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

Verily, Verily
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There are 25 Verily's in John alone and many more in the synoptic gospels. Indeed, it was a surprise there were so many. The ones in John rarely appear in the other three gospels. But here we will look simply at the gospel of John as only John has "verily, verily," the 3 synoptic gospels have just the one "verily" at the beginning.

According to Barnes "'Verily, verily'—An expression of strong affirmation, denoting the certainty and the importance of what he was about to say. Jesus proceeds to state one of the fundamental and indispensable doctrines of his religion."

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The Greek word in Strongs, G281 is pronounced in the Greek language *Amen*. Sometimes it is translated truly and sometimes verily. It's also “Amen” as in the end of our Lord's prayer in Matt. 6:13, and in 2 Cor. 1:20 “All the promises of God...are yea and... *Amen*.” It also means “so let it be” and certainly when used at the end of a sentence. At the start of a sentence these are translated “verily.”

It came to mind that they might be placed into categories or some kind of order. This is subjective but these sayings must be for a special purpose. The first category is the identification of Messiah.

Messiah

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man.” (John 1:51) Jesus is replying to Nathaniel, an Israelite indeed, who recognized Jesus as the Son of God and king of Israel. This signifies the apostle understood he was the Messiah. The “Son of man” being another expression also for Messiah. He literally did see Jesus go to heaven on ascension day while two angels stood close to Nathaniel and the other disciples. (Acts 1:11) Angels being messengers, the eleven disciples would also be messengers of the gospel proclaiming to the Jews and then Peter, Paul and others “to the Gentiles.” The ascending and descending may suggest communication between our heavenly Father, the Lord Jesus, the glorified church, and the world.

Pre-existence

Jesus said unto them, *“Verily, verily, I say unto you, before Abraham was, I am.”* (John 8:58) The Messiah was one who had a life before the life of his ministry that culminated in AD 33. The Old Testament promised the Messiah was the seed of the woman (Gen. 3:15), that he would come from the tribe of Judah (Gen. 49:9-10), to be of King David's line (Isa. 9:7) and be born in Bethlehem. (Mic. 5:2) So far in these texts no intimation that a personality already in existence would come to recover that which was lost by Adam. This was a subject John addressed at the very start of his gospel. *“In the beginning was the word and the word was with the God.”* (Diaglott interlinear) Hence when Jesus said “verily” he meant, he, Jesus was in existence before Abraham was born. John 8.58 was consistent with John 1:1 but the former were the words of our Lord Jesus and the latter an inspired statement by John after the fact.

So, we have established who Jesus was that said “verily, verily.” How it would affect those Messiah came to who could be new creatures is the next category.

New creature, New life

John 3:3,5: says *“Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”* These words were spoken to Nicodemus, a man of some standing among the Jews who came by night to Jesus. These two verses relate to new birth, the birth of the new creature, that which is invisible to any machine but can be perceived by those similarly born and more importantly by the heavenly Father.

Born is the Greek word *‘gennethe’* which is very close to the word, Genesis. It seems to cover the idea both of being conceived and being born whereas there is a distinction in British English of today, so we have to bear that in mind. It conveys an important point though, the necessity to begin a new life, to have a new life force on the spirit plane rather than on this earthly plane on which we sit and stand now. Like all births it's essentially a miracle. It's not like we can go to a shop and pay for it using cash or debit or credit cards. Nevertheless, it's very real to the Christian to have this mental communication with God. It's something which is impossible in the animal kingdom and sets us in the image of God or “god -likeness” that's possible for humankind. Some of this is explained in the next verses in John 3 (ESV) *“That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”* (vv.6-8)

The “I am” scriptures speak to the new creature for who only could be cared for by the one good shepherd and in like manner they only have one bread to feed on that does lead to peace, happiness, and everlasting life.

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them. Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.” (John 10:7-8, 1-2,11) Jesus said *“I am the way,*

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the truth, and the life.” (John 14:6) He certainly is the gateway and there is no other way. Jesus had been speaking to the Pharisees and had shown they weren’t the way. Israel had been given the law covenant but abandoned it for idolatry, hence firstly there was the Assyrian captivity for the Northern tribes and after the second, the Babylonian captivity for the Southern tribes including those in Jerusalem. After their return and the days of the first advent the law had been padded out to ensure none inadvertently transgressed the law, to the point that it was a barrier rather than a schoolmaster. The priestly class were distant from the people when they should have been teaching the promises of God and addressing the hearts rather than the shells of the people. Hence the need to state they were thieves, unable to be shepherds, especially then as the shepherd had come!

The same can be said of Jesus saying, *“I am the bread of life.”* (John 6:32, 33,35) *“Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world... And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.”* None had been able truly or in any way to have come from heaven. None too had been able to say they came bringing everlasting life.

There are other “verily, verily” verses which appear as a rebuke that there were of those who would not go on to be disciples and new creatures in Christ. Why would this be one of the verities? One is in John 6:26 which says *“Verily, verily, I say unto you, ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled.”* These had gladly eaten in the miracle of the feeding of the five thousand from five loaves and two fishes but not feeding upon the bread of heaven. (John 6:32)

Everlasting Life

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that believeth on me hath everlasting life.” (John 6:47) What a promise! Ever since the fall of Adam humankind was unable to live forever (Gen. 3:19-22) although there may have been living beings like Methuselah the son of Enoch, who lived 969 years. Yet Jesus said believers on him had everlasting life. Daniel mentions a resurrection to everlasting life. (Dan. 12:2) Nevertheless this promise of everlasting life is significant. He follows this up by saying *“I am the bread of life.”* (No one can live without food albeit water and shelter are more necessary to keep the human body alive on this island.) Later our Lord Jesus died on the cross and was raised from the dead by his heavenly Father on the third day and ever lives to make intercession for us. (Heb. 7:25) In the purely physical sense our minds and bodies are still dying but there is still the hope, indeed expectation of everlasting life. If we were to look at that phrase in John 6:47 it did not state at that moment whether it is on the earthly plane or spirit plane. It did not state anything about having the divine nature which also includes living eternally. Even Satan from the spirit plane will go into the lake of fire confirming he does not have the divine nature which means immortality. (Rev. 20:10) But Jesus did promise everlasting or eternal life.

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.” (John 5:24) This statement earlier in John’s gospel tells us in what way we have *everlasting life*. It’s in the sense that we were in the dying state but now have the potential state of life. Like the phrase being seated in heavenly places. (Eph. 2:6) Not a simple concept to grasp for those without spiritual sight. But it’s not just a concept but a reality that in due time does become proven to the world at large. It comes only to those who believe in the existence of the one true God, the one who sent His Son and the architect for the universe and the architect of the wonderful Plan.

Another similar statement regarding the hope for everlasting life comes in John 8:51 *“Verily, verily, I say unto you, if a man keep my saying, he shall never see death.”* This verse sits happily in this group as it infers the promise of everlasting life from the understanding that each one will pick up their life from the sleep of death and be known in a way they are now known. It is conditional on keeping his sayings. What sayings? The Classic Amplified Version says, *“anyone observes My teaching [lives in accordance with My message.]”* In the flesh it is not achievable but in the spirit and intention it is.

Prayer

“Verily, verily, I say to you, as many things as ye may ask of the Father in my name, He will give you.” (John 16:23 YLT) What a statement to make! What a promise to give. This appears to be aimed at the church. One thinks of the early church. What they accomplished in their mission to preach the gospel and convert Jew and Gentile. As they consecrated their lives in their lifework they would naturally ask for the excellent things that pertain to everlasting life and things in

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harmony with the will of their heavenly Father.

Service & Sacrifice

“*Verily, verily, I say unto you, the servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him.*” (John 13:16) This being the occasion of Jesus washing his disciples’ feet, the custom being the host would arrange to wash the feet of their guests as walking with sandals meant dirty feet. Jesus demonstrates he also came to serve. It’s possible that Jesus was reiterating he had been sent and by implication sent by his father, the heavenly Father the one true God. Believers in Jesus Christ with the promise of everlasting life too have a life of *service and sacrifice* that comes to them as new creatures. The disciples would spend their lives in service of their leader Jesus, as his apostles and in so doing be in God’s service.

But is there any true saying in what way they would serve or sacrifice. In John 6:53-54 Jesus said, “*Verily, verily, I say unto you, except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.*” In some circles this is taken to mean taking the symbols of the memorial of the bread and “fruit of the vine” but it appears to have a deeper message and application. When Jesus speaking to James and John said “*You will indeed drink the cup that I drink, and with the baptism that I am baptized with you will be baptized.*” (Mark 10:39 NKJV) From the four gospels we can read what Jesus’ baptism was: his 3½-year ministry, his teaching of the people mainly of Israel and his signs and wonders. The Pharisees and their allies tried to trap him, to demean with their questions. His sufferings, at the hands of the Chief priest and elders as well as the Romans which would end in crucifixion for a crime he did not commit, yet it was a necessary submission to his Father’s will as a ransom for the world. His was a truly sacrificial death.

Herod Agrippa killed James the brother of John about AD 42. (Acts 12:12) Church tradition reckons that Peter and Paul were killed by the authorities and both had been in prison. (Acts 12:6; Eph. 3:1) John wrote the book of Revelation according to Scofield in AD96 on the Greek Isle of Patmos in sight of the Turkish coast where he writes as a “*companion in tribulation*” (Rev. 1:9) having left Judea before AD70 when Jerusalem was destroyed and escaped that tribulation to live outside of the promised land. All down the Gospel age there are those wanting to walk the walk of their Lord Jesus and whose testimony is not written in the New Testament. The key point is the Church would be developed under a covenant of sacrifice. (Psalm 50:5)

This work of service would be continued in this way. The work of spreading God’s word “*Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that receiveth whomsoever I send receiveth me; and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me.*” (John 13:20) This would take the message of God’s Son in the time when His Son would not be on earth after the first advent. In so doing they would serve the Lord Jesus and the heavenly Father.

“*Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.*” (John 14:12) This verily is for the Christian believer. Can we imagine our Lord saying the church would do a greater work?

Indeed, there is much to be done in the work of the gospel message even now however in the Messianic age there will be a great work in helping the world up the highway of holiness. (Isa. 35:8 NKJV) Even now the world population is almost 8 billion, which guides us to the magnitude of the task that lies ahead. Then Jesus knew he was leaving Israel and the earth and his work here.

See Nicholas Charcharos’s other articles at:

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

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Are We in the End Times?

(Copyright 2021) by Ray Daly (Lincoln, North Dakota) & Laura Lee (Bismarck, North Dakota)

Ray writes:

Please bear with me in what I am sending you. It is not an article as such, but rather a communication.

For, I am curious as to where the two of you feel we are today, as it refers to the "end times"? Basically, all Sabbath observing churches, and some Sunday observing as well, seem to think we are presently in "the end times". In other words, they expect that Christ, and his Angelic army, can come at any time. And those churches have their prophets saying as much.

The point is, is the above True? Have they presented any concrete, Scriptural supporting prophecies, that shows this to be True? Think about it. For Scripture is clear that the "end times" cannot even begin to unfold, until the kings of the north and south come to positions of power and control on earth. And present history shows that they cannot do so, without the aid and encouragement of the nations around them. Primarily, the "nuclear nations of the US and Russia". Actually, the only way I can see them coming to power, is through gaining the support of the Gentile countries of the UN. The European Union, and the Arab Union, have been meeting since mid-2019 (perhaps secretly, even earlier), trying to work out their differences. All they have to do to gain said control of the UN, is to separate themselves from the US (which is almost completed at this time) and start their own military powers. Which they have been doing for a few years. Germany and France want the EU to have their own strong military forces, completely free of any US controls. The Arabs already have their own. It is just a matter of working together with the EU. Rome is working with China on this factor, and if nothing else, encouraging China to support the new movement of the "kings of the north and south". China gaining a great "market to the west". Basically, isolating their eastern customers today.

Consider where we are today, as far as the seven churches are concerned. I will be as short as possible. And can present further evidence as needed.

The WCG was the second work of the Thyatira Church. With COG-7th Day being the first work. Note that WCG was taken over by "Baal worshippers". This "takeover" is shown in the fact that it says of Thyatira that they had within them "that woman Jezebel". As Scripture shows, Jezebel, the Baal worshipper, was the wife of king Ahab, and almost succeeded in getting the northern tribes of Israel to change from the Sabbath to Sunday. She failed, but Jezebel of Thyatira did not fail. Note also of WCG. "Of the rest of you that do not have this [Baal] doctrine, I will require of you no more". (para).

Meaning that we are not in the Sardis era church. And it seems to be obvious that today that this is the case. But the greatest work is yet to begin, in only a few short years. That being the work of the Philadelphia Church. Or the "144,000". So, I ask you. Can you see the above being so? Would you like (if it is The Almighty's will) to hopefully be a part of the coming Philadelphia work? I certainly do, and I feel that The Almighty has allowed me to have understanding of much future prophecy. It may be hard to take, but Scripture is there for us to read and study for ourselves. I have been doing so for some 25 years. And the "beginning of the genuine end times" is just around the corner. Prophecy even gives the timing of the coming major events. Which I can pass on for your consideration.

Hope I haven't been offensive. It is just that Philadelphia's work must begin in some form before it can go out to all people on earth.

Laura writes:

As normal you send some pretty interesting emails. Yes, we do both believe that the return of Christ will be soon.

Ray writes:

Actually, I find Christ's coming for the final time will not be all that soon. The time when he will "sit on his throne", which will be at the beginning of the 7th millennium. Which may be as late as the mid 2040's. When he comes the first time, he will only be seen, and not set down on earth. But, since, as I point out also, there are religions, of billions of peoples that are expecting the coming of a Messiah. Thus, when they see him in the heaven, they will try to prepare for his return.

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How? By gaining control of Jerusalem/Judea. Which they will do in 2037, by going to war against the present "Edomite Jews" that now have control. Think about it Laura. BOTH Christian Europeans and Islam Arabs are expecting "their messiah" to come. And it would seem obvious that the Edomite Jews will not want to give them control of Jerusalem, or the hill of Zion, where the Arab temple is. Thus, they will be destroyed, as it is described to us in Zech. 1:12, where the 70-year control of Jerusalem prophecy is complete.

Or, from 1967, when they gained control of Jerusalem. Add to this verse the prophecy of Luke 21:20. "When you see JERUSALEM surrounded by armies [Or, the kings of the north and south, and perhaps some of those who also are awaiting the "Lamb" to return.], then know that the destruction [of Jerusalem] is near."

Since the earth will be at peace, beginning in 2027, then it would not be hard for the kings of the north and south to begin their prophesied end time works.

Laura writes:

Even though I found your emails to be interesting, I do not believe you have a gift for prophecy. We believe that Christ will return sometime within the next 10 years. A real time marker would be when the two witnesses come on the scene but so far they have not shown up.

See Ray Daly's other articles at:

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

**Mary and the Holy Spirit:
Their Roles in the Conception of Jesus**
(Copyright 2023) by Stephen Davey (Cary, North Carolina)

Ginger asks, "Was Mary just the womb for Jesus or did God's Holy Spirit fertilize the egg and make Jesus fully God and fully human?"

The Bible asserts that Jesus was Mary's biological son, yet He was without sin. So yes, Mary's egg was miraculously fertilized when Jesus was conceived. The concept of the virgin conception can be traced back to Genesis 3:15. In this passage, God announces enmity between the serpent (later identified as Satan) and the woman, as well as between their respective seeds. The prophecy implies that a specific seed—a biological descendant of Eve, but not of Adam—would ultimately defeat the serpent.

Following this, the prophecy in Isaiah states that a virgin would conceive a child. This prophecy was fulfilled by Jesus, who was conceived in and born of Mary while she was still a virgin (Matthew 1:20-23).

There are several reasons why it is significant that Jesus was Mary's biological son, but not Joseph's:

1. Jesus could fulfill the prophecy of Genesis 3:15, being biologically of the seed of the woman, but not of the seed of man.
2. Jesus could fulfill the prophecy of Isaiah 7:14-16, being born of a woman who was still a virgin. This humanly impossible feat was made possible through God (Luke 1:37).
3. Jesus is genetically Jewish. If God did place a fetus in the womb of Mary, not using her egg, then that would deny Old Testament prophecies that the Messiah would be born to the lineage of David (John 7:42; Psalm 132:11; Jeremiah 23:5). Mary was a descendent of David and the mother of Jesus (Luke 3:23-38). If a viable

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fetus was simply placed in Mary's womb, then it could have been any woman who could have given birth to him. This would mean there was no lineage to Jesus' birth, and that would violate the Scripture.

4. Jesus was not the biological son of Adam, and thus did not inherit humanity's sinful nature. He was conceived not by a man but by the Holy Spirit and bore the image of the invisible God (Colossians 1:15) rather than the sinful image of Adam (Genesis 5:3).

The Bible highlights the contrast between Jesus and Adam in Romans 5. While Adam brought death, Jesus brought life (Romans 5:15-19). As Jesus did not have a sin nature and never sinned, He could pay for the sins of others.

Although the Bible does not provide specific details about the Holy Spirit conceiving Jesus in Mary, it is clear that He was born while Mary was still a virgin. This unique conception allows us to understand how Jesus could be a sinless sacrifice for our sins.

GO DEEPER

The conception of Jesus Christ is an event of profound significance, embodying an unparalleled miracle that serves as a cornerstone of Christian faith. The roles of Mary, a humble virgin from Nazareth, and the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Holy Trinity, are key to understanding this miraculous event.

Mary: The Chosen Vessel

Mary's role in the conception of Jesus is nothing short of monumental. She was chosen by God to carry, nurture, and give birth to His Son—a divine plan foretold in Isaiah 7:14, which states, "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." The reference to a virgin birth was fulfilled when God chose Mary, a young, unmarried woman, to carry His Son.

In Luke 1:26-38, the angel Gabriel visits Mary and informs her of God's plan. He tells her, "You will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus." Mary's response to this announcement reveals her humble submission to God's will. Despite the cultural and personal challenges this unexpected pregnancy would bring, she responds, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word."

Mary's role, therefore, was that of a willing and obedient vessel who carried, birthed, and raised the Son of God. Her commitment to God's plan was a vital component of the incarnation of Jesus Christ.

The Holy Spirit: The Divine Agent

The role of the Holy Spirit in the conception of Jesus is equally significant. The Holy Spirit was the divine agent responsible for Mary's pregnancy. In response to Mary's question about how she could conceive a child as a virgin, Gabriel explains in Luke 1:35, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God."

The Holy Spirit's involvement affirms the divine nature of Jesus' conception and underscores His identity as the Son of God. This conception was not a natural biological process but a supernatural act of God. The Holy Spirit enabled Mary, a virgin, to conceive Jesus, the God-man who was fully divine and fully human.

This divine conception was necessary for Jesus to be born without a sinful nature. All humans, being descendants of Adam, inherit a sinful nature at conception. But Jesus, conceived by the Holy Spirit, was not a biological descendant of a human father. Thus, He did not inherit a sinful nature, enabling Him to live a sinless life and offer Himself as the perfect sacrifice for humanity's sins.

Conclusion

The roles of Mary and the Holy Spirit in the conception of Jesus reflect the beautifully interwoven aspects of humanity and divinity that define the incarnation. Mary, in her humble obedience, exemplified human submission to God's will. The Holy Spirit, through a divine act of conception, demonstrated God's power and sovereignty, bringing forth the Savior of the world in a unique, miraculous manner. These roles were vital in shaping the foundational narrative of Christianity—the birth of Jesus Christ, God's Son and humanity's Redeemer.

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Are You Watching? (Copyright 2023) by Dwight Fleming (Oroville, California)

An insightful video was just released today (11-12-23) by Janie DuVall on YouTube. She interviewed William Koenig, author of "Eye to Eye: Facing the Consequences of Dividing Israel." They discuss the recent events that have happened to Israel as well as events since the election of Donald Trump in 2016.

Bill Koenig, as well as other books similar to his, reveals how U.S. policy toward Israel affects events which occur in the U.S., whether positive or negative. This is in accordance with the blessing and curse stated by God in Genesis 12:3: "I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you."

Before hearing this interview, Bill's analysis of Trump's peace plan is something that I had also recognized about Donald Trump. I believe that God put Donald Trump into the White House to do His will. Only Donald Trump had "the balls" to move the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem recognizing it as the capital of the State of Israel. No other U.S. president was willing to do so.

As Bill Koenig states, President Trump did more for Israel than any other U.S. president. However, when President Trump came out with his peace plan, dubbed "the Deal of the Century," then his second term in office was doomed. This is what I also saw at that time in 2020. President Trump was doing a great job for the American people. But his peace plan was a misstep which cost him dearly even as Moses made his mistake. You can reference the peace plan here: [The 'Deal of the Century': What are its key points? - The Jerusalem Post \(jpost.com\)](#)

Bill also relates how storms would change direction as political events in the U.S. were playing out. This is so fascinating to understand. Normalization of relations between Israel and Arab nations was given the name, "The Abraham Accords." But what about Sarah? She also was a key partner in the promise to Abraham. The promise could only come through her and not any other woman. God's response to that is insightful. Realize that the conflict going on in the Middle East is largely between Abraham's offspring. Iran is not an Arab nation even though it is Shiite Muslim.

If you want a better understanding of what is happening in the world, then it is good to be aware of the insights provided by certain individuals, such as, William Koenig. Other prophetic teachers and writers that I find helpful are: Jonathan Cahn, Lance Wallnau, and Mark Biltz. Not that I agree with everything that they may say, but they do provide certain insights that I may never come to see on my own. Of course, there are other sources that I have not mentioned here.

Bill Koenig mentions another author, John McTernan. I have his book, "As America Has Done To Israel," which came out in 2008. Even though that book has been out for a while, it still has some worthwhile material to consider. Mark Biltz is doing a three-part series on the recent attacks against Israel. The third part will be given next Sabbath. I will give a link to his video below. This last Sabbath, Mark explained some details about God's Calendar. I found this fascinating but a little hard to follow. I don't agree with all of his statements when it comes to God's timing.

For instance: After reading Jonathan Cahn's latest book on the Jubilee cycle, I was expecting another Yom Kippur attack to occur this year on Yom Kippur which did not happen. I've been expecting that to happen ever since 9/11, 2001. Recall that the World Trade Center was first attacked in 1993. The attack in 2001 finished the job. It stood to reason, then, that another Yom Kippur attack would happen again.

However, I expected it to happen on a future Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement). Mark Biltz stated that God never uses the Gregorian Calendar. This is a blind spot that many Sabbath keepers fall into. The apostle Paul quoted Greek philosophers (see [Did the apostle Paul quote pagan philosophers? | carm.org](#)). Well, it is very interesting that the

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attack in 1973 and the attack in 2023 are 50 years apart almost to the very day according to the Gregorian Calendar rather than the Jewish Calendar. Yet both attacks occurred on a weekly Sabbath and an annual Sabbath according to the Jewish Calendar. And, yes, I was just as surprised as everyone else by the attack on October 7th. Still, Mark has some valuable input which I encourage everyone to consider.

Here are the links to the William Koenig interview and Mark Blitz videos:

Janie Duvall interviews Bill Koenig: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VqnZ4uAyzw0>

Mark Biltz on Sarah/ Calendar/ Hamas attacks: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TxgdxGG7Fng>

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

10 typical Americans compared to the proverbial 10 virgins (Copyright 2023) by Curtis Dahlgren (Stephenson, Michigan)

"Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened to ten virgins who went forth to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were wise and five of them were foolish. While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. At midnight a cry was made, 'Go out to meet the bridegroom.' All those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps, but the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us of *your* oil for our lamps have gone out.'

"But the wise said 'Nay, lest there not be enough for us and you. Go to those who sell and buy for yourselves.' While they went to buy oil, the bridegroom came, those who were wise went into the marriage, and the door was shut." – Matthew 25

BE PREPARED AND WAKE UP is the obvious lesson. A lot of people *have* awakened in 2023, but I want to analogize this parable. Imagine 10 typical Americans who are at least token believers.

Three of the foolish know nothing about religion or the world situation, and don't WANT to, but consider themselves sort of "spiritual." They don't have a clue about the border crisis or inflation.

Two of them hardly ever vote. They are sleeping soundly. Don't even know where their lamps are.

Two of the foolish are a little more open-minded. They consider themselves well-informed, but in the great left-right culture war, they only listen to one side, the wrong side. The oil in their lamps is running low. Occasionally they think spiritual thoughts but are sound asleep right now.

Of the five wise citizens, three of them consider themselves good Christians, but believe in easy salvation. They are lukewarm, but they sleep quite well, too.

The other two are typical Americans who are tossing and turning in their beds. Dreams vary from scary to victorious. They are sighing and crying for the sins of the land between sleeps. All five have oil left in their lamps but need to wake up and prepare themselves. The five foolish will beg for oil off the "haves" when they wake up. They will suffer "issues."

Beyond these 10 are other citizens – non-believers, hostile skeptics, Jew-haters, false swearers, adulterers and so forth. And their karma is coming back like a boomerang. Many of them are like the man in Matthew 25 who was given one "talent" (a little money). When the Bridegroom returned, his talent had not earned a single extra talent. He had not produced any fruit for the owner of the "vineyard," so the Lord said of the slothful man, "Take from him his talent and give it to him who has ten talents."

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Matthew 13 says, "It is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given; for whosoever has, to him shall be given, but whosoever has not, from him shall be taken away even that which he has."

IN OTHER WORDS, "UNTO WHOM MUCH IS GIVEN, MUCH SHALL BE REQUIRED."

P.S. I'm not changing the parables, just using them to bring home a point more plainly. The one about the sleeping virgins says a lot about the great continental "divide" in this country. Which one of the ten are you? There is an implied solution to division if you know what I mean.

PPS: The writings mentioned above don't sound very socialistic, do they?

See Curtis Dahlgren's other articles at:

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

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<http://www.renewamerica.com/columns/dahlgren/220131>

Work Joke

(2024) by Author Unknown (Found in Attic)

"The management regrets that it has come to their attention that employees dying on the job are failing to fall down. This practice must stop, as it becomes impossible to distinguish between death and natural movement of the staff. Any employee found dead in an upright position will be dropped from the payroll immediately."

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)

I Can Only

(2024) by Author Unknown (Found in Attic)

I can only please one person per day.
Today is not your day.
Tomorrow doesn't look good either.

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 Denver Braugler (Muncie, Indiana)

My understanding is that the Holy Spirit is the power of the Most High.

If as Avram stated, the Holy Spirit is the mother, then how did she meld with Miriam (the human mother)? I ask Avram how his hypothesis about the hypostasis explains this conception:

Luke 1:35 The messenger [angel] answered her,
“Ruach HaKodesh [the Holy Spirit] will come upon you,
the power of HaElyon [the Most High] will cover you.
Therefore the kodesh [set-apart thing] begotten to you
will be called the Son of Elohim [God].”

In regard to: Is Yayshua God?

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

Laura Lee writes:

Even though by this point in time, Avram has unsubscribed from our mailing list because he was disappointed that I did not agree with his every word and felt I was misrepresenting what he said even though the words he spoke were his own, just as my words were my own. What he really wanted was for everyone, especially me, to believe what he told us which is not in scripture. When I did not agree with him, he got mad and left the conversation not wanting to hear any scriptural proof that was presented to him. In other words, only what he said was true and what I said was not true. I guess you will all need to decide for yourself.

In fairness to Denver, I sent his question to Avram for an answer and the following is the answer I received in its entirety:

Avram’s answer to Denver:

Thank you for asking that question.

First, there is no “melding” of the Holy Spirit and Miryam in Scripture. It’s a popular view that Jesus’ humanity came from Miryam, but that’s an assumption that Scripture refutes.

Second, calling the Holy Spirit “the power” of God Most High does not negate the Spirit’s Personhood as the Second Person in the God Family, any more than calling Jesus “the Son of God” negates the Personhood of God the Father.

Third, nowhere in Scripture does it state that the humanity of Jesus came from Miryam. It’s Man trying to understand how Jesus got His human nature; how Jesus came to be a Man. Just as Jesus came forth from the union of the Father and the Mother (the Holy Spirit) in the Beginning (Gen. 1:2-3), so too Jesus became a fetus, a human being in the womb of

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Miryam, while retaining His deity. Jesus truly is the First of the New Creation; the First of many brethren, the God-Man:

“For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the Image of His Son, that He might be the *Firstborn among many brethren.*” (Romans 8:29)

“He is the Image of the invisible God, *the Firstborn over all Creation.*” (Colossians 1:15) The Firstborn over all the New Creation.

“And He is the Head of the Body, the church, *who is the Beginning, the Firstborn from the dead*, that in all things He may have the preeminence.” (Colossians 1:18) Now Jesus is the glorified God-Man.

“But when He again brings the Firstborn into the world, He says, “Let all the angels of God worship Him.”” (Hebrews 1:6)

The Father chose Miryam to carry Jesus to full term. Miryam was blessed above all other women in that, but she was still a sinful human being, despite what the Catholic Church teaches. In simple terms, **Mary was the incubator-host-feeder of the Son in the womb**, but Miryam’s human nature had nothing to do with the pristine and sinless God given human nature of Jesus.

IF Jesus had Miryam’s human nature, Jesus would have been a sinner, having a sinful human nature as Miryam’s father and mother had, back to Adam and Eve in their fallen human state. **The human nature of Jesus was given to Him by His Father and His Mother;** truly the creative miracle of the Incarnation; just as God gave Adam and Eve their pristine and sinless human nature. That’s how Jesus can be called the Second Adam and also the Last Adam. Jesus is the Fountainhead of the new humanity. Jesus was sinless, just like Adam and Eve when God created them:

“And so, it is written, “The First Man Adam became a living being.” *The Last Adam* became a life-giving Spirit.” (1st Corinthians 15:45)

“The First Man was of the Earth, made of dust. *The Second Man* is the Lord **from Heaven.**” (1st Corinthians 15:47)

The humanity of Jesus was not of this Earth, but off/from Heaven, that is to say, from God the Father and God the Mother to place Jesus, the God-Man with pristine human nature, in the womb of Miryam. Jesus is the First of many in the New Creation.

Fourth, there is no melding of Mary’s human nature with her Son, and so there is no “Woman” (the Holy Spirit) mating with another woman (Miryam). That is a crude and false understanding of what happened; no less heretical than the Muslim teaching that Jesus came into being by God (the Father) actually having physical sex with Miryam.

The miracle of the Incarnation is that God the Son became a sinless human being; the Second Adam; **a Jewish human being**, circumcised on the 8th day of His life, just as Isaac had been (cf. Gen. 21:4). Jesus is the Jewish King of Israel:

“you shall surely set a king over you whom Yahveh your God chooses; *one from among your brethren* you shall set as king over you. You may not set a foreigner over you, who is not your brother.” (Deuteronomy 17:15)

“saying, “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.”” (Matthew 2:2)

“Now Jesus stood before the governor. And the governor asked Him, saying, “Are You the King of the Jews?” Jesus said to him, “*It is as you say.*”” (Matthew 27:11)

“When they had twisted a crown of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand. And they bowed the knee before Him and mocked Him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!”” (Matthew 27:29)

“And they put up over His head the accusation written against Him: “This is Jesus the King of the Jews.”” (Matthew 27:37)

I hope my words have opened up some avenues for further study.

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Laura Lee writes:

“The human nature of Jesus was given to Him by His Father and His Mother;” When Avram uses the word “Mother” here he is not talking about Mary. He is talking about the “Holy Spirit” whom he believes is a person, a woman and God’s wife as well as Christ’s mother.

“Mary was the incubator-host-feeder of the Son in the womb” When Avram makes this statement I feel he is being very disrespectful to Mary whom God specially chose to be the human mother during Christ’s time on earth as a man.

All humans are sinful creatures, but God works with us anyway, with the end in mind of us becoming perfect as God is perfect. All who make it through this process of perfection will someday be in the family of God. Avram’s deep meaning in saying Mary was an incubator is because he believes Christ acquired no traits at all from Mary due to her sinful nature. So, I asked Avram another question.

I asked him the following:

“I have another question for you. If Jesus did not get His humanity from Mary, then how did He end up being Jewish and of the blood line of David who was yet another sinner?” The answer I received to this question is below in its entirety.

Avram’s answer to Me:

Jesus was born of/through Mary. That seems to have made Him Jewish. Jesus Himself aligns Himself with the Jewish people. One such example is when speaking with the Samaritan woman:

“You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews.” (John 4:22)

As for how Jesus was from the lineage of King David, when Mary’s lineage isn’t known, only Joseph’s, it goes back to a husband being “one” with his wife:

“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.” (Genesis 2:24)

The answer is in my article: [The Davidic Lineage of Messiah Yeshua](#)

What did you think of my previous answer/s? Did it make sense that Jesus’ humanity could not have come from Mary?

Laura Lee writes:

Just for the record, I did read Avram’s entire article “The Davidic Lineage of Messiah Yeshua” and essentially what he is trying to say is that there is no possible way the throne of David came through Mary. After reading the entire thing I was sick to my stomach in seeing a person teach such a long doctrine which is not found in scripture and disrespecting not just Mary but God and Christ as well. Christ was a human being who was nourished and loved by Mary his mother. Christ could have sinned, but He did not. Sin is a choice which each and every one of us make. Some do not give much thought to that choice, but it is still a choice. What Christ had to help him was a full measure of the Holy Spirit (Power, Essence) of God. We will not have that until the very end.

Christ was a human just as we are human:

Luk 2:7 And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

Mat 4:2 And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward **an hungred**.

Joh 19:28 After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, **I thirst**.

Mar 4:38 And he was in the hinder part of the ship, **asleep on a pillow**: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish?

Luk 23:46 And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, **Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit**: and

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having said thus, **he gave up the ghost**.

Avram believes that if Christ got His humanity from Mary that He would have sinned, but the entire point of God impregnating Mary through the Power of God (the Holy Spirit) was so Christ would be human and that He, Christ would suffer in all points just as men and women suffer.

Avram reluctantly says Christ's Jewishness came through Mary though by how he states it and talks about it, I do not believe he believes Mary contributed anything to Christ and that she was as he claims just an incubator.

In his above-named booklet, he argues with himself that the throne of David as well as his lineage to the line of Judah had to come through Joseph, Mary's husband somehow. He dismissed the key as being Joseph adopting Christ as his own because it isn't in scripture. Then he comes up with an idea that because Joseph and Mary were married, they became as one and so therefore, what I understood it to say, was that Mary's lineage is now one with Joseph. In other words, whatever nationality Mary may have been it is now the same as Joseph's because they are married and are one.

The whole idea of that is ludicrous to say the least. So, after the thunder, hail and destructive winds of marriage, finally in the last several years Darwin and I become one in purpose and the storm clouds have left our dwelling place. Does this now change my lineage to his lineage now that we are one in purpose. Of course not. Darwin is still German, and I am still English, Dutch, Irish and German. Being one did not change our family roots.

As far as lineage goes, the lineage of the Jews goes primarily through the Mother and not the Father. So Avram is also wrong on that point.

In [Judaism](#), **matrilineality** or **matrilineal descent** is the tracing of Jewish descent through the [maternal lineage](#). According to traditional [halakha](#), Jewish descent is matrilineal: **the child of a Jewish mother is automatically Jewish**, while the child of a non-Jewish mother is non-Jewish unless they have converted to Judaism.^[1]

In contemporary Judaism, the [Orthodox](#) and [Conservative](#) movements observe matrilineal descent, while the [Reform](#) and [Reconstructionist](#) movements in the United States accept one as Jewish based on either a Jewish mother or father. Reform [responsa](#) additionally requires an exclusively Jewish upbringing. [Karaite Jews](#) generally practice patrilineal descent. [Matrilineality in Judaism - Wikipedia](#)

And then it says:

Orthodox Judaism^[edit]

[Orthodox Judaism](#) practices matrilineal descent.^{[15][16]} Orthodox Judaism holds that anyone with a Jewish mother also has irrevocable Jewish status; that even were such a Jew to convert to another religion, that person would still be considered Jewish by Jewish Law. [Matrilineality in Judaism - Wikipedia](#)

So, the point is that Christ is Jewish because His mother Mary was Jewish. That is one thing cleared up and now the other, how did Christ have the right to sit on the throne of David. The two lineages in scripture are different. So even though they both seem at first look to be Joseph's lineage, they are not. One is Mary's and one is Joseph's, and they are yes about the bloodline, but they are also about the inheritance of the throne of David. Both lineages are found starting in Matthew 1:1 and Luke 3:18 and both lineages are different. The one in Matthew comes through David's son Solomon and the one in Luke comes through David's son Nathan. So, what is the point?

I don't know who wrote this, but it comes from the website of the Church of the Great God, [Why Does Jesus Have Two Different Genealogies \(Matthew 1:1-16; Luke 3:23-38\)? \(cgg.org\)](#)

Why Does Jesus Have Two Different Genealogies (Matthew 1:1-16; Luke 3:23-38)?

These two chapters, both giving genealogies of [Jesus](#), at first appear to be contradictory. Actually, however, they complement each other.

The genealogy in Matthew 1 is clearly that of Joseph, Mary's husband. Matthew records it for legal purposes. He

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is writing to prove to the Jews that Jesus is the Messiah, and the Jews' custom in keeping records is to trace descent through the father. Legally, the Jews of Jesus' day looked on Jesus as a son of Joseph ([John 6:42](#)).

Also, Joseph's lineage is given to emphasize the fact that Jesus had been born of a virgin. Because of a curse that God placed on one of Joseph's ancestors, Jesus could never sit upon the throne of David if Joseph had been His natural father.

Jechonias ([Matthew 1:11-12](#)), called Coniah in [Jeremiah 22:24-30](#), was so evil God cursed him and his descendants, saying, "Write this man down as childless, . . . for none of his descendants shall prosper, sitting on the throne of David, and ruling anymore in Judah" (verse 30). Jeconiah, as his name is spelled in the Old Testament, had children ([I Chronicles 3:17](#)), but he was childless insofar as none of his descendants ruled as king over Judah.

How, then, could Jesus be a descendant of David and qualify to sit on the throne? Enter the genealogy in Luke 3, which is Mary's. According to Jewish usage, Mary's ancestry is given in her husband's name. The original Greek merely says Joseph was "of Heli" or Eli (verse 23). In fact, since Joseph's father is said to be Jacob in [Matthew 1:16](#), Heli is most probably Mary's father. Joseph, then, is his son-in-law.

Unlike Joseph's lineage, there was no block in Mary's genealogy to Jesus sitting on the throne of David. Mary's descent from David comes through his son Nathan, not Solomon or one of David's other children ([Luke 3:31](#)). To fulfill His promise to establish David's throne forever, God honored Nathan by making him the ancestor of the promised King who would sit on David's throne throughout eternity ([Luke 1:31-33](#)).

But how could Mary transmit David's royal inheritance—the right to the throne—to her Son, since all inheritances had to pass through the male line? According to Israel's law, when a daughter is the only heir, she can inherit her father's possessions and rights if she marries within her own tribe ([Numbers 27:1-8](#); [36:6-8](#)). There is no record that Mary had any brothers to inherit her father's possessions and rights. Thus, Joseph became Heli's heir by marriage to Mary, inheriting the right to rule on David's throne, even over Judah. This right then passed on to Jesus.

Both genealogies had to be recorded to establish Christ's right to rule on David's throne. Joseph's genealogy shows that Christ was a legal descendant of Jeconiah and thus legally could not sit on the throne of David in the nation Judah by inheriting the right solely through Joseph.

Further, the genealogies prove the virgin birth: The curse on Jeconiah's line would have passed on to Christ if He were Joseph's natural son, but He was not—He was the Son of God the Father, begotten by the Holy Spirit.

Jesus was Mary's son descended from Nathan. Jesus can inherit rule over Judah because of Mary's marriage to Joseph, whose genealogy shows he was Heli's son-in-law.

So thus, you have it from multiple directions Avram is teaching a false, pagan doctrine which is not in scripture.

So, then Avram asked me the following question: "What did you think of my previous answer/s? Did it make sense that Jesus' humanity could not have come from Mary?"

"What did I think of his previous answer/s?" My answer is this, I believe Avram has a problem and I believe he is delusional (not of a sound mind at this point in time). You should not be teaching any of this because it is a false pagan doctrine that comes directly from Satan. It is a part of Gnosticism which comes from a branch of the Nicolaitans whom God hates. There is no way to say this to any person nicely.

"Did it make sense that Jesus' humanity could not have come from Mary?" My answer to this is that none of your doctrine makes any sense and none of it is in scripture. Mary deserves far more respect than you gave her in your doctrine. Do you have something against Mary or just women in general, because men are just as sinful as women.

The one thing I want to thank you for is that out of the clear blue sky you dropped this false doctrine on us all that we

could understand how easy it could be to fall for this if we did not know ahead of time what our bibles said because your doctrine is not only false, but it is slimy like the serpent of old. You threaded enough truth throughout that if the only thing one looked at was what you said they might have fallen for it. I will admit at first I had no idea what you were talking about or where you were going with what you said but now I do and you have fooled no one with this garbage and that is exactly what your doctrine is, garbage.

Rev 2:15 **So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.**

In regard to: Mary and the Holy Spirit: Their Roles in the Conception of Jesus

Article by Stephen Davey
Comments by Laura Lee (Bismarck, North Dakota)

This article mentions the trinity. We do not believe in the trinity doctrine, and we do not teach the trinity doctrine because it is not in scripture.

This article is excellent in explaining the conception of Jesus.

Holy Days 2024

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

Passover/Unleavened Bread – April 23-29, 2024

Pentecost – June 12, 2024

Trumpets - October 3, 2024

Atonement – October 12, 2024

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

Last Great Day – October 24, 2024

Notes

Notes