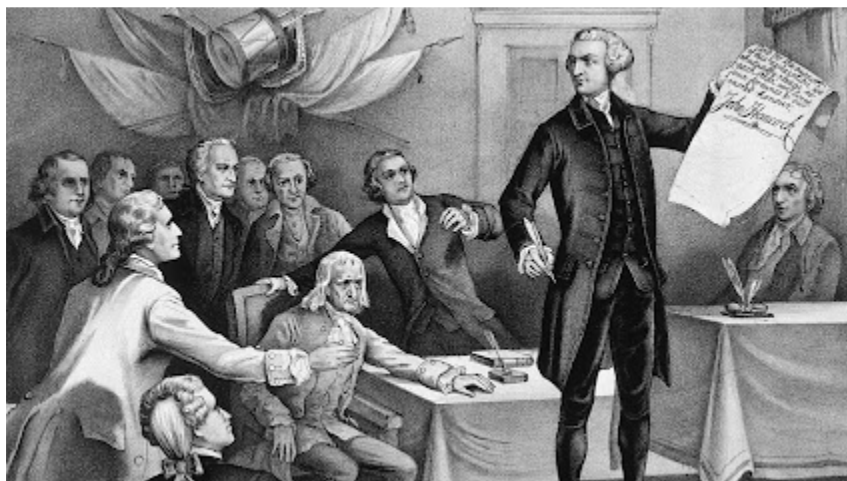
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America's Pro-Jewish Founding Fathers

(Copyright) by Eddie Hyatt (Grapevine, Texas)



"The Hebrews have done more to civilize men than any other nation. If I were an atheist, and believed blind eternal fate, I should still believe that fate had ordained the Jews to be the most essential instrument for civilizing

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the nations.”

These are the words of John Adams, America’s 2nd president. His words are expressive of the pro-Jewish sentiment that prevailed among America’s Founding Fathers and throughout the nation at the time of its founding. This respect was rooted in their view of history and the positive role they believed the Jews had played in world history.

The Hebrew Influence on Early America

Many of the early immigrants to America considered themselves a Second Israel and England as their Egypt from which they had fled to the New England wilderness to find freedom. It is, therefore, not surprising that they looked to the story of Israel in the Old Testament for guidance and inspiration.

This respect for Old Testament Israel, led to colonial colleges such as Harvard, Yale, and Princeton all offering courses in Hebrew. Several students at Yale delivered their commencement speeches in Hebrew. At the time, Hebrew was not offered in any university in England.

In his excellent book, *On Two Wings: Humble Faith and Common Sense at the American Founding*, the late Michal Novak documents this influence of the Old Testament on America’s founding generation. He says,

Practically all American Christians erected their main arguments about political life from materials in the Jewish Testament. Early American Protestants loved the stories of the Jewish Testament, and from them took many names for their children For all these reasons the language of Judaism came to be the language of the American metaphysic—the unspoken background to a special American vision of nature, history, and the destiny of the human race.

This love for the Jewish Old Testament was confirmed by a ten-year study to determine where the Founders got their ideas for nation building. The study discovered that they quoted the Bible far more than any other source, and they quoted Deuteronomy more than any other biblical book.

It is then not surprising that Jews were welcomed in July 4th celebrations from the very beginning. Benjamin Rush, a Philadelphia physician and signer of the Declaration of Independence, was delighted to see a Jewish rabbi given such open acceptance in a July 4th parade in Philadelphia. Rush, who was a devout Christian, wrote,

The rabbi of the Jews locked in the arms of two ministers of the Gospel was a most delightful sight. There could not have been a more happy emblem of that section of the Constitution, which opens all its power and offices alike, not only to every sect of Christians, but to worthy men of every religion.

George Washington’s Pro-Jewish Stance

In 1790, George Washington visited the Touro Synagogue in Newport, Rhode Island where he was warmly received by this Hebrew congregation. In his official welcome, Moses Seixas compared the Revolutionary War to the struggles of ancient Israel and Washington to King David and to Daniel, saying,

With pleasure we reflect on those days—those days of difficulty, & danger when the God of Israel, who delivered David from the peril of the sword, shielded your head in the day of battle: and we rejoice to think, that the same Spirit who rested in the Bosom of the greatly beloved Daniel enabling him to preside over the Provinces of the Babylonish Empire. rests and ever will rest upon you, enabling you to discharge the arduous duties of Chief Magistrate in these States.

Washington was obviously moved by these sentiments and responded that same day with a letter in which he addressed the members of this congregation as “children of the stock of Abraham.” He assured them that life would be different in the new nation for all who had fled religious tyranny. They would not experience mere toleration, he said, for religious toleration would give way to religious liberty.

He reassured them that because of America’s commitment to religious liberty they could expect to experience the words of the Old Testament prophet, who in Micah 4:4 said, *Each one shall sit in safety under his own vine and fig-tree and there shall be none to make him afraid.* Washington went on to say,

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For happily the Government of the United States gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance, requires only that they who live under its protection should demean themselves as good citizens, in giving it on all occasions their effectual support.

Yaari Taal, of George Washington University, says that Washington’s remarks to this congregation established a precedent for protecting religious liberty and pluralism in the United States that persists to this day.

Antisemitism is Anti-American

Early America’s embrace of the Jewish people resulted in America becoming a haven for persecuted Jews from all over the world. This resulted in America becoming home to the largest Jewish population in the world. This remained true until 2003 when the Jewish population in Israel finally surpassed that in America,

It is, therefore, disheartening to see the antisemitism that has erupted on college campuses and in the large cities of America. Such antisemitism is completely out of sync with America’s Founding Fathers. Such Jewish hatred had no place at America’s founding and should be given no place in America today. Antisemitism is truly Anti-American.

See Eddie Hyatt’s other articles at:

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

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A Warning to America! (Fiction)
(Copyright 2006) by Richard Markland (London, Ohio)

In the year 2015, American resistance to the loss of personal and national freedoms has caused unrest in cities throughout the country. Could the following scenario become a reality when Homeland Security measures outrage a sector of America who has finally said enough is enough?

Fifty-Six Insurgents Killed In Dayton, Ohio
[The Dayton Journal, August 27, 2015](#)

Hundreds of rioters angered by security measures enforced by the Department of National Security rampaged through the western section of Dayton, Ohio yesterday, burning businesses, banks and state security vehicles.

State security forces killed 32 of the rioters. The most prominent leader of the insurgency, William Curtis, was also killed in his fortified hideout on W. Third Street. At least 24 suspected supporters were also killed in a blow to the long-running Ohio resistance movement.

Over 2,000 rioters were arrested after rampaging overnight through the western section of the city, defying a round-the-clock curfew imposed three days ago, said General Sullivan Kruse, Ohio's state security chief.

Violence also spread throughout various parts of Ohio. The western section of Dayton is one of 12 Ohio cities that have reported unrest over recent security measures enforced by Governor Reed. Last night, the governor's office reported rioters in Cleveland pelted cars with bricks and ignited tires in various parts of the city. Extra paramilitary forces were deployed.

National Security spokesman Maj. Gen. James Faust said sixteen soldiers were killed in the Dayton insurgency. But a top official, who declined to be named, said only 4 soldiers, including one officer, was killed.

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Carter and his supporters were killed when the roof collapsed under heavy fire, said the minister of state information, Thomas Khan. No bodies have been retrieved so far.

Carter, 42, a former human rights activist, was a prominent statewide leader for the Ohio branch of the "Restore America" movement since 2011. He turned against the government amid disputes over security measures taken under the U.S. Patriot Act.

Carter's son-in-law, Samuel Parke, denounced the governor's action and threatened retaliation.

"This is a tragic incident for those who are sick and tired of the loss of individual and national freedom," Parke told The Dayton Journal from a phone located in a temporary hideout. "We consider my father-in-law a martyr. He stood up for those who demand freedom, going out while fighting for the rights of everyone."

Months of low-level conflict in cities throughout the U.S. have increased in intensity and have flared into large-scale clashes throughout the country. Hostilities escalated in Ohio three weeks ago when insurgents fired rockets that landed about 400 yards from Governor Faust while he was visiting the state branch of The Department Of National Security. Carter went into hiding shortly afterward.

In recent weeks, the governor's office has said scores of followers loyal to Carter have increased attacks upon state authorities as security forces stepped up attacks against pockets of resistance.

The governor's office accused Carter of ordering attacks on statewide security installations, including high security zones restricted to the public.

See Richard Markland's other articles at:

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Tocotrienol Benefits

(Copyright 2024) by Dwight Fleming (Oroville, California)

I came across this interview with Dr. Barrie Tan last night. In this interview, he is asked about the effects that Tocotrienols have on **cancer**. He relates some positive news. However, since clinical trials have not been completed with humans, Dr. Tan cannot make any claims that Tocotrienols will eradicate or cure cancer. He can only relate what it has done in animal or lab studies regarding cancer.

He does share stories of those who have had positive results with Tocotrienols acting on their various cancers. Of course, everyone is different. So not everyone will have the same results. There are other factors to consider, such as diet, exposure to toxins or pollution, stress and other personal health issues.

As Dr. Tan points out, Tocotrienols are a **lipid** antioxidant. Since the walls of our cells are made of fat, this is why Tocotrienols are effective in protecting our cells. But there are other antioxidants that are also important, such as vitamin C and Alpha Lipoic Acid among others. With Alpha Lipoic Acid, I have learned that the R-Lipoic Acid or R-Fraction Alpha Lipoic Acid may be the better form to take. Check out this link:

[Alpha Lipoic Acid vs R Lipoic Acid: Unveiling the Key Differences - Hopewell Life Sciences \(hopewell-life.com\)](http://hopewell-life.com)

There are many health challenges that we must deal with in our modern age. Tocotrienols and other antioxidants are only one part in any healthy routine that we choose to follow. Our spiritual health is the most important area that we need to maintain. Sooner or later, our bodies will break down and fail us despite our best efforts.

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"For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens" (2 Corinthians 5:1).

Here is the link to Dr. Barrie Tan's interview: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TCw_V-1p_F0

See Dwight Fleming's other articles at:
[Fleming, Dwight – Church of God, Bismarck \(church-of-god-bismarck.org\)](http://church-of-god-bismarck.org)

Water Bath Canning Meat Like Deer, etc. – How To **(2023) Sent by James Steinle (Swanville, Minnesota)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bDH1r9qOHGs> 6.09 MIN. VIDEO

This is for those who do not have a pressure canner or who do not like to use one. (Note the USDA does not recommend water canning, however the video reports they have successfully used this method for three generations with no sickness. Other commenters report the same. Use your own good judgment.)

SYNOPSIS

Pack raw meat (like 1-inch cubes approx.) with a wooden spoon into a clean quart or pint jar up to top of shoulder level; getting airspace out; leaving just a little room at top.

Add 3/4 teaspoon canning salt on top of meat before boiling. May also use onions in the raw meat to help flavor if desired; (MY thoughts: likely other things also if wanted, like garlic).

At 800 ft elevation, this guy boils 3 hours (start timing when it actually is a rolling boil). If significantly higher elevation, boil appropriately longer. Keep an extra supply of boiling water available to make sure boiling water always keeps above the lids as the bath continues.

Always use boiled new lids; ring can be reused (wipe each lid, ring with vinegar/water solution to kill any bacteria). After boiling make sure the rings are tight. Let cool. Tap the lids a couple weeks later to make sure lids are still tight to the jar. If it moves or releases, the product may have to be discarded.

Per comments below video, water bath canning can also be used for vegetables.

See James Steinle's other articles at:
[Steinle, James – Church of God, Bismarck \(church-of-god-bismarck.org\)](http://church-of-god-bismarck.org)

Concerns Raised About Increased Capability of China's Navy **(Copyright 2023) by Richard Markland (London, Ohio)**

The Democratic Party is in chaos due to a president in decline, both mentally and physically. Americans have become angry and deeply concerned about the lack of strong leadership in Washington. It is glaringly obvious the United States is an inept superpower. Major shifts are coming as America's enemies assert themselves and civil unrest is dividing the nation as never before.

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While politics dominates the news in the United States, little is reported on the major shifts taking place geopolitically. China knows the U.S. is distracted by politics, the economy, and the war in the Middle East. Ukraine, which is adding to the \$32 trillion national debt has become a war without end, yet the U.S. keeps draining the nation's coffers with no accountability for where the money is going. China knows the United States can't protect Taiwan as it has promised, yet the U.S. naively says it will. America's number one nemesis knows time is on its side. The Asian menace is rapidly becoming an unmatched global military challenge, but the United States only talks about the dangers. America would do well to realize that it is following in the footsteps of ancient Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome. All were at one time unmatched military superpowers, but eventually collapsed as world empires.

See Richard Markland's other articles at:

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

Garden

(Copyright 2022) by Richard Markland (London, Ohio)



See Richard Markland's other articles at:

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

Letters

Letter from William P. Goff (January 20, 2024)
Donor Letter and Prayer Request

Thank you, Laura, this was wonderful of you to post this.
Bill

Iron Sharpening Iron In regard to: Is Yayahua God (Part 1)

Article by James & Patt Steinle
Comments by Avram Yehoshua (Tulsa, Oklahoma),
Laura Lee (Bismarck, North Dakota) & Darwin Lee (Bismarck, North Dakota)

Avram writes:

One question for you Laura: If we have God the **Father** and God the **Son**, what is missing from this obvious "Family" with a Father and a Son? A force? An "essence"? The terms father and son **obviously** speak of a family. The answer to the question is that "a mother" is missing from this father/son relationship. Can you see that? If there is a father and a son there has to be a mother.

Laura writes:

God the Father and Christ the Son have no beginning and no end. They exist in eternity, something that is very hard for any of us to imagine at this time. If Christ had no beginning and no end, then the Father also had no beginning and no end.

What you are trying to do is apply how Christ created humans to the existence of the Father and the Son and I don't think you can do that because they are God's and not humans.

Psa 90:2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even **from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.**

Psa 106:48 Blessed *be* the **LORD God of Israel from everlasting to everlasting:** and let all the people say, Amen. Praise ye the LORD.

Isa 40:28 Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard *that* **the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth,** fainteth not, neither is weary? *there is* no searching of his understanding.

When you become a spirit being you will not pro create so why would the Father and the Son pro create.

Mat 22:28 Therefore in the resurrection whose wife shall she be of the seven? for they all had her. **Mat 22:29** Jesus answered and said unto them, **Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God.** **Mat 22:30** **For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven.**

Mar 12:23 In the resurrection therefore, when they shall rise, whose wife shall she be of them? for the seven had her to wife. **Mar 12:24** And Jesus answering said unto them, **Do ye not therefore err, because ye know not the scriptures, neither the power of God?** **Mar 12:25** **For when they shall rise from the dead, they neither marry, nor are given in marriage; but are as the angels which are in heaven.**

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Throughout the Bible God is called the Father and Christ is called the Son because God the Father through His Power/Essence impregnated Mary a human and Mary gave birth to a human Christ. This is your family with a Father, Mother and Son. Throughout the Old Testament they are generally not referred to as Father and Son unless it is a prophetic scripture. The New Testament is full of scriptures referring to the Father and Son, because of Christ's human birth.

Avram writes:

Laura, saying that the Trinity is false doesn't make it so. Jesus Himself spoke of the Holy Spirit being "a Person" when He said in John 14:16, "And I will pray the Father, and He will give you **another** Helper (Greek: Parakletos), that **He** (literally "She" in Hebrew) may abide with you forever." Jesus was the "present" Helper or Comforter when He spoke that in Israel, but when Jesus left, the Holy Spirit came: the "other" Comforter.

Laura writes:

There is no place in scripture where the Holy Spirit is called a person. Even here in John 14:16 it clearly shows that the Holy Spirit is an essence that is in the Father, the Son and now in those that God is calling. A person is not going to be in you. God the Father and Christ the Son are connected to those being called because the Holy Spirit dwells in all three mentioned here.

Joh 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments. 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 14:17 *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.** Joh 14:18 I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you. Joh 14:19 Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also. Joh 14:20 **At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.** Joh 14:21 He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

Avram writes:

Either Jesus is a Person and so is the Holy Spirit, or Jesus is just an essence of God, like your Holy Spirit, Laura. They both cannot be Comforters or Helpers, with one being a Person, but the other only being "an essence." (As for most English translations speaking of the Holy Spirit as a "He," which obviously is a Person, the Greek word for "he, she and it" are all the same (Greek: autos), and so it's left up to the English translator to put in he/she, or it. Note well: No English translation of the Bible, that I know of, has "it" for the Holy Spirit, which a Bible would have to have if any translator thought the Holy Spirit was just the essence of God the Father and not a Person.

Also, if the Holy Spirit is "the essence of God," as you write Laura, and is just a part of God the Father, why did this "essence" show up at Messiah's Baptism in water as a separate entity? In other words, why were there Three Persons at Yeshua's Baptism, one of them being the Dove, the Holy Spirit, if the Holy Spirit is just an extension or essence of the Father?

"And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a Dove upon Him (Jesus), and a Voice came from Heaven which said, "You are My beloved Son! In You I am well pleased!" (Luke 3:22)

Laura writes:

Christ is a Spirit and someday you will also become a spirit being. So yes, Christ came to earth and was born of Mary as a human baby and grew into a human man. While Christ was on earth, he was given God's Spirit/Power without measure. These two verses are talking about the Holy Spirit:

Joh 3:34 For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure *unto him*. (KJV)

Joh 3:34 for he whom God sent, the sayings of God he speaketh; for not by measure doth God give the Spirit; (YLT)

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As you should be able to see in context of these two verses that the Holy Spirit is not a person or Christ would have been walking the earth with this Holy Spirit person and He was not because the Holy Spirit was inside Him. The Holy Spirit is a part of Christ just like it is a part of God the Father. When people are called by God they receive the Holy Spirit which dwells inside them, not on the outside as another person would dwell. And a dove is not a person.

Avram writes:

The Father was "the Voice," and the Son of course was Yeshua, and the Dove was the Holy Spirit. Three, not Two. Scripture literally speaks of the Holy Spirit descending as a Dove. One can call the Holy Spirit "the essence of God," not a Person, but why was this "essence" even there? Again, in any family on Earth there is always a father and a mother (and a son or a daughter). Never is there only two men; a father and his son.

Laura writes:

If you have to ask why was the essence even there then you have no understanding of how people are called by God. When we are called by God, we are baptized in water and then we receive the Holy Spirit which leads us into all truth. The essence/Holy Spirit was there because Christ was being baptized.

Most of what you are trying to tell me is nonsense. God the Father and Christ have no beginning and no end. They have existed forever. You want to make the Holy Spirit into a person instead of being the essence and power of God and Christ. You are trying to tell us that the Holy Spirit is Christ's Mother but all you can show for a person is a Dove. So, are we all to believe that God the Father, Christ His Son and the Holy Spirit His Mother are a family of Doves which you then call people? Do you even see how weird that sounds?

I tried to tell you before that all humans have what they call a "Human Spirit". Now does that "Human Spirit" reside inside of us or outside of us? Do you have a "Human Spirit" walking around beside you like another person?

God the Father and Christ also have a spirit which dwells inside of them. It is called the "Holy Spirit". The "Holy Spirit" is the POWER of God and Christ. They use this "Holy Spirit" to create a family from humans that dwell on earth by giving those who are called the "Holy Spirit". We do not get the Holy Spirit in full measure as Christ did. If we use the Holy Spirit as we should to lead us into all truth, then what we have of the Holy Spirit grows inside of us until we are ready to be turned into spirit beings. If we do not use the Holy Spirit, then eventually the part that we received at baptism will disappear.

God the Father and Christ are Spirit Beings. The Holy Spirit is the Essence/Power of God the Father and Christ His Son.

Avram writes:

THREE PERSONS—ONE GOD?

How can the Three (the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit) be one God? Some Christians, realizing the logical enigma of the question, wrongly teach that the Father became or manifested Himself as Jesus, and that the Holy Spirit is not a person, but just a force or power, that is to say, the 'spirit' or 'essence' of God the Father. To illustrate this they use the concept of water being liquid at room temperature, but turning to ice or steam under different temperatures. Their understanding of how the Three are one God sounds reasonable, but most Christian theologians rightly reject this heresy called Modalism, even though they can't explain, in simple, biblical terms, how the Three Persons are one God; not Three (or Two) Gods.

Laura writes:

The church of God does not teach a trinity doctrine, nor do we believe that the Holy Spirit is a person. God the Father and Christ the Son are both separate spirit beings with the Holy Spirit dwelling inside them just as the human spirit dwells inside man. The Holy Spirit is the spirit and power of God the Father and Christ His Son. God the Father and Christ His Son are one in purpose but are still two separate spirit beings with the Holy Spirit dwelling inside them.

Avram writes:

Searching God's Word for His Truth on this matter we'll see that the Three are distinct and divine Persons in Their own right, and yet, one God. We'll also see that the Holy Spirit is the feminine Person of the Three. To help us realize these two points we'll look at:

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1. the Creation of Man,
2. the words of Yeshua (the Hebrew name for Jesus) about Himself and the Holy Spirit,
3. Dt. 6:4 (the first part of the great commandment of love called the Shema in Hebrew),
4. Hebrew and Greek grammar,
5. Proverbs,
6. the ancient Eastern Church in Syria,
7. and yes, even Paganism.

THE BIBLICAL KEY TO UNDERSTANDING

The biblical key to understanding that the Three divine Persons are one God lies in realizing that Man (Adam and Eve; Gen. 5:1-2; and then their son Cain; Gen. 4:1) is a divine reflection or picture of the Three heavenly Beings. God (the Father) in Genesis 1:26 says (speaking to the Holy Spirit and the Son), ‘Let Us make Man in Our image and likeness.’ Image and likeness primarily speak of how Man came into existence and that the nature of the three earthly beings is identical (human nature).

Laura writes:

Gen 5:1 This *is* the book of the generations of Adam. In the day that God created man, in the likeness of God made he him; **Gen 5:2** Male and female created he them; and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created.

Gen 4:1 And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD.

Gen 1:26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

The above verses only mention God, more than one God. They do not say anything about the Holy Spirit.

Avram writes:

Projecting this picture unto the Heavens, the Father, unlike Adam who was created, has always existed. Even though the Creation account doesn't tell us, Yeshua says that the Holy Spirit came forth from the Father (John 15:26), words which Jesus speaks about Himself (cf. Jn. 16:27-28; 17:8), and which are similar to how Eve came forth from Adam. With Adam and Eve we have two distinct human beings, and yet, they are one in the very real sense that Eve literally came from Adam, and is exactly like him in his human nature, but obviously different, and yet, remains one with Adam, even though separate from him. Scripture affirms this oneness when it says:

“Therefore, a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become (be or they are) *1* one flesh.” (Gen. 2:24; cf. 1st Cor. 12:12-14; Eph. 5:31-31)

Laura writes:

You do realize this Comforter is being sent to those who are called by the Father, to lead them into truth and will testify of Christ (His Kingdom, His Laws, His Truth etc. etc.) This Comforter will be inside of those who are called and not walking around on the outside of them following them around like a person would. And of course it proceedeth from the Father, after all it is His spirit and His power.

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:*

Avram writes:

Genesis 2:24 speaks of the two becoming or rather being one flesh, symbolically suggesting that the oneness of marriage is a throwback to the prototypical literal oneness that Eve had with Adam before ‘coming forth’ from him, and still had, even after she was her own person. Yeshua spoke of this oneness that a man has with his wife, and vice-versa, that is more than just sexual:

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“And Yeshua answered and said to them, ‘Have you not read that He who made them at the Beginning ‘made them male and female,’ and He said, ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two are one flesh’? So then, they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, let not man separate.” (Matthew 19:4-6)

With Yeshua saying that ‘they are no longer two, but one flesh,’ a married couple take on the characteristic of oneness that the first human couple had, both before and after Eve came forth from Adam.

Laura writes:

A husband and wife are one in purpose. Just like God the Father and Christ are one in purpose.

Joh 17:21 That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. Joh 17:22 And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: Joh 17:23 I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

Avram writes:

EVE—A REFLECTION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Scripture opens with the declarative chapter ‘heading’ or title of the Book, that God, the God of Israel, made the Heavens and the Earth. The rest of the chapter tells us how that came about and what happened. In verse 2 we see the Spirit of God brooding or literally fluttering like a bird over the waters, which waters we’ll see pictures the Father.*2* Where and how the Spirit came upon the scene isn’t spoken of in Genesis, but Yeshua says that the Holy Spirit proceeded or came forth from the Father.*3* Even though we now have two divine Beings in Gen. 1:2, the Father, pictured in the Waters, and the Holy Spirit, the Two are one God because the Spirit literally came forth from the Father, as Eve came forth from Adam. Scripture speaks of the two as male and female and yet, as “Man.”

Even though Adam and Eve were obviously two different human beings, they had the exact same nature (human). Adam’s human nature wasn’t diminished when Eve came forth from him. The Father’s deity wasn’t diminished when the Spirit came forth from Him, and consequently, the deity of the Holy Spirit isn’t less than the Father’s deity any more than the humanity of Eve was less than Adam’s humanity. Both Adam and Eve were two separate and distinct human beings, yet Scripture calls them (one) Man. Comparing them to their heavenly counterparts we see two divine Persons (the Father and the Spirit), but one God:

“This is the book of the genealogy of Adam. In the day that God created Man, *He made him in the likeness of God*. He created them male and female, and blessed them and called them Man, in the day they were created.” (Genesis 5:1-2)

Adam reflects God the Father, and Eve is a reflection of the Holy Spirit. When Adam and Eve came together their union begot Cain. The three human beings were truly one, as Eve came from Adam, and Cain came from Adam and Eve. When the Father speaks for the first time in Scripture (Gen. 1:3), in union with the Holy Spirit, which is seen as fluttering over the living Waters of the Father; Yeshua, the Word of God, comes forth from the Father and the Spirit, similar to how Cain came forth from the union of Adam and Eve. The Three divine Beings are one God, just as it’s written that Adam and Eve (and Cain) are one. The oneness of Cain with his parents is self-evident—he being the product of their union and literally coming forth from them and having the exact human nature as they had.

When the Father, in Genesis 1:3, speaks and says, ‘Let there be light!,’ we know that it wasn’t the light of the sun, moon and stars because they weren’t created until Day Four (Gen. 1:14-19). The Light of Day One was God’s spoken, living Word, whom we know as Yeshua—The Word of God and the Light of the world, which the Apostle John speaks of (John 1:1-9; 8:12; Rev. 19:13). The sun is (only) a natural, created reflection or picture of Yeshua as the Light.

Neither the Spirit nor the Son were created. Both the Spirit and the Son were within God the Father from eternity past, similar to how Eve and Cain were ‘in’ Adam before they came forth.

Hopefully now, it’s easy to see that the Father didn’t ‘become’ the Son, but rather the Son is His own Person, separate from the Father (and the Spirit) and yet one with the Father and the Spirit; having the same nature as They and literally

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coming forth from Them. Also, the Holy Spirit is not just a force nor just the 'spirit' of God, but the Spirit of God, the Second Person of the God Family, as Eve was the second person of the first human family.

The Three divine Beings are one God in that the Holy Spirit literally came forth from the Father, and that the Son literally came forth from the Father and the Holy Spirit, just as Eve came forth from Adam, and Cain came forth from their union. This is the biblical picture that Scripture gives us of how the Three are one God.

Laura writes:

I am not sure which part of this you do not understand. You are teaching a false doctrine. The Holy Spirit is the Power of God, His Spirit. It is not His wife. When you make the Holy Spirit into God's wife you are denying the Power of God, you've taken His Power and Spirit away from Him and made it into a separate person. It is a very false doctrine and there is no place in scripture where it says the Holy Spirit is a person.

In regard to your calling the Holy Spirit she, perhaps this will help:

Greek Gender Problems:

Much of the confusion among English-speaking peoples (and in English translations of the Bible) regarding the nature of the Holy Spirit centers on the Greek language's use of gender pronouns. Greek, like the Latin-based Romance languages (Spanish, French, Italian, etc.), uses a specific gender for each noun. Every object, animate or inanimate, is referred to as being either masculine, feminine or neuter.

In these and other languages, a noun's gender is usually arbitrary and has nothing to do with whether it in reality refers to something masculine or feminine. For example, in French a book, *livre*, takes the masculine pronoun in speech and is referred to as a "he." Likewise in German a girl, *mädchen*, is referred to in the neuter sense as an "it" and the Latin farmer, *agricola*, would have been referred to as a "she" since it is a feminine noun. By contrast, English nouns use pronouns that are directly related to the meaning of the noun, whether masculine, feminine or neuter.

In the New Testament, the words used most often in reference to the Holy Spirit are a mixture of masculine and neuter. The Greek word *parakletos* is translated "Comforter" or "Helper." The comforter that Christ promised He would send to the disciples in the 14th, 15th and 16th chapters of John is a masculine word and thus would be referred to by the pronouns "he," "him," "his" and "himself" throughout those chapters. However, this is strictly a grammatical tool and not a statement on the nature of the Holy Spirit.

The other word used most often of the Holy Spirit is the Greek word *pneuma*. It is translated as "breath" or "spirit" and means breath, breeze, wind or spirit. It is the root of our modern word "pneumatic", meaning pertaining to or operated by air or wind. *Pneuma* is a grammatically neuter word and thus should be referred to in English by such neuter terms as "it," "its" or "itself."

The translators of the King James Version, influenced by their own belief in the Trinity doctrine, generally mistranslated pronouns referring to *pneuma* as masculine rather than neuter. There are a few exceptions in the KJV in which the translation was properly handled, such as **Romans 8:16**, "*The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God.*"

Later English translations of the Bible, following the lead of the King James Version, translated references to the Holy Spirit as masculine, thus it is almost always referred to as "he" or "him" in modern versions.

From "The Trinity – Examined" by Terry Bruns found in Issue No. 155

"The Trinity – Examined" is an excellent article which explains why the Holy Spirit is not a person and why we don't teach that it is. It also explains the "Unpardonable Sin" which is when you deny the Power of God. The Holy Spirit is what leads you into all truth. It is the Power of God working in us to convert us so we can live forever with God. If you deny that Power working inside of you, there is nothing more that God can do for you. You will be lost. When you make the Holy Spirit into God's wife then you are denying the Power of God.

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FOOTNOTES

*1*This is what the Hebrew actually states, and also, Yeshua affirms this in Mt. 19:6.

*2*We'll see that the waters of Genesis 1:2 speak of God the Father, in the section, What Waters? p. 10.

3'But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of Truth, who proceeds from the Father, She shall testify of Me.' (John 15:26 from the Hebrew)

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

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