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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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**Starting Our Second Year This Week!**  
**THANK YOU to Everyone who has contributed to this Newsletter!**

**Articles**

**Did Noah Have a Rain Gauge?**  
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**What were the waters in the firmament that finally came down to earth? In what form were they before they came to earth?**

An interesting question now presents itself for our attention. If 15 cubits of water (276 inches of rainfall) descended upon earth, from where did that water have its origin? That is what we want to determine if possible, and it may be shown in the Bible itself. Since the results of the flood, according to Moses, were worldwide in extent, it can reasonably be believed that there was a uniform (or practically so) amount of rainfall over the whole of the globe during the time of the flood. After all, Moses tells us that all life in which there was the breath of air perished in this prodigious downpouring. Great amounts of water must have been located somewhere above the earth and somehow encircling it. Indeed, this is what Moses tells us in the first creation account.

On the second day of God's creation plan, he separated the waters which were above the firmament. This is a term which in the Bible describes any region from the surface of the earth (the lithosphere) into the outermost parts of space, even where lunar and other planetary bodies exist. This watery reservoir is depicted in the Book of Genesis in the same way as the oceans and this seems to show that it was some kind of watery mass above the earth which was quite visible from earth. From the account of Moses, it could be understood that this water was either in a liquid or a solid (frozen) state. See Genesis 1:6-10.

Since Moses tells us in chapters seven and eight of Genesis that the "**windows** (or floodgates) **of heaven**" were opened to cause 276 inches of water to descend to earth (and he further says that those 15 cubits of water came "**from above**"), this would indicate that much of this watery mass once visible from earth is no longer in its former position above the earth. This water which was once in space has come to earth and is now part of the oceans and is found in some of the basin areas of the world. This must be the case because, let's face it, no one since the time of the flood has recorded being able to look into the heavens to see this massive reservoir of water located within the planetary environment of this earth. But in the first chapter of Genesis, Moses seems to show that this watery reservoir could be seen in the pre-flood period.

There is one important point to be aware of in regard to this watery mass. Since Moses recorded that the sun, moon and even the stars (those normally visible to the naked eye) were capable of being seen by the fourth day of creation (Genesis 1:14-19), this watery reservoir could not have been some kind of canopy or mantle that surrounded the complete sphere of the earth. Stars (which were part of the heavenly host that helped to give signs on earth and to determine periods of time—Genesis 1:14) would normally not be seen through such a watery mantle—unless there were extensive breaks or clear areas in various parts of the canopy.

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But what was this watery reservoir located above the earth? Is there some kind of indication in the Bible that might identify it in greater detail to inform us what it really was? Yes, there is. And interestingly, the account in which it occurs also speaks about the increase of ocean water (the shorelines leaving their former positions and coming more inland) at a time when the wicked were destroyed from the earth. This is found in a section of Scripture in which God is speaking about his creative and judgmental powers in matters dealing with the physical attributes of nature within the heavens and the earth. It is an account recorded in Job 38:8-16. Let us notice it.

The Bible describes an event in which wicked men were destroyed out of the earth (job 38:13, 15), so this time of destruction had to have occurred since the time of Adam—the first man. The destruction also had to have happened before the time of Job (about a hundred years before the birth of Moses) because God called Job's attention to it. Job was fully aware of this major judgment of God. And interestingly, this judgment involved the waters of the oceans as well as waters above the oceans. This record in the Book of Job speaks of a time when God had set the boundaries of the oceans (the shorelines had been established) at the time the original waters of the oceans **"burst forth from the womb"** (Job 38:8). This could have been a poetic reference to the **"fountains of the deep"** mentioned by Moses in Genesis 7:11 from whence came the original waters that made up the oceans from the time of Adam until the flood of Noah.

But then something happened. While the original oceans had clouds associated with them, there was something else connected with the oceans called (in the Book of Job) the **"thick darkness"** that resembled a **"swaddling band"** (Job 38:9). What was this band-like "darkness" that was positioned somewhere above the oceans?

Lange's Commentary says that the Hebrew word that describes this "band" is so unique and emphatic that only the deepest darkness can adequately illustrate its essential meaning. Besides that, the Commentary informs us that the Hebrew word has the connotation of a "dropping or distillation" and that it denotes **"a kind of flowing or floating darkness having some kind of black visibility"** (Lange's *Commentary*, vol. IV, p.155, italics theirs). This mass of "whatever it was" appeared as a swath of intense darkness (looking like a swaddling band) that was located over the oceans and its blackness (or perhaps its shadow) was clearly visible to people on earth. Indeed, there is a certain mysteriousness about the meaning of the word. The scholars who wrote Lange's Commentary did not know what was being described by this account in the Book of Job. They felt compelled to transliterate the Hebrew which indicated an "intensely dark band." They simply rendered it: **"The dark araphel for its swaddling band"** (Job 38:9).

What was this dark band over the oceans called in Hebrew **"the araphel."** Whatever it was, the light of the sun, moon and stars could not penetrate through its mass simply because the Book of Job said that it somehow presented the aspect of a "black band" located above the earth. Yet in some way it was associated with water. It was some kind of *flowing* or *floating* darkness which had to do with the dropping of liquid by some kind of distillation process. This would be the meaning if one is allowed to wring every bit of meaning out of the word *araphel*. Certainly, water was associated with it, and it was primarily situated above some part of the oceans.

But then something happened to this **"dark araphel."** After stating that it looked like a swaddling band over the oceans, Job 38:10 says: **"And I broke my boundary [or, decree] for it."** The King James translates it: **"And brake up for it my decreed place."** This shows that the decree of God that kept the *araphel* in place over the oceans was rescinded (he broke down the barrier for its place). This resulted in the shorelines of the oceans (as the next verse shows) being changed because new **"bars and doors"** had to be made for those ocean areas.

In Hebrew the use of the term **"bars and doors"** for the oceans simply means their shorelines or their coasts. So, what we see in this section of job is a description of the former **"doors"** (shorelines) of the original oceans (verse eight) being disturbed by God breaking up the decreed place for **"the dark araphel"** (verse nine). This brought about new **"bars and doors"** for the oceans (verse ten). Or, as it says in the King James' Version: **"Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further: and here shall thy proud waves be stayed"** (Job 38:10). This all occurred at a time when the wicked were destroyed out of the earth (verses thirteen and fifteen). This seems clearly to refer to the judgment of God when the "windows (or the floodgates) of heaven" were opened at the time of Noah's flood.

With this in mind, let us see if we can identify what this mysterious **"dark araphel"** actually was. Since it is certain that humans from the time of Adam to Noah were able to view the stars in heaven and that the heavenly bodies could be used for **"signs"** (that is, to measure the times for the seasons), it is not possible that it was a canopy or mantle of thick

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clouds (or water vapor) that *totally* blanketed the earth in the pre-flood period. Even in the Book of Job, clouds (or any visible water vaporous phenomena) are actually distinguished from this **"dark araphel"** (Job 38:9). Indeed, we are plainly told by God (as recorded in Job 38:9) that the **"dark araphel"** was like a swaddling band, not like a blanket that would have covered the totality of the earth. A swaddling band is a very different thing. It is a type of cloth which provides a swath of protection encircling the body of an infant. This description is a major clue to what the **"dark araphel"** was.

God was saying to the patriarch Job that there was once some kind of a dark watery band (or ring) around the earth that was so thick that it caused a darkness to appear on parts of the ocean surface. This surely means that at certain places on earth the sun was obscured by the presence of this **"dark araphel"** in the heavens. What we find Job 38:9 describing is a "ring of water" encircling the earth—either in liquid or solid (frozen) form. This "ring" must have been like the rings around the planet Saturn (which, by the way, are basically made up of water, that is, ice particles). But not only does Saturn have rings of water (ice) around it, scientists have now found through recent space exploration that the planets Jupiter, Neptune and Uranus also have rings around them. Indeed, Dr. Esposito, chairman of the Voyager Rings Science Working Group, has stated that all the planets in our solar system may well have had rings around them at one time in the past—and that includes the earth (*Astronomy*, Sept. 1987, pp.9-17).

And when one looks at the statements in the earlier parts of the Bible, this is precisely what the Bible describes. But, instead of being millions or even billions of years ago, the watery ring system which surrounded this earth from the time of Adam to Noah became extinct just over 4300 years ago. That water (probably ice) that made up the ring (or rings) system around the earth was the major cause of the flood of Noah. There may be a thousand or more explanations of what caused the water (ice) rings to slow down and enter the earth's atmosphere. Scientists can theorize on the cause, but in this research study all we have to realize is that God said he **"broke up the dark araphel"** and the waters came down to earth. And the Bible tells us that 15 cubits of water (about 276 inches which could be measured by a rain gauge) came down from the heavens. This bit of information can give scientists the clues to accurately calculate the amount of mass of that watery ring system that once circled the earth.

The water coming from this ring system around the earth raised the level of the oceans at least 15 cubits (about 23 feet), with run-off from the land areas of the earth, one must think that the oceans were increased in depth by about 30 feet. Thus, the Persian Gulf was probably about 30 feet lower in depth before the flood of Noah. So, the flood raised the level of the oceans about 30 feet.

But some might say that such a thing can hardly seem possible. The truth is, there is no difficulty in understanding the dynamics of nature that this interpretation suggests. Such things are shown as possible in an article in the prestigious journal from Britain called the *New Scientist* which was published on May 12, 1988. The article is titled "Snowballs From Space 'Filled Earth's Oceans'." This article shows that there is not the slightest problem in believing that great chunks of ice could enter the atmosphere of earth from outer space. Such bombardment of ice chunks could very well raise the level of the oceans. This article in the *New Scientist* shows that scientists are now beginning to recognize that some of the waters of our oceans may well have come from outer space. And this is what the Book of Job tells us actually happened when that **"dark araphel"** broke up.

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## Giving Thanks?

by Royce Mitchell, Jr. (Manvel, Texas)

In the United States, we are rapidly approaching a national holiday known as "Thanksgiving Day." On this day, people in the United States are told that they should focus on being thankful for everything they have, including a free nation, the freedom to worship God as they wish, for families and pretty much every good thing that they enjoy.

However, the scriptures do not seem to limit what we should be thankful for. Indeed, even the time does not seem to be limited. We are told that we should be "always giving thanks for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting yourselves to one another in the fear of God." (Eph 5:20-21).

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Have we ever considered the meaning of that small word “always” in that sentence? How about the word “all?” Even elementary students whose first language is English know that “always” does not mean “sometimes,” “when we think of it,” “when it is convenient,” or anything other than “at all times.”

The word “all” brings with it the same difficulties. “All” does not mean, “some,” “most,” “many” or anything other than for “everyone and thing.”

Within the Church of God is contained many different individual beliefs with virtually identical core beliefs. By that I mean that nearly all of the Churches of God believe that we should all keep the Commandments of God, including keeping His Sabbath Day, and that we should accept the sin-cleansing sacrifice of the Christ.

Yet, our Adversary continues to get us to focus on our differences, the minor things we understand and believe differently. Is that something for which we should be thankful? Is our focusing on our differences to create walls between us something that comes from God? Isn't it Satan who gets us to claim that our brethren “don't worship the same God?”

The idea of being thankful and giving thanks is mentioned nearly 40 times in the New Testament alone. Isn't it possible that the idea of being thankful is important to God? If so, consider the many brethren who believe the same as we do on the “salvational” issues. Are we thankful for their steadfastness to the faith once delivered as they understand it? Are we thankful for the differences between us? Shouldn't we be? After all, don't those differences give us things to review and prove long after we have passed that blush of discovery, we each had when we first saw that God had called us to a truth that the world can't or refuses to grasp?

Can we thank God that He will in His own time reveal to us all truth? Can we fellowship in thankfulness to God for reserving to Himself this great fellowship which He has blessed with His understanding?

Can't we thank and bless God at all times for all this great assembly who we can call our brothers and sisters? I think we can. I think we should. I think Daddy would find that pleasing. Let's do that!

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## **The Nativity and the Weather**

**by Samuel S. Martin (Israel)**

Before my late father began a career as a pastor and then a religious scholar, he was trained as a weather forecaster.

He learned this discipline at first in university, but later in the United States Air Force.

As a scientist training in the observation of the weather, he always took this matter into consideration when it came to his research studies dealing with the Bible.

A number of books that he wrote which he has been recognized for from an academic point of view dealing with the birth of Jesus Christ come to my mind at this time of year.

What is interesting though as far as I can remember, the only point that he mentioned concerning the matter of the weather and its relevance concerning the time Jesus was born is the following quotation from his book “The Star of Bethlehem: The Star that Astonished the World.”

“Luke said that Jesus was born at a time when his parents went to Bethlehem in response to Caesar's command for a census. Ramsay showed that considerable confidence can be placed in the belief that the general time of the year for the start of a census was from August to October. The September period for Jesus' birth we are suggesting fits this well.

A late Summer or early Autumn date for Jesus' birth has also been suggested because Luke said the shepherds were



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tending their flocks at night at his nativity (Luke 2:8). Many have believed this precludes a wintertime birth (either early Winter on December 25th or a late Winter in early March) because it would have been too cold for the flocks to be out in the open at that time.

But this evidence is very problematic. In exceptionally cold Winters this may have been the case, but in mild Winters sheep are often out of doors in Palestine all night. Since no one knows what kind of weather there was in Palestine the year of Jesus birth (either severe or mild), this factor can be of no chronological value." (Martin, pg. 183-4)

The thing is though, in one way we do know what kind of weather there would have been in the land of Israel during this time especially if we say that Jesus was born in late December. Baly shows us the basic seasonal pattern that has existed in the Holy Land for thousands of years. It is important because it shows the environment that people who lived in the land would have known about very well. Because of this, the idea that Joseph and Mary would have set out on a trip to Bethlehem in December makes no sense at all in a practical sense.

"The Palestinian year is divided into two major seasons, the dry summer from mid-June to mid-September and the rainy season in the cooler half of the year. The summer drought, during which no rain falls at all, is actually somewhat longer than the true 'summer' and extends into the transitional seasons which divide the summer from the winter at either end. Thus, even on the coast of Cis-Jordan (Israel), the drought is usually complete for five continuous months from the middle of May to the second fortnight in October. It is better to avoid using the word "winter" for the rainy season, for winter inevitably suggests to an English-speaking person a cold season, but in Palestine the cold weather is normally confined to the three months after Christmas, that is to the second half of the rainy season.

In modern Arabic, the word "summer" is so emphatically suggestive of the long dry period (cf. Ps. 32:4, 'My strength was dried up as the heat of summer') that winter means more than anything else that blessed period when the rain comes. The Arabic word shittah is in fact used impartially for both "winter" and "rain" and there seems to be something of the same thought in Song of Solomon 2:11, "For lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone." (Baly, The Geography of the Bible, pg. 43)

This description by Baly is 100% correct as anyone who lives here in the land knows. Any time after October 15, the rainy season starts and in the beginning of that season, the rains start in a sporadic way, but get into December and there is a regular occurrence of rainstorms that come systematically and after January those storms will get more intense.

As Professor Ramsay mentions, the idea the Romans would undertake a census during the rainy season moving to the middle of winter makes zero sense at all.

September though would have been a very suitable time for such a journey to take place and be completed before the beginning of the olive harvest, which was a very important annual agricultural event in ancient times as it still is today.

During September, the days are long and warm and the nights are mild and not cold at all.

Knowing the weather and the seasons of the Bible lands in a practical sense helps us better understand the stories of the Bible especially those ones we hold so dear to our hearts and minds.

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## **Translated to Where?**

**by James Steinle (Swanville, Minnesota)**

Some believe Enoch was translated and never died per Genesis 5:24. That he did not die is not true; that Enoch was 'translated' is true. For an example of what happened to Enoch, we will examine what happened to Elijah which I believe cannot be any different in essence. 2 Kings 2:11 is used to supposedly prove that Elijah was taken up into heaven in a whirlwind, and so that is where he has been ever since; "And it came to pass, as they (Elijah and Elisha) still went on,

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and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven."

The evidence that Elijah did not stay in heaven (which heaven?) is found 2 Chronicles 21:12 where it says, "And there came a writing to him from Elijah the prophet, saying, Thus saith the LORD God of David thy father, Because thou hast not walked in the ways of Jehoshaphat thy father, nor in the ways of Asa king of Judah,...(it goes on in verses 13-20)" The writing from Elijah was about 7 years after being taken up into the "heavens".

The seven years is determined by comparing 2 Kings 3:1; 1 Kings 22:42 and 2 Kings 8:16; see also Ezekiel 3:12-15.

But which heaven of the three was he taken up into? The first (earth's atmosphere), the second (outer space) or the third (where the Heavenly Beings reside)? Not the third heaven where the Father's Throne is. "And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven. (John 3:13) Also 2 Corinthians 12:2, "I knew a man in Messiah above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven."

So, if Elijah or Enoch had been up to, or are up currently, in the third heaven, then our Savior's words are not true, which of course they are true.

Hebrews 11 adds more information. Verse 5 says, "By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God." 'Translated' is G3346 which literally means 'transported'. In Acts 7:16 we find, "And were carried over (G3346 =transported, i.e translated) into Sychem, and laid in the sepulchre that Abraham bought for a sum of money of the sons of Emmor the father of Sychem."

Hebrews 11:13 is concrete proof no one is now in the Heaven where the Father and the Son are now. "These ALL (which includes Enoch & Elijah) DIED in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth."

What about Colossians 1:13? "Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated (G.3179) us into the kingdom of his dear Son:" G.3179 can have the meaning of transferred or removed (as in 1 Corinthians 13:2 'remove mountains').

*How* were we delivered from the power of darkness as Colossians 1:13 says? Upon conversion and following our Leader the Messiah, we are no longer the children of the devil anymore, but have now become the children of our Heavenly Father and brothers and sisters of Yayshua the Anointed One (Galatians 3:26). We no longer have to remain in or be in the power of Satan; we now have the power from on High, Yayshua living in our hearts and minds! We have been translated in that way. Of course, we do fall at times, but because of our Heavenly High Priest, we can have our sins forgiven when we turn our hearts back and confess our sins. We receive mercy from on High.

## **Bodies and Souls As Commodities**

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In Revelation chapter 18 God mocks merchants of a future rebuilt Babylon. A list of luxury goods is presented. Each item has great value. The goods listed are for sale just before Babylon is destroyed by God's wrath. The Merchants mourn the loss of their profits.<sup>1</sup> No such destruction of Babylon has ever happened in history. I quote in part:

**"And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her [Babylon]; for no man buys their merchandise [cargo] anymore:**

**The merchandise [cargo] of**

**gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of ...**

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all manner [of] vessels [containers] of ivory, and  
all manner [of] vessels [containers] of most precious wood, and of  
brass, and iron, and marble, and ...  
sheep, and horses, and chariots, and  
→ SLAVES [bodies], AND SOULS OF MEN. And

the fruits that your soul lusted after are departed from you, and  
all things which were dainty and goodly are departed from you, and  
you shall find them no more at all.” Revelation 18:11-14

**“Slaves and Souls of Men” in Revelation 18:13**

The translators of the King James Version chose the word “slaves” (indicated by the arrow). The Greek word for “slaves” is δούλον, used 127 times in the New Testament but not in Revelation 18:13. The Greek word is σωματων, plural, which means “bodies” in English. **“Bodies and souls of men”** are last of all the commodities bought and sold in Babylon. Just before Babylon’s destruction there will be a lucrative market for those two items. Remember, all the goods in Revelation 18:11–14 are highly profitable luxury goods for the merchants.

Dead “bodies” are meant, because the term “bodies” contrasts with the phrase **“souls of men.”**<sup>2</sup> That phrase can only mean “living” human beings, because souls only exist when a human body is combined with and energized by a spirit of man given by an act from God (Genesis 2:7; 1 Corinthians 15:45; and Revelation 16:3). Bodies without the human spirit are dead. Revelation 8:13 says dead bodies and living souls will have immense value and will be bought and sold as commodities in future Babylonian markets.

**Dead Bodies as a Commodity, Not Since Adam ... Not Until Now**

Since kidney transplants began in 1954 (see [“History of Transplantation”](#)), many kinds of organs have been transplanted successfully. Only modern medicine has done such procedures and successfully dealt with the recipient’s organ rejection. More breakthroughs will likely occur. But the evil of organs taken from non-voluntary living “donors” (called murder) will increase until God destroys Babylon. Read the rest of Revelation 18:15–24.

In our current world, slavery does not occur just to provide cheap labor. With 7.5+ billion people in the world, cheap labor is readily available. Slavery today is used to suppress certain populations of people for a variety of reasons, and to use them in every way, now including taking body parts from the young and strong within subjected populations.

China, the country with the largest population in the world, is currently suppressing three groups, two religious: the Buddhist religious group called the Falun Gong, and suppression of Christians is also beginning in China. The Muslim Uighurs, a Turkish steppe people living mostly in northwest China are suffering both ethnic and religious persecution, and even genocide.

**A Clear Biblical Milestone**

In my opinion Revelation 8:13 is a clear indicator of a process that could have occurred only after the 1990s. We are getting closer to the End Times. We are still several decades away from Christ’s return. Horrific evils will increase, particularly **(1)** slavery (which has been in all societies since the flood of Noah), **(2)** human trafficking, and **(3)** “harvesting” living human organs. In ancient times, dead bodies were needed to be buried or burned soon after death for the health of society.

So, for the past two decades bodies have become a commodity. Mostly young healthy people are sought for “on demand” body parts. Revelation 18:13 informs us that **“bodies and souls”** are bought and sold now. For more information, see [“Inside China’s ‘thought transformation’ camps – BBC News”](#) (12 minutes), then search for these words: [“Uighur organ harvesting,”](#) terms that will yield several videos. Remember, Babylon itself must be rebuilt. **(Note:** The United States is



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not “hidden Babylon,” but it does operate on the Babylonian system.)

***Modern Technology Is Necessary for Transplant Infrastructure***

For Revelation 18:13 to occur and for bodies to continue to be a valued commodity in the future, a massive modern technological infrastructure will continue to exist before Christ returns. Drugs to control organ rejection will be produced and remain available.

The world will seem to be in a golden age under the antichrist and his minions before God destroys Babylon. Buying and selling will continue to expand around the world except where wars and disasters will increasingly occur, but the majority of humanity will experience great prosperity until God’s judgments begin.

<sup>1</sup> F.E. Marsh, 1922, “[Will Babylon Be Rebuilt?](#)” and Dr. Ernest Martin, 1975, “[The Rebirth of Babylon.](#)”

<sup>2</sup> The Greek words for the phrase “souls of men” are *ψυχὰς ἀνθρώπων*. The word *ψυχὰς* is the very common New Testament Greek word “soul”; *ἀνθρώπων* is the common Greek term for “human being” (the Greek basis for “anthropology,” English for the study of human societies and culture.

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## Heavenly Father

by Richard Frates (Easley, South Carolina)

Heavenly Father, the Tower of Babel is standing high; rising to the heavens; the world nations are united against you. Terrorists kill, men women and children in the UK, and the explosion is heard in New York and Moscow, Genesis 11:4-8.

Heavenly father, we citizens of the world no longer need you. Leaders of the nations can communicate in a moment. Our scientists, educators and engineers can quickly devise a plan or scheme to solve all the world’s problems.

Heavenly Father, go away; we, the world nations will make our own gods and give them artificial intelligence, so they can speak to us and give us counsel. And we can program them to tell us things we want to hear, unlike you, Revelation 13:15.

Heavenly Father, go away; we citizens of the world, will take possession of Heaven and earth and promote our own version of righteousness; Genesis 2:17.

Heavenly Father, have mercy on the citizens of the world. We are filled with arrogance, pride, praise for the wicked and condemnation for those who believe you.

## Other Items

### Signs That He Has Changed

Brenda Branson (Hanson, Kentucky) Copyright © 2004

- He is willing to wait however long it takes for her trust in him to be rebuilt and does not pressure her to forgive or reconcile until she is ready.
- He does not say or do things that threaten or frighten her.

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- He listens to and respects her opinion, even if he disagrees.
- She can express anger or frustration toward him without being punished or abused.
- He respects her “no” in all situations, including physical contact.
- He does not prevent her from spending time with friends and family and does not punish her later.
- He is willing to continue counseling as long as necessary.
- He takes responsibility for his actions and does not blame her for his bad behavior.
- He is kind and attentive instead of being demanding and controlling.
- When he becomes frustrated or angry, he does not take it out on his wife or children.
- When he fails, he admits his mistake and takes responsibility for changing abusive behavior.
- He admits to his abusive behavior and stops trying to blame or cover up.
- He acknowledges that all the abuse was wrong and identifies all the ways he used to justify his abusive behavior.
- He acknowledges that his abusive behavior was not a loss of control, but a choice on his part.
- He recognizes and is able to verbalize the effects of his abuse on his spouse and children.
- He identifies attitudes of entitlement or superiority and talks about the tactics he used in maintaining control. He replaces distorted thinking with a more positive and empathetic view.
- He consistently displays respectful behavior toward his wife and children.
- He wants to make amends for the harm he has caused.
- He is committed to not repeating his past behavior and realizes it will be a life-long process.
- He is willing to hear feedback and criticism, is honest about his failures, and is willing to be held accountable for abusive thinking and behavior.

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***“Beware of the temptation to gauge change by means of the perpetrator’s church-going behavior. Going to church is not good enough . . . does not prove that he is no longer going to hurt her.” —Woman-Battering***

**He Has Not Changed If . . .**

- He blames her or others for his behavior.
- He uses guilt to manipulate her into dropping charges or keeping silent.
- He does not faithfully attend his treatment program.
- He pressures her to let him move back in before she is ready.
- He will not admit he was abusive.
- He convinces others that she is either abusive or crazy.
- He demands to know where his spouse is and whom she is with.
- He uses her behavior as an excuse to treat her badly.
- He continues to use sarcasm or verbal abuse, talk over his wife, and shows disrespect or superiority.
- He does not respond well to complaints or criticism of his behavior when he slips back into abusive behavior.
- He continues to undermine her authority as a parent, and her credibility as a person.
- His mindset about women has not changed, even though he avoids being abusive.
- He criticizes his spouse for not realizing how much he has changed.

***“Completion of a batterer’s intervention program class by a man does not mean his victim is safe or that he has stopped being abusive. While men may learn tools for acting nonviolently, research indicates that many men continue to be abusive, even if they change their tactics.”***

***—Embracing Justice: A Resource Guide for Rabbis on Domestic Violence***

## **Holy Days 2022**

**Passover – April 16, 2022 (Observed at Sunset the Evening Before)**

**Unleavened Bread – April 16-22, 2022**

**Pentecost – June 5, 2022**

**Trumpets - September 26, 2022**

**Atonement – October 5, 2022**

**Tabernacles – October 10-16, 2022**

**Last Great Day – October 17, 2022**



Advocate of Socialism Says America  
Is Too Anti-Social

By Richard Markland

America is changing, but how many people understand the changes taking place.

Samantha Simplethink says America needs a change of direction, and is the reason she is spreading what she calls "The Gospel of Friendly Progressive Socialism."

Her words are not only growing in popularity but she is viewed by her supporters as someone who has a "bright political future." Her critics, however, say she "is not the brightest bulb in the room."

"People do not socialize as much as they should," states the 15 year-old junior at Fidel Castro High School in San Francisco.

"Make America Grin Again, is my motto, and only Socialism provides the way for people to socialize more with one another," she recently said in an interview on WDUM-TV.

"Capitalism is destroying friendliness because people are forced to work for a living and pay bills," said the future Harvard student. "Socialism will eliminate competition which is all about achieving, excelling, and promotes an attitude of entitlement by those who feel they are better than others," Simplethink stated passionately. "People need to spend more time with one another in order to understand how important socializing is."

Being a Progressive Socialist is becoming more widely accepted, and many observers say it is because Samantha's message is resonating with those who desire change.

"The country needs to make more progress when it comes to smiling, socializing, and being more friendly towards one another, instead of focusing on Capitalism, which is oppressive, not progressive," Samantha said in a recent high school debate.