

## Encountering Jesus

(Copyright 2017) by Brenda Branson  
(Hanson, Kentucky)

PAGE 3 **Article**

## "Twelve Reasons Why Jesus' Trial Was Illegal"

(Copyright 2001) by Terry Bruns  
(Oregon, Wisconsin)

PAGE 5 **Article**

## Woodpecker head-banging wonder

(Copyright) by David Catchpoole  
(Powder Springs, Georgia)

PAGE 7 **Article**

## The Golden Rule

(Copyright) by BibleStudy.org  
(Farmington Hills, Michigan)

PAGE 8 **Article**

## Christ on the Sabbath

(Copyright 2023) by Jeffrey Caldwell  
(Arkansas)

PAGE 10 **Article**

## Hiccups In Time

(Copyright 2024) by James Lloyd  
(Medford, Oregon)

PAGE 11 **Short Article**

## Dear Bill ...

(2024) by Author Unknown  
(Found in Attic)

PAGE 12 **Short Article**

## The Church of God from Judea to Chile

(Copyright 2024) by Craig M. White  
(Australia)

PAGE 12 **Short Article**

## A Friend

(2024) by Author Unknown  
(Found in Attic)

PAGE 13 **Short Article**

**In regard to:  
Is Yayshua God?**

Article by James & Patt Steinle  
Comments by Avram Yehoshua  
(Tulsa, Oklahoma)

PAGE 13 **Iron Sharpening Iron**

**In regard to:  
Is Yayshua God?**

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

PAGE 14 **Iron Sharpening Iron**

**Letters**

16 --- Sarah McBride

**Iron Sharpening Iron  
In regard to: Is Yayshua God (Part 4)**

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

PAGE 17 **Special Edition "Iron Sharpening Iron"**

**To Unsubscribe from this newsletter:**

Send a blank email to [church-of-god-bismarck@hotmail.com](mailto:church-of-god-bismarck@hotmail.com) with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line.

**To Subscribe to this newsletter, Go to:**

[Newcogmessenger Info Page \(church-of-god-messenger.org\)](http://Newcogmessenger.org)

**To Submit Items for Print, Send to:**

[the-church-of-god-messenger@hotmail.com](mailto:the-church-of-god-messenger@hotmail.com)

[church-of-god-bismarck@hotmail.com](mailto:church-of-god-bismarck@hotmail.com)

Mail to Darwin & Laura Lee, 320 N. Griffin St., Bismarck, ND 58501

The "New" Church of God Messenger is an independent publication. All newsletters may be copied and given to others if they are copied and sent in their entirety.

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

**Contributors:** Author Unknown, BibleStudy.org, Brenda Branson, Terry Bruns, Jeffrey Caldwell, David Catchpoole, Darwin Lee, Laura Lee, James Lloyd, Sarah McBride, Craig M. White, Avram Yehoshua

**Websites:**

<https://darwin-laura.com/> [Links](#)

<https://www.church-of-god-bismarck.org> Current Newsletters  
<https://shopping-mall-online.biz/> Church Books and Free Classified Ads

**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.

## Encountering Jesus

(Copyright 2017) by Brenda Branson (Hanson, Kentucky)



Jesus got into the boat again and went back to the other side of the lake, where a large crowd gathered around him on the shore.

Then a leader of the local synagogue, whose name was Jairus, arrived. When he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet, pleading fervently with him. "My little daughter is dying," he said. "Please come and lay your hands on her; heal her so she can live."

Jesus went with him, and all the people followed, crowding around him.

A woman in the crowd had suffered for twelve years with constant bleeding.

She had suffered a great deal from many doctors, and over the years she had spent everything she had to pay them, but she had gotten no better. In fact, she had gotten worse.

She had heard about Jesus, so she came up behind him through the crowd and touched his robe.

For she thought to herself, "If I can just touch his robe, I will be healed."

Immediately the bleeding stopped, and she could feel in her body that she had been healed of her terrible condition.

Jesus realized at once that healing power had gone out from him, so he turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who touched my robe?"

His disciples said to him, "Look at this crowd pressing around you. How can you ask, 'Who touched me?'"

But he kept on looking around to see who had done it.

Then the frightened woman, trembling at the realization of what had happened to her, came and fell to her knees in front of him and told him what she had done.

**The “New” Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**February 24, 2024 --- Issue No. 160**

And he said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace. Your suffering is over.” Mark 5:21-34 NLT

There are many different ways to read scripture, but one of my favorite ways is to put myself into the story to see and hear what is going on. Musician and Bible teacher Michael Card calls it “holy imagination.”

It's like being in an episode of Dr. Who where you get into his Tardis (a British phone booth that is really a time travel machine) and go to a past or future time and place.

So just imagine with me that we have landed the Tardis just a few yards away from the crowd surrounding Jesus.

The excitement among the people is as palpable as a group of fans at a celebrity meet-and-greet.

We quickly make our way into the middle of the crowd to get closer to the action, past some smelly fishermen and a few somber, pompous guys decked out in clergy robes and prayer shawls. “Excuse me, pardon me, excuse me, pardon me,” I say as we push further in to get closer to Jesus.

That's when we notice a woman frantically moving through the crowd until she was right behind Jesus, close enough to touch him. Without making eye contact with anyone, she kept her head bowed low as if she was trying not to be noticed.

Have you ever attended church or a Christian event when you were carrying a heavy burden of shame or guilt or pain, and you didn't want anyone to know how badly you were hurting? You kept your head low, avoided eye contact, smiled that fake smile and said “fine” when anyone asked how you were. But you were hoping, no, you were desperate, to encounter the presence of Jesus there because He was your last hope. I wonder if that's how this woman felt?

Michael Card writes, “When we read about what passed for medical care in Jesus' day, this woman's ordeal becomes clearer. One cure for bleeding was to fish an oak grain out of cattle dung and force the patient to swallow it. Not only did her condition worsen as a result of these ‘therapies,’ she was now broke, having spent all her money on doctors. Imagine a severely anemic woman, exhausted, desperate and at this moment afraid. Why afraid? Because she had heard the rumor that if she can touch the fringe of Jesus' prayer shawl, she will be healed. But she knows that if she touches him and is discovered, she will be accused of rendering him unclean.”

Silently, she bent down and touched the fringe of his robe instead of speaking to him. I don't blame her for keeping quiet. Her problem was too private and shameful to share within earshot of this crowd. Then all of a sudden, she stood back up, straightened her back, held up her head with confidence sensing that she had been healed, and tried her best to blend back into the crowd.

But Jesus stopped, turned around, scanned the crowd and asked who had touched him.

Does that seem odd to you? He was God, after all—the all-knowing, all-seeing, omnipotent God who can see into the hearts of mortal men. Did Jesus really not know who touched him? I think he did, but for her sake he wanted her to come out of the shadows, out of her shame, and say “It was me. I did it.” He stopped what he was doing (on his way to see a dying girl!) to meet the needs of a woman whom society deemed unclean, an outcast. Can you imagine how frightened she must have been when he called her out? What would you have done—remained quiet hoping no one could identify you, or come clean and admit what you had done?

Jesus' disciples seemed a bit irritable as they tried to rush Jesus along. Their response to his question, “Who touched me?” was a bit sarcastic and brusque. The look on their faces said, “We've got more important places to go and more important people to see than to be interrupted by anyone in this crowd.”

It didn't take long for the woman to come out from behind a couple of villagers and approach Jesus. She fell at his feet, trembling, and spoke in a low whisper as she told him her story. What Jesus did afterward will be etched in my mind forever. He didn't call his bodyguards to escort her out, and he didn't scandalize her or exploit her by repeating her story to the crowd. He didn't look at her with contempt or use her brokenness to teach his followers a lesson. He didn't scold her for interrupting his important mission to save the life of a little girl.

**The “New” Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**February 24, 2024 --- Issue No. 160**

With the most tender eyes and compassionate voice I've ever heard, he validated her faith and affectionately called her “Daughter”—giving her the same status as a beloved family member. And then . . . “Your suffering is over” he said. You could tell from the look on her face that his love had healed her body and soul.

“In that moment, Jesus did not expose her weakness and shame. He exposed her faith. He wanted her faith visible so that everyone who carries a secret shame—which is every one of us—might have hope. Jesus, the Great Physician, has the power to heal us from every sin, every weakness, every failure, every illness, and every evil ever committed against us.” (Jon Bloom, Things Not Seen)

Three things from this story resonate deeply with my heart, although there are plenty more nuggets of gold to mine in a deeper Bible study:

1. No matter how insignificant and alone you feel, Jesus has time for you. You are never a burden to him. Your thoughts are precious to him, and he enjoys spending time with you. In his presence you will never be alone again.
2. Regardless of how you may have been mistreated by religious people or church communities or family, and even though you may have been ostracized and shamed by people who don't understand you, Jesus offers you a seat at his table and bestows on you the privileges of family. He knows you from the inside out, yet he loves you passionately and is working for your good.
3. When you encounter Jesus, things will be different. You may find physical healing, emotional wholeness, or spiritual renewal, maybe all three. Yet you may still face struggles and hardship, perhaps even persecution for your faith. But the real treasure is found in getting to know him, the source of life, and in return finding the person he created you to be in his image. You have a purpose and a place that no one can take away. He will be with you in the struggles and the victories.

AS YOU PRAY:

- \* Say, “I love you, Lord.”
- \* Thank God for his love that covers all your shame.
- \* Ask God to help you trust in his love.

---

See Brenda Bransons other articles at:

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

Reprinted with permission from: Broken People

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

---

## “Twelve Reasons Why Jesus’ Trial Was Illegal”

(Copyright 2001) by Terry Bruns (Oregon, Wisconsin)

The trial of Jesus Christ was without legal precedent. He was convicted and executed even though Pilate found Him innocent! Let's briefly notice the 12 outstanding reasons why the arrest, trial and conviction of Jesus were illegal.

1. There was no legal basis for Jesus' arrest because no one had presented a formal charge of any crime; He simply was taken. Moreover, those who went with Judas to have Jesus arrested included the priests and elders--His judges (Luke 22:52) --among whom were the ones who bribed Judas!

**The "New" Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**February 24, 2024 --- Issue No. 160**

2. Jesus was subjected to a secret preliminary examination at night (John 18:12-14, 19-23), Jewish law permitted only daylight proceedings.
3. The indictment against Jesus was illegal because the judges themselves brought up the charge without any prior testimony by witnesses. The Jewish court (the Sanhedrin) by law was not allowed to originate charges.
4. The court illegally proceeded to hold its trial of Jesus before sunrise so no one would be available to testify on His behalf.
5. The trial began on a day before an annual Sabbath (John 18:28), even though Jewish law did not permit the trial of a capital offense to begin on a Friday or the day before an annual Sabbath. Jesus was arrested and tried on the 14th of Abib, the day before the first annual Sabbath of the Feast of Unleavened Bread.
6. Jesus' trial was concluded in one day. Jewish law says: "If a sentence of death is to be pronounced, it [a criminal case] cannot be concluded before the following day" (Mishna, "Sanhedrin" IV, 1). This was to allow sufficient opportunity for any witnesses in support of the accused to present themselves. Jesus' trial was conducted in private and completed in less than nine hours!
7. Two false witnesses charged Jesus with saying He would destroy the temple made with hands (Mark 14:58); yet He was condemned by the court on another false charge--that of blasphemy. He was condemned on His own testimony (Luke 22:67-71). But according to Jewish law, a person could not be condemned on his own testimony.
8. The merits of Jesus' defense were not considered. Despite Deuteronomy 13:14, the high priest did not "inquire, and make search, and ask diligently" to see whether Jesus' statement was blasphemous. The law in the Mishna says: "The judges shall weigh the matter in the sincerity of their conscience" ("Sanhedrin" IV, 5). Instead, the court pronounced sentence instantly and unanimously!
9. Those who would have voted against condemnation were not at Jesus' trial. Joseph of Arimathaea was a member of the court, yet he was not there (Luke 23:50-51). Jesus' opponents had made sure that only those who hated Him would be there.
10. The sentence was pronounced in a place forbidden by law. The trial took place at the high priest's house (Luke 22:54). According to the law, a death sentence could be pronounced only in the court's appointed place.
11. Most of the judges were legally disqualified to try Jesus. Some had bought their way into office, according to Josephus. Also, since they were known enemies of Jesus, Jewish law required that they disqualify themselves so He could be tried by impartial judges.
12. The court illegally switched the charges from blasphemy to treason before Pilate. Jesus' opponents wanted Him killed, but they did not want to do it themselves. So they charged Him with treason (Luke 23:2) --a Roman crime--so the Romans would be responsible for His death. No evidence was presented (John 18:29-30). Pilate, after a brief interview, saw that Jesus was not guilty (John 18:38; 19: Matt. 27:18). Fearing the crowd, however, he allowed the crucifixion of an innocent man. Pilate did not even pronounce Him guilty; he merely turned Him over to the soldiers.

What a mockery of justice this trial was! All this illegality, in addition to His crucifixion, Jesus willingly suffered to pay the penalty of our sins in our stead!

---

**See Terry Bruns other articles at:**

**[Bruns, Terry – The "New" Church of God Messenger \(church-of-god-bismarck.org\)](https://www.church-of-god-bismarck.org)**

**Reprinted with permission from: Great Commission Church of God**

**<https://www.truecog.org/index.html>**

---

## Woodpecker head-banging wonder (Copyright) by David Catchpoole (Powder Springs, Georgia)

### Update

Recent research\* shows that the spongy material in a woodpecker’s skull does not act like a shock absorber. Engineering analysis of high-speed video recordings showed that the skull’s deceleration was not slower than that of the beak penetrating the wood.

The woodpeckers’ small skull and the way in which its brain is arranged, tightly packed with minimal cerebral fluid, combined with the very short duration of each ‘peck’ and the short travel of the beak, means that the woodpecker operates within the limits of brain damage from the forces experienced.

Other aspects of the woodpecker, such as its super-long tongue with its special storage sheath, its nerves and musculature that enable rapid pecking, as well as the innate behaviour, and the strength of the beak and skull, are all design features that work together to make woodpeckers such a successful created kind.

\*Biewener, A.A., Physiology: Woodpecker skulls are not shock absorbers, *Current Biology* **32**:R767–R790, July 25, 2022 | doi.org/10.1016/j.cub.2022.06.037

Woodpeckers hammer wood with their bills. They drill holes in trees when foraging, or to excavate storage holes or cavity nests.

The pecking impact forces are huge. The woodpecker’s head suddenly comes to an abrupt halt when the beak hits the wood, resulting in deceleration forces of the order of 1,200 *g* (i.e., 1,200 times the force of gravity).<sup>1</sup> In stark contrast, just 300 *g* will leave a human concussed or with serious brain injury. Some woodpeckers might even be able to tolerate impact forces up to 6,000 *g*!<sup>2</sup> And this is *repeated* head-bashing—around 18 to 22 times per second<sup>3</sup>—yet with no sign of blackout or brain damage.

A major challenge confronting engineers has been the need for a new shock-absorbing system for protecting micro-devices, i.e., improving *g*-force tolerance for use in high-*g* environments. Amazed at the woodpecker’s head-banging resilience, a team of engineers investigated its “advanced shock-absorbing mechanism”.<sup>1,4</sup>

With the help of x-ray computed tomography (CT) images of the woodpecker’s skeletal structures, the engineers highlighted the shock-absorbing capacities of:

- The beak made of elastic material
- The hyoid (muscles and tendons supporting the throat and tongue and reinforcing the head)
- A spongy bone specially located behind the beak
- A special skull bone containing spinal fluid

These features “stand in a row”, sequentially cushioning and dissipating the “mechanical excitations”, preventing brain injury.<sup>1</sup> Other researchers confirm that it is the combined effect of these features that confers protection, rather than any single factor.<sup>5,6</sup>

Inspired by the woodpecker’s shock-absorbing spongy bone and hyoid, the engineers used the same principles with metal and elastic substances to design a shock-absorption system to protect commercial micro-devices.

When tested at 60,000 *g*, the woodpecker-inspired technology reduced the failure rate of micro-devices to just 0.7%.



**The “New” Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**February 24, 2024 --- Issue No. 160**

compared to 26.4% for conventional shock-absorption methods—a great design improvement.<sup>1</sup> These same principles from woodpecker anatomy could guide the design of more effective helmets and other protective headgear.<sup>5</sup>

Looks like engineers can recognize good design when they see it.<sup>7</sup> So should we all (Romans 1:20).

References and notes

1. Yoon, S.-H. and Park, S., A mechanical analysis of woodpecker drumming and its application to shock-absorbing systems, *Bioinspiration & Biomimetics* **6**:016003, 17 January 2011. Return to text.
2. Gibson, L., Woodpecker pecking: how woodpeckers avoid brain injury, *Journal of Zoology* **270**(3):462-465, 2006. Return to text.
3. Sometimes even faster, e.g., the ladder-backed woodpecker is known to strike a tree as fast as 28.4 beats per second, and this drumming is repeated 500 to 600 times per day. Ref. 1. Return to text.
4. They also lauded its beak as “a specialized chisel effective in cutting into a tree; unlike a human-made chisel, the beak is self-sharpening”—ref. 2. Return to text.
5. Wang, L. and five others, Why do woodpeckers resist head impact injury: a biomechanical investigation, *PLoS ONE* **6**(10): e26490, 2011. Return to text.
6. So, in the first woodpecker, all features would have had to have been in place already. For other examples of irreducible complexity, see [creation.com/irred-complex](https://creation.com/irred-complex). Return to text.
7. For more examples of engineers copying design in nature, see [creation.com/biomimetics](https://creation.com/biomimetics). Return to text.

Reprinted with permission from: **Creation Ministries International**  
<https://creation.com/>

**The Golden Rule**  
**(Copyright) by BibleStudy.org (Farmington Hills, Michigan)**

What is the golden rule and where is it in the Bible? Why is gold rightfully a part of its name? Why should we keep it? What standard should we use to "do unto others . . .?"

The golden rule in the Bible is found in Matthew 7. A shorter version is recorded in Luke 6. It was given toward the end of Jesus' vast Sermon on the Mount that starts in Matthew 5:3 and ends in verse 27 of chapter 7. This golden precept in the King James translation is the following.

Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets (Matthew 7:12, KJV).

And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise (Luke 6:31, KJV).

A modern variation of the golden quote, not found in the KJV, is "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

**Why is it golden?**

Why Matthew 7:12 is labeled the golden rule is unknown (Holman Bible Dictionary). The phrases' earliest use as a guiding principle, according to the [Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/golden-rule), was 1570 A.D. Despite its unknown origins, there are a



**The "New" Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**February 24, 2024 --- Issue No. 160**

few reasons why such a designation is nevertheless warranted.

Gold is something highly valuable, enduring, and precious, like Jesus' beautiful words in Matthew 7:12 and Luke 6:31. His teaching in this verse is "golden" because it perfectly summarizes God's righteous character that is something we should strive for (Matthew 5:48).

Matthew 7:12 can rightfully be called a rule because it is a basic, common sense standard of behavior applicable to any human. Its "golden" teaching is endorsed by the world's four largest religions (Christianity, Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism) as well as Judaism and others. As a reflection of God's perfection, it can justifiably be considered a law of the universe as it always existed and will continue to do so into eternity.

**By what standard?**

This teaching by Jesus does not allow us to treat others any way we choose as long as we would not mind being treated the same way. The world at the time of Noah was destroyed by the flood because people continually treated others sinfully and expected the same behavior toward themselves (Genesis 6:5).



Sign hung above Toledo, Ohio  
factory entrance in 1913

The foundation of the golden maxim is both God's law (which Jesus did NOT come to destroy or remove, Matthew 5:17 - 18) and its full spiritual intent taught by Jesus (hence the word "therefore" at the beginning of Matthew 7:12). This means that how we ought to be treated, and how we should treat others, is firmly based on what the Bible states, both Old and New Testaments, are acceptable and right.

**Why follow it?**

Why follow the golden rule? We should live by this precept because it ultimately produces the greatest good for everyone including ourselves. We should also follow it because God has made it abundantly clear that how we treat others is how he will treat us.

For example, one of the eight beatitudes declares the Eternal will be merciful to those who show mercy (Matthew 5:7). What is known as the Lord's Prayer asks our heavenly Father to forgive us only as we forgive others (Matthew 6:12, 14 - 15).

And do not judge others, so that you yourself will not be judged in any way. Do not condemn others, so that you will not be condemned in any way. Forgive, and you shall be forgiven (Luke 6:37, HBFV).

The golden rule and its "do unto others . . ." principle will be one of the foundational teachings promoted in God's kingdom when it is brought to the earth at Jesus' Second Coming!

---

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

Reprinted with permission from: Bible Study  
<https://www.biblestudy.org/>

## **Christ on the Sabbath**

**(Copyright 2023) by Jeffrey Caldwell (Arkansas)**

Christ, in His earthly ministry, has much to say about the Sabbath. But Christ’s most significant Sabbath precept is the most neglected. Christ originated the Sabbath and certainly understands God’s holy purposes for its holiness (Genesis 2:2-3, John 1:1-3).

Jesus underscores God’s purpose for creating the Sabbath in telling us: “the Sabbath was made to meet the needs of people” (Mark 2:27 NLT)! “God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy” and a day of rest as a commemoration of His completed “very good” creation of the heavens and the earth—to meet the needs of people. Furthermore, the Sabbath was declared holy “to meet the needs of people” before there was any sin and without reference to sin, as a gift of God to humanity for His holy purposes.

“God’s law was given [after sin commenced] so that all people could see how sinful they were” (Romans 5:20 NLT, my comment in brackets). It is sinful to fail to honor the holiness of the Sabbath and God’s holy purposes for it, but those holy purposes and that holiness originated BEFORE and without reference to the sinfulness that came afterwards.

The Sabbath is holy before sin. When people were in complete harmony with God there was no need for God to “command” them to keep it! Now that we have sinned, the Sabbath nevertheless remains holy “to meet the needs of people”! The Sabbath ever meets the needs of people: before sin, and after sin.

Given Christ’s most significant Sabbath precept, that “the Sabbath was made to meet the needs of people” we can be sure it was honored as holy by Adam and Eve with God and by all the faithful servants of God whose lives are recorded in the Scriptures. The holiness of the weekly Sabbath was never rescinded or undone by God, regardless of the tradition of most of Christendom.

Christ never changes His mind about holiness: “the Sabbath was made to meet the needs of people”! So, the weekly Sabbath is honored as holy, not only before and after sin throughout biblical times, but the weekly Sabbath is prophesied to be honored as holy by all humanity in much better times yet to come (Isaiah 66:23).

It is not Christ who teaches us to ignore and trample on the holiness of the weekly Sabbath. Nor does He characterize honoring its holiness—as HE intends it to be honored—as any sort of burden!

Christ’s teaching remains the same, whether Christendom listens or not: “the Sabbath was made to meet the needs of people”! The holiness of God’s weekly Sabbath not only commemorates Creation, but it also celebrates the holy freedom God intends for His children (Exodus 20:11, Deuteronomy 5:15). The LORD’s instructions given in Leviticus 23 confirm the weekly Sabbath as “an official day for holy assembly” which Christ honored by example throughout His earthly life.

Christ, our Teacher, Judge and King, has not transferred the holiness of the seventh day of the week to the first, nor has God given it to any man nor group of men to do so.

May God give us more grace to let our devotion to CHRIST--and thus especially to HIS teaching--be pure and undivided!

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

## Hiccups In Time

(Copyright 2024) by James Lloyd (Medford, Oregon)



One of the strangest mysteries in history is how cycles seem to periodically repeat – but a Christian ministry has been preaching a Biblical explanation of the phenomenon for decades. Furthermore, they have used this knowledge to make successful predictions. Just as the attached humorous cartoon illustrates, using a system called *Sequential Recapitulation*, the maverick ministry the **Christian Media Network** has actually predicted many of the recent events in America, but the Christian “establishment” is censoring prophecy information that contradicts their consensus.

Although they know that **Jesus Christ** is indeed the LORD, the bulk of Protestant and Catholic believers in America do not understand the **Holy Bible** predicted this time of “Strong Delusion” (*II Thessalonians 2:11*), when the *sequence* of end times events has been misrepresented. *All* say they “just want the truth,” but obviously with so many doctrinal divisions, *somebody* is deceived. However, *Christian Media* is aware of the Biblical prophecies that forecast each step of the path we’re on, but the censorship is just as fierce in “Christian” circles as it is in political venues.

The fact is, the Christian infrastructure inadvertently suppresses prophecy information – and this in itself was predicted in the Bible. For its entire 30 years of existence, the *Christian Media* ministry has remained unincorporated, and regularly harassed by the **IRS** as “not qualifying” as a legitimate church, even finding themselves repeatedly kicked off of broadcast stations, having bank accounts closed, and consistently blacklisted and censored. Yet using the Bible, **James Lloyd**, the leader of the **Christian Media Network** ministry has successfully predicted, *in writing*, events including political elections, military clashes, monetary events, and even the length of the tragic British Petroleum (BP) oil spill in **2010** (before it ended, he called it at 5 months to the very *day*) that polluted the gulf coast. As far back as **1992**, he published a written prediction of the assassination of **Yitzhak Rabin** of Israel – an important prophetic event in an important place, which was fulfilled in **1995**. There are also many more current prophecies concerning America and Israel’s current military activity.

---

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

Reprinted with permission from: Christian Media Network  
<http://www.christianmedianetwork.com/>

**Dear Bill ...**  
**(2024) by Author Unknown (Found in Attic)**

Dear Bill,

I am writing this slow cause I know you can't read fast. We don't live where we did when you left. Your Dad read in the paper where most accidents happen within twenty-five miles of home; so, we moved. I won't be able to send you the address because the family that lived here took the numbers with them, so they wouldn't have to change their address.

This house has a washing machine. The first day, I put in four shirts and pulled the chain. I haven't seen them since. It only rained twice this week – three days the first time and four days the second.

About the coat you wanted me to send you – your Aunt Sue said it would be a little heavy to send in the mail with them heavy buttons; so, we cut them off and put them in the pocket.

We got a bill from the funeral home. Said if we didn't make the last payment on Grandma's funeral, up she comes.

Your Father has a lovely new job. He has over 500 men under him. He cuts grass at the cemetery. About your sister – she had a baby this morning. I haven't heard yet whether it is a boy or a girl, so I don't know if you are an aunt or an uncle.

Three of your friends went off the bridge in a pick-up. One was driving and the other two were in the back. The driver got out—he rolled down the window and swam to safety. The other two drowned – they couldn't get the tailgate down.

Your Uncle John fell in the whiskey vat. Some men tried to pull him out but he fought them off, so he drowned. We cremated him and he burned for three days. You must remember Uncle John; we went to different schools together.

Not much news this time. Nothing much happens.

Love,  
Mom

PS I was going to send you some money, but the envelope was already sealed.

See Author Unknown's other articles at:  
[Author Unknown – The "New" Church of God Messenger \(church-of-god-bismarck.org\)](http://church-of-god-bismarck.org)

**The Church of God from Judea to Chile**  
**(Copyright 2024) by Craig M. White (Australia)**

Here is Ricardo Marchant's book as promised. I have only formatted it, not edited it in any way. Chapters V and VI are the most important for our purpose.

**The "New" Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**February 24, 2024 --- Issue No. 160**

It is also uploaded here with other information:

[https://www.friendsofsabbath.org/iframe/ABC/Church%20of%20God%20History%20\(WCG\)/Foreign%20Works/History\\_of\\_Foreign\\_Works](https://www.friendsofsabbath.org/iframe/ABC/Church%20of%20God%20History%20(WCG)/Foreign%20Works/History_of_Foreign_Works) (click on the 'South & Central America' link).

Slowly but surely the gaps in our knowledge of the history of the Churches of God since the 1800s is being filled in.

---

See Craig White's other articles at:

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

Reprinted with permission from: Friends of the Sabbath Australia

<http://www.friendsofsabbath.org/>

## **A Friend**

**(2024) by Author Unknown (Found in Attic)**

A Friend is one who,  
Knows you as you are,  
Understands Where You've Been,  
And who you've become,  
And still invites,  
You to Grow.

---

See Author Unknown's other articles at:

[Author Unknown – The "New" Church of God Messenger \(church-of-god-bismarck.org\)](http://church-of-god-bismarck.org)

## **Iron Sharpening Iron**

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

## **In regard to: Is Yayshua God?**

**Article by James & Patt Steinle**  
**Comments by Avram Yehoshua (Tulsa, Oklahoma)**

I am unsubscribing from your cog Messenger and also, I cannot agree to having you publish any more of my articles because of your heretical view on the Godhead and your inability to reason over the Scriptures concerning this. I have given you ample biblical understanding of the Personhood and femininity of the Holy Spirit, but you have refused to believe it, instead, fortifying yourself with some nonsensical arguments or positions that I have addressed.

Finally, you have misrepresented my last words/thoughts to you concerning the Holy Spirit. It's either intentional or unintentional, but either way it reveals your inability to honestly engage and debate this topic. I realize now that this is the position of your church/denomination, but they are wrong.



## In regard to: Is Yayshua God?

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

### Avram's Iron Sharpening Iron:

I am unsubscribing from your cog Messenger and also, I cannot agree to having you publish any more of my articles because of your heretical view on the Godhead and your inability to reason over the Scriptures concerning this.

### Laura writes:

Avram unsubscribed from our newsletter mailing list on February 3, 2024. We will not re-print any more of his articles unless he sends them to us for print.

In the online dictionary, "heretical" seems to have two meanings:

1. believing in or practicing religious [heresy](#).
2. holding an opinion at odds with what is generally accepted.

I believe I have spent a great deal of my time trying to reason with you over scriptures and I would like to point out that you are the one that left the conversation (reasoning) before the conversation (reasoning) was even over. There is a major flaw in what you were trying to reason with me about. Your doctrine is not found in scripture, and I don't care how many "he's" you want to change into "she's". Whether you want to make the "Holy Spirit" into a "he" or a "she", it is still not a person, and you gave no clear scriptures showing the "Holy Spirit" was a person. In fact, most of the scriptures you gave to prove your doctrine did not even say what you tried to tell us they said.

I and the rest of us who do not believe in a trinity doctrine, do not believe it because it is not in scripture and the only reason, we are being told we have a heretical view is because we do not agree with your view.

The point of an "Iron Sharpening Iron" is to present your case and let others decide whether they believe it or not. The point of the "Iron Sharpening Iron" is not to make the listener drop everything they believe and now believe everything the other person has now told us.

The belief system of people runs deep and even if they believe something which is not in scripture, they will try to fight you to the death to make you believe it. An example is one of my sisters, she was a Jehovah's Witness (I say was because she died of cancer in 2014.). One day we were spending some time together and we went to eat in a restaurant. During the meal she told me that Christ was Michael the Arch Angel and that she could prove it from scripture. I said, show me, so she whipped out her bible. I read the verse she showed me, and I said, "That verse does not say that." For the next several hours she tried her hardest to get me to believe that Christ was Michael the Arch Angel because she had proof from the Bible. She was angry at me because I would not believe what she told me and finally I had to tell her to please go home. Which she did, but before she left, she told me there was no hope for me and that when I died, I would never live again. In other words, she was so mad at me for not seeing scripture her way that she wanted me dead forever. You cannot make people believe what you want them to believe. That was never the point when Christ said to go and teach all people. Not all people even believed Christ and He is God.

### Avram's Iron Sharpening Iron:

I have given you ample biblical understanding of the Personhood and femininity of the Holy Spirit, but you have refused to believe it, instead, fortifying yourself with some nonsensical arguments or positions that I have addressed.

### Laura writes:

Again, you can't make people believe what you believe, and you certainly can't give them your understanding and expect that they will just believe you without continuing to stay in the conversation and explain what you are talking about. I was not surprised that you unsubscribed. I have known you for awhile and I have noticed that if you don't get your way or if someone disagrees with you, you quit. The difference between you and me is this: I understand that I cannot make people believe what I say so there is no reason to get angry at someone and throw them out of my presence. I understand

---

**The “New” Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**February 24, 2024 --- Issue No. 160**

that the only thing I can do is present my case from scripture and hope that people at least look at what I have presented to them if not now then perhaps sometime in the future.

You on the other hand want people to believe your every word and if they don't you get angry and tell them their view is heretical even though the scriptures you present do not even come close to saying what you tell people they say. All scripture is truth, but you can't change scripture to make it say what you want it to say in order to get people to believe you. Your doctrine is from Gnosticism/Paganism. It is not from scripture. Didn't you ever notice how Satan seems to be fixated on women. After all his first victim was Eve so he probably thinks, all women are easily persuaded to his ways. Satan has many goddesses which are the head of men, and he even has the catholic church worshipping a stature he calls Mary. Satan isn't counterfeiting the Godhead here. What Satan is doing with all these women goddesses is mocking God.

**Avram's Iron Sharpening Iron:**

Finally, you have misrepresented my last words/thoughts to you concerning the Holy Spirit. It's either intentional or unintentional, but either way it reveals your inability to honestly engage and debate this topic. I realize now that this is the position of your church/denomination, but they are wrong.

**Laura writes:**

By the time this is printed, I will have let you say all of your words, just as you sent them to me. I don't edit things in or out of the context of letters, articles, or iron sharpening irons unless it is personal information or in regard to an advertisement you have placed in an article. Advertisements within articles are sometimes in bad taste and should be moved to the ad section of our newsletter.

Since you were allowed to speak your words, I am not sure how I misrepresented them by what I said and just for the record, I cannot read your thoughts so it would be hard for me to misrepresent them. Due to the length of your “Iron Sharpening Iron” it appeared at times that even you were confused as to how your doctrine worked as you seemed to contradict yourself in some areas but I believe we were able to glean the major part of it from what you said, so stop me if I am wrong, but what I got from what you said is as follows:

The” Holy Spirit” is a person and is a woman. The Holy Spirit is the mother of Christ and the wife of God. She came forth from God and then with God they fluttered over the waters and begot Christ. She showed herself as a person in the form of a dove and she gives people pieces of herself so they can be like her. Do you even see how much power you have taken from God and given to a dove which is and always has been a bird and not a person.

The Trinity doctrine is not unique to, nor original with, Christianity. It has deep Pagan roots, dating back to at least two centuries BC, and has been prominent in many Eastern religions ever since.

The Roman Catholic and Orthodox Church Councils (Western and Eastern churches) brought the Trinity doctrine into Christianity. This occurred before there was a final split between the two over authority. Even those who voted the idea into Roman Catholic dogma declared it was a mystery that had to be accepted by faith. The theologians that wrote the Catholic Encyclopedia admit that there is no Old Testament indication of a triune God, and very little in the New Testament that can be construed that way. They also admit that it was a product of tradition that evolved over four centuries. The RCC gives equal credence to tradition and scripture. In this case tradition is almost the whole criteria for this dogma, aside from a few scriptures that are wrenched out of context and misinterpreted, trying to give the idea legitimacy.

The evolution of this doctrine within Christianity began with The Apostle's Creed, progressed to the Nicene Creed, and finally culminated in the Athanasian Creed. Click on the links below to read more about them.

[BiblicalUnitarian.com](http://BiblicalUnitarian.com)

The United Church of God also has some pagan history in regard to the Trinity Doctrine which is pagan right to it's core:  
[How Ancient Trinitarian Gods Influenced Adoption of the Trinity | United Church of God \(ucg.org\)](http://ucg.org)



**The “New” Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**February 24, 2024 --- Issue No. 160**

**Sophia** ([Koinē Greek](#): Σοφία "Wisdom", [Coptic](#): σοφία "the Sophia"<sup>[1]</sup>) is a major theme, along with Knowledge (γνώσις [gnosis](#), Coptic: τσωογν *tsōwn*), among many of the early Christian knowledge theologies grouped by the [heresiologist Irenaeus](#) as *gnostikoi* (γνωστικοί), "knowing" or "men that claimed to have deeper wisdom". [Gnosticism](#) is a 17th-century term expanding the definition of Irenaeus' groups to include other syncretic faiths and the [Greco-Roman mysteries](#).<sup>[2]</sup>

In Gnosticism, Sophia is a feminine figure, analogous to the human soul but also simultaneously one of the feminine aspects of [God](#). Gnostics held that she was the *syzygy*, or female twin, of [Jesus](#), i.e. the [Bride of Christ](#), and the [Holy Spirit](#) of the [Trinity](#). She is occasionally referred to by the term *Achamōth* (Ἀχαμώθ, [Hebrew](#): חכמה *chokhmah*) and as *Prunikos* (Προύνικος). In the [Nag Hammadi texts](#), Sophia is the lowest [aeon](#) or anthropic [emanation of the godhead](#).

Nigh related to this is the notion widely diffused among Gnostic sects of the impure *mētra* ([womb](#)) whence the whole world is supposed to have issued. As according to the Italian Valentinians the Soter opens the *mētra* of the lower Sophia, (the *Enthymēsis*), and so occasions the formation of the universe ([Iren. I. 3, 4](#)) so on the other hand the *mētra* itself is personified. So Epiphanius reports the following cosmogony as that of a branch of the Nicolaitans:

In the beginning were Darkness, Chaos, and Water (*skotos, kai bythos, kai hydōr*), but the Spirit indwelling in the midst of them, divided them one from another. From the intermingling of Darkness with Spirit proceeds the *mētra* which again is kindled with fresh desire after the Spirit; she gives birth first to four, and then to other four aeons, and so produces a right and a left, light and darkness. Last of all comes forth an *aischros aiōn*, who has intercourse with the *mētra*, the offspring whereof are Gods, Angels, Daemons, and Spirits.  
—*Epiphanius, Haer. 25, 5*

[Sophia \(Gnosticism\) - Wikipedia](#)

Avram's entire doctrine comes right from paganism and clearly from Gnostic/Nicolaitan beliefs. Notice how among other things Sophia is the Holy Spirt and toward the end she is the spirit over the waters of Genesis that divides night and day and from her everything comes forth or proceeds.

The one who has an inability to honestly engage and debate this topic is the one who brought it to us in the first place. You Avram presented your topic with the "high expectations" that everyone who heard you speak of this doctrine would just automatically believe you and when that did not happen you left the conversation. How this works is you get your say and then others get their say. Sometimes all agree and sometimes none or few agree but when you walk away then you are the one no longer conversing or debating your own topic. You have purposely closed your eyes and ears to hear anything that others would say to you but yet you want these same others to believe your every word.

The bottom line here is the Trinity Doctrine whether it is three men, or two men and a woman is a pagan doctrine which also has deep roots in Gnostic and Nicolaitan beliefs. In other words, it is a doctrine of Satan, and we are glad to have the heretical view of the bible and God on our side.

[Rev 2:15](#) So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.

## Letters

**Letter from Sarah McBride (February 15, 2024)**

Hello from England,

Just to let you know how happy I am that you are still including articles by James on your site. I hope that they are an interest and help to all who read them.

Thanks, from Sarah

**The "New" Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**February 24, 2024 --- Issue No. 160**

Hi Sarah,

We are happy to print James McBride's articles when we have them. We are getting low on them so if you have more just send them over and I will sort through them. We loved James and he had contact with us and our newsletter almost since the beginning back in 2001. We sure do miss him.

Thank you Sarah, we love you to, what a great letter,  
Laura

## Iron Sharpening Iron In regard to: Is Yeshua God (Part 4)

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

**Avram writes:**  
**CONCLUSION**

Scripture reveals that there is God the Father and God the Son. This speaks of a family relationship. Since Man was made in the Image of God, male and female, God the Holy Spirit must be the feminine counterpart to Eve, the second Person of the God Family. Scripture reveals that similar to how Eve came forth from Adam, so too the Holy Spirit came forth from the Father, and is a Person in Her own right, just as Eve was distinct from Adam, yet literally came from him and was one with him, so too the Holy Spirit with God the Father (the Son coming forth from their union; Gen. 1:2-3).

The Holy Spirit being a female is also seen from the grammar of the Hebrew Old and New Testaments as well as the Greek New Testament. The Spirit being female or feminine is further affirmed by the ancient (and modern) Eastern Orthodox Church, which teaches that the Spirit is the life bearer and nurturer of the believer (nourishing and molding, as a mother does her children), the believer being made into the Image of Messiah Yeshua so that there will be a heavenly marriage between the BrideGroom and the Bride).

The femininity of the Spirit is also seen in Proverbs, where the Holy Spirit, personified as Wisdom (which is also feminine in Hebrew), is spoken of as having existed from before the Creation, which declares Her deity and Her truly being the Wisdom of God the Father.

Paganism also confirms the truth that the Holy Spirit is a Woman, with paganism's father god, mother goddess and son/savior god. Satan, the author of paganism, counterfeited the Three Persons in the true God Family of Israel for his perverse pagan trinity. Therefore, paganism too affirms both the deity, personhood, and the femininity of the true Holy Spirit.

Finally, water baptism is the ceremonial and spiritual fulfillment of being Born Again (circumcised in heart; a new creation in Messiah) *having come forth* from the Waters of the Father and the fluttering Wind of the Holy Spirit, as Yeshua did on Day One: begotten; not created.

Having said all that, the Holy Spirit is not a Woman anymore than God the Father is a Man. They are both spirit. Yet, because Scripture uses relational terms for the Two divine Beings, (Father and Son, 'He' and 'His' for both of Them; both masculine terms) and also, American Christians have no problem with calling the Holy Spirit a 'He,' 'Him' or a 'Gentleman,' it's Scripture and more than right to refer to the Holy Spirit as a 'She' or 'Her' and also, a Woman. The Holy Spirit embodies the feminine or biblically woman attributes of the God Family, just as the Father and the Son embody the masculine attributes.

Because of the relationship Scripture brings out in the Father begetting His Son, the Holy Spirit is both Wife to the Father and Mother to the Son, in the same conceptual way that Eve was both wife to Adam and mother to her children whom Adam and she begot. Again, these are human terms for the Holy Spirit, but as far as language is used to describe reality,

**The "New" Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**February 24, 2024 --- Issue No. 160**

this is biblical. The terms Wife and Mother spin off of the scriptural terms for the Father and His Son. The Three are truly one God Family made up of Three divine Persons and as such, the Holy Spirit has the place of the Woman. This is why Scripture reveals that Man was made in the Image and Likeness of God; so we could understand the God Family. \*33\*

P.S. In Laura's rebuttal to my post/teaching about the Holy Spirit being a Person in the God Family, Laura says:  
"The reason scripture says that Christ was begotten is because he was begotten through Mary His human mother. Since Mary was impregnated by the Holy Spirit your doctrine proposes that Christ's birth was an abomination, because it is an abomination for two women to lie together and it would be totally impossible for two women to have a baby together. So therefore, the Holy Spirit if it were a woman as you propose here, could not have impregnated Mary."

Laura's understanding of the Incarnation is false for two reasons:

One, because she sees Mary as giving her humanity to Jesus, but if that were the case, Jesus would have had Mary's sinful humanity and would have been a sinner because Mary was a fallen, sinful creature (unless one is a Catholic and believes the gross heresy that Mary was without sin: "immaculate").

Jesus did not take His humanity from Mary. Jesus was created a human being, like Adam before the Fall, the first of many after Him (cf. 1st Cor. 15:20, 23). Jesus, like Adam, could have sinned, and we would all have been doomed to Hell. If Jesus "being God the Son," as well as the Second and Last Adam (1st Cor. 15:45, 47), could not have sinned, Satan's Temptations (see Mt. 4:1f.) would have been meaningless, but as Hebrews states, Jesus was made just like us so he could both taste Death and suffer (Heb. 2:9-11, 14, 17-18). One cannot be made like a human being and be impervious to temptation, for then one isn't really a human being, and Jesus was a real human being who totally relied on both His Father and Mother within Him, as well as being God the Son, as even the demons testified to (cf. Mk. 1:24, Lk. 4:34).

Mary was "just" an incubator for the Seed of the God-Man that was planted/made in her womb.

And two, "begotten" for Jesus never refers to Jesus being begotten in Mary's womb, but to Jesus being God the Son from eternity past, as John continually brings out, without ever mentioning Jesus' human conception or birth in relation to being begotten. For example, John 1:1...

"In the Beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." (John 1:1)

And John 1:14: "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only **begotten of the Father**, full of Grace and Truth." (John 1:14)

"Begotten of the Father" obviously doesn't refer to Mary begetting Jesus.

Neither Mary nor Joseph begot Jesus. "Begotten" always refers to Jesus' deity on Day One of Creation, not His humanity. This might be new for you, but pray about it and let the Holy Spirit, your Mother, confirm it for you with Scripture.

**Laura writes:**

Avram, I am so disappointed in you. I have known you awhile and I know that we had a few differences, but this is way over the top. Why would you come into a group any group and start teaching pagan doctrines, because that is exactly what this is that you are sputtering about. Did you like the pagan doctrines better than the real doctrines of God the Father and of Christ which are found in scripture.

You keep saying my name over and over as if you truly expect me to believe this garbage of the pagans. Your trinity comes right from Gnosticism. So, between the pagan Eastern Orthodox Church and the Gnostic doctrine of the Trinity, I believe you are drowning in sin right up to the top of your head. Everyone who reads this should pray for Avram.

Because of the sin overfilling the world right now, I am sure you will get a following somewhere with that garbage you are teaching but I truly don't believe you will get a foothold here in the Church of God. Your Gnosis (Knowledge) does not exceed the Knowledge, Truth and Wisdom that God's elect get directly from Him through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit who is not a person but is the very Power of God.

---

**The “New” Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**February 24, 2024 --- Issue No. 160**

**Darwin writes:**

**Final thoughts by Darwin Lee**

Laura lee is editor of this newsletter and her “Iron Sharpening Iron’s” are always proofread by me-coeditor. Laura goes through extensive efforts in attempting to get to the heart of what doctrines others have whether they be Bible based or not. I have read all Avram’s philosophy and if there were no one to counter his hypothesis, then anyone taking in his teaching on this matter would well be taken in and accept it as “gospel”. I as well have carefully read Laura’s response to Avaram’s position of the Holy Spirit being a mother-person. I must concur with Laura, (not because she is my wife), but as always, I have understood that God the Father and Jesus are only two and therefore I cannot teach that the Holy Spirit as being a woman. God and Jesus both have male and female qualities in their nature and express that in humans by male and female entities, (persons). That sheer fact is evident by any observant person. We act and respond with our unique characteristics differently. Women are nurtures and men are more in general inclined to be short on being able to be gentle and lacking in ability to respond to the feelings of others as women having that quality. There is more on that subject of course. That is getting away from what is at the real heart of the matter here, that God being three persons in one, one being a “lady”.

**Each person reading both sides of the equation will have to come to their own conclusions. I concur with Laura and Scripture.**

**Some others are: Re 21:2** And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Once again, we see here an analogy as New Jerusalem being a “bride-she”. Is New Jerusalem a person too? You decide.

Jesus is husband, ready to marry His bride. His bride is made up of men and women. I can see Jesus marrying a woman (His bride) but give me a break He would not marry a man, an “abomination”, if you will! The only conclusion one can come to that we are showing by analogy of human marriage to a spiritual marriage-relationship with Jesus our “Brother”, Opps, now we are marrying our brother, an incestuous relationship. Jesus is marrying His brothers and sisters. Give me a break, please!

**Re 21:9** And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife.

If the Holy Spirit is a she dove, then Jesus is a he lamb, than what is the father, a he lion? After all, fathers roar like lions in their marriages, right men?

**Re 22:17** And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

There can be no other explanation other than that the human relationship in marriage is an analogy in our spiritual relationship with God and Jesus.

God and Jesus both have masculine and feminine qualities in Their nature as to who and what They are, and God gave Adam and Eve separate more dominant characteristics to each of them. They were (are) to become one in character as we grow together, bringing them (us) in oneness as God and Jesus are in oneness of the same qualities in their character Being as one. God had a purpose in giving man and woman separate in thinking that we in our human form can learn what God is and become one with each other in nature taking on the same nature as God and Jesus. God and Jesus were always one. He gave them separate characteristics, instructing them to be one as They are one.

That is how we grow in love as God is love. We humans don’t have the love of God in us when we are born. We have a hard time at that even in our late adult lives without God’s Spirit in us. Question, why didn’t He make us like that from our beginning? Wouldn’t that have been the easy route to take? Everybody loves each other and we don’t know why. Like a bunch of zombies, we just do what God programmed in us for all eternity, robots, if you will, yellow pencils.

**The “New” Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**February 24, 2024 --- Issue No. 160**

As anyone in a marriage relationship can attest to, when they first get married, they are far from being one at the start. Many never make it to that oneness as attested to by many marriages ending in divorce, which is anything but attaining oneness. How can two walk together if they cannot agree? I can tolerate someone I don't agree with, but it's hard to be in company with them for any extended period of time. Thus, as Jesus prayed to His father, “that they may be one as We are One”. Once born, literally and changed into spirit beings as God's sons and daughters, we will have attained the oneness with each other and with our Father and our brother Jesus our Husband, the called and chosen, spirit born sons and daughters, being Jesus's wife.

Jesus in the Old Testament was married to Israel (men and women). He divorced them because they were “naughty” if you get my drift! Here again, He is in an incestuous relationship, married to a bunch of men. How ridiculous!

**Jer 3:14** Turn, O backsliding children, saith the LORD; **for I am married unto you**: and I will take you one of a city, and two of a family, and I will bring you to Zion:

**Jer 3:8** And I saw, when for all the causes **whereby backsliding Israel committed adultery I had put her away, and given her a bill of divorce**; yet her treacherous sister Judah feared not, but went and played the harlot also.

Think analogy. Can't be anything but.

So too, in Proverbs eight, seven and throughout Proverbs, wisdom is (she) and wisdom comes from God. Forget person, but if you must, go for it, stay with it, but leave me out and stop trying to badger me and others with your fake doctrine!

#### **FOOTNOTES**

\*33\* This paper was finished on August 27, 2017 and last revised on Shabat, January 20, 2024.

## **Holy Days 2024**

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

**Passover/Unleavened Bread – April 23-29, 2024**

**Pentecost – June 12, 2024**

**Trumpets - October 3, 2024**

**Atonement – October 12, 2024**

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

**Last Great Day – October 24, 2024**

## **Notes**