

## Leviticus 23

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PAGE 2 **Article**

### What is the World's Biggest Problem?

(Copyright 2010) by John Jewell  
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PAGE 10 **Article**

### And Hagar WENT BACK

(Copyright) by Catherine C. Kroeger  
(Brewster, Massachusetts)

PAGE 12 **Article**

### George Washington's Secret Weapon for Defeating the British

(Copyright 2024) by Eddie Hyatt  
(Grapevine, Texas)

PAGE 14 **Article**

### "Are You Taking the Sabbath for Granted?"

(Copyright 2001) by Kristian Kristiansen  
(Oregon, Wisconsin)

PAGE 16 **Article**

### In regard to: Is Yayshua God?

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

PAGE 18 **Iron Sharpening Iron**

### In regard to: Is Yayshua God?

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

PAGE 18 **Iron Sharpening Iron**

**The “New” Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**March 16, 2024 --- Issue No. 163**

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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.

## Leviticus 23

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**The Law of God**

Leviticus 23 is part of the law of God. For those who believe the law of God has been done away there is nothing much that will be said here that will change your mind, but I will try anyway.

**Joh 10:27** My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they **follow me**:

**Joh 12:26** If any man serve me, let him **follow me**; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will *my* Father honour.

If you believe in Christ, you will follow Him. Christ is the one that implemented His law in the first place and while He was on earth, He kept His law perfectly. So that is what it means to “Follow Christ”. It means you keep His law. Christ and God the Father are on the same page in regard to the Law.

Then there is a group of people who believe in Christ and believe the Holy Days should be kept, but if you don't keep them all the time or you teach that it is not a salvational issue, then what you are doing is helping people to follow Satan instead of God. Yes, you heard me, you are teaching people to follow Satan.

Keeping the Holy Days of God on the right days is a salvational issue because they are listed in the law of God and they are not optional. God gives you a direct command to keep them and there is no place in the Bible where it says they are

**The “New” Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**March 16, 2024 --- Issue No. 163**

done away or that you don't have to keep them sometimes because you are busy that day and just can't.

**Lev 23:1** And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, **Lev 23:2** Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, *Concerning* the feasts of the LORD, which ye shall proclaim *to be* holy convocations, **even these are my feasts.**

The first thing you should notice about Leviticus 23:1 is that it is God who is telling Moses what to say. Many people call the law of God Moses law as if it belongs to Moses. The law belongs to God, it is His law. God used Moses to relay the law to His people, just like God uses us to teach others what the Bible says.

Notice in verse two where God proclaims, “these are my feasts”. These feasts do not belong to Moses, they belong to God.

These feasts are to be “holy convocations”. In other words, you are to meet with other of God's people on these feast days and there is nothing in this wording telling you these feast days are optional because they are not optional. They are commanded assemblies.

#### **Strong's 4744 (Convocation)**

*mik-raw'*

From **H7121**; something *called* out, that is, a **public meeting** (the act, the persons, or the place); also a *rehearsal*: - **assembly**, calling, convocation, reading.

#### **Seventh Day Sabbath**

**Lev 23:3** Six days shall work be done: but the seventh day *is* the sabbath of rest, an holy convocation; ye shall do no work *therein*: *it is* the sabbath of the LORD in all your dwellings.

The first listed of these commanded assemblies is the weekly sabbath. You may work for six days during the week, but the seventh day is the Sabbath. The Sabbath is first mentioned in Genesis:

**Gen 2:2** And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. **Gen 2:3** And God blessed the seventh day, and **sanctified** it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.

God made the seventh day of the week holy. He set it aside so we could assemble and worship God together. Those who are telling you that Sunday is the day you are to set aside to worship God are lying to you. Sunday is Satan's day. And yes, you heard me. Sunday is Satan's counterfeit day of worship.

#### **Passover Week and Days of Unleavened Bread**

**Lev 23:4** These *are* the feasts of the LORD, *even* holy convocations, which ye shall proclaim in their seasons. **Lev 23:5** In the fourteenth *day* of the first month at even *is* the LORD'S passover. **Lev 23:6** And on the fifteenth day of the same month *is* the feast of unleavened bread unto the LORD: seven days ye must eat unleavened bread. **Lev 23:7** In the first day ye shall have an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein. **Lev 23:8** But ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD seven days: in the seventh day *is* an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work *therein*.

The next Holy Day is Passover/Unleavened Bread. Passover/Unleavened Bread lasts for seven days and is the same feast. Many misunderstand this set of Holy Days. They wrongly believe that Christ changed the Passover from the 15<sup>th</sup> at even to the 14<sup>th</sup> at even. This is due to the meal that Christ ate with His apostles the night before He died. There are two scriptures which will clear this problem up for most.

**Eze 45:21** In the first *month*, in the fourteenth day of the month, ye shall have the passover, a feast of seven days; unleavened bread shall be eaten.

**Joh 13:1** **Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father,** having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.

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**The “New” Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**March 16, 2024 --- Issue No. 163**

Eze. 45:21 is pretty clear. Notice John 13:1, in context this is after the meal he had with His apostles before He was crucified. Right after this scripture in context Christ is introducing the foot washing. The verse is pretty clear that this was being done before the feast of Passover.

Many people in the Worldwide Church of God were taught that on the evening of the 14<sup>th</sup> which would be the evening where the 13<sup>th</sup> turned into the 14<sup>th</sup> at Sunset is the time that we were to keep the Passover, but scripture does not back that up. Worldwide also taught that on the next night as the 14<sup>th</sup> turned into the 15<sup>th</sup>, that everyone was supposed to eat a meal together in groups at different people’s houses and they called that night, “The Night to Be Much Observed”. In Leviticus 23 it does not list a Holy Day called “The Night to Be Much Observed”. The understanding of a “Night to be much observed” comes from Exodus 12:42.

Read the entire chapter of Exodus 12 in context: You will see from reading that chapter that first the lamb was killed on the afternoon of the 14<sup>th</sup>, we know this because Christ was our Passover Lamb and He was crucified on the afternoon of the 14 between the two evenings or at 3:00 PM. Notice that they did not eat the lamb until it was killed. Then the meal was eaten as the 14<sup>th</sup> turned into the 15<sup>th</sup> at Sunset. This was the same evening the blood was daubed on the door posts so the death angel would pass over them. The next morning sometime after midnight they were all thrust out and had to leave. These events all took place on the latter part of the 14<sup>th</sup> and the beginning of the 15<sup>th</sup>. The meal the night of the 14<sup>th</sup> of Nisan as it turned to the 15<sup>th</sup> of Nisan was the Passover Meal.

Worldwide did not have everything wrong, but they did not have it all right either. They taught that Passover was done on the early part of the 14<sup>th</sup> of Nisan, and it was not with a meal. Instead, they got together as a huge group and did only the wine, bread and the footwashing. They did the meal the next night. This was all sort of mixed up as they said that the Passover Lambs were killed after sunset on the early part of the 14<sup>th</sup> but yet Worldwide ate no meal that night and they all clearly knew that Christ was the Passover Lamb and they all knew that Christ was killed on the latter part of the 14<sup>th</sup> of Nisan.

The Feast of Passover was to be seven days long and you were to eat unleavened bread every day of that seven-day feast starting with the Passover meal. Instead, if you were in Worldwide, Passover was treated as a regular workday where the only unleavened bread you had to eat was what you ate while gathered for the bread, the wine and the footwashing. After the Passover Ceremony was finished on the early part of the 14<sup>th</sup> of Nisan, you could work the next day and fill your stomach full of unleavened bread (sin) until the next day at sunset.

Here's the problem, Passover is a Holy Day and should be treated like one. There is no day between Passover and Unleavened Bread where you can fill your stomach with sin until sunset. Worldwide had a lot of things right, but this is one thing they failed on badly. If they had put the two nights together as they should have, they would have been eating an entire Passover Meal on the night of Nisan 15, with the bread, wine and footwashing. The night of Passover was the “Night to be Much Observed”. It was a memorial to be kept once a year.

Those who have studied this subject for the most part have changed how they keep Passover, but others claim they have to hold fast what was once delivered to them. This belief system does not allow people to grow in grace and knowledge. It keeps them stuck in a wrong doctrine. A doctrine which will keep them from the “First Fruits Resurrection.”

I realize that it can be confusing sometimes to look at scripture which sometimes seems to contradict itself. Since the word Passover is use almost a hundred times in scripture that can also become overwhelming. Take your concordance and find all the times the word Passover is used in scripture. Next divide it up into groups. For example, when it says Passover, in context is it talking about the meal, the holy day, the sacrifice or what is it talking about. Once you have it divided into groups it will be easier for you to see what day Passover is really on.

At the same time, you need to study what “Between the Two Evenings” means according to scripture because it is defined in scripture when you study the time of day that the sacrifices were done. The sacrifices were never done at night so that alone eliminates and early 14<sup>th</sup> of Nisan from being Passover. The morning sacrifices were always done at 9:00 AM and the evening sacrifices were always done at 3:00 in the afternoon. Also, the word even does not always mean the beginning of the day, many times it means the end of the day.

So, to sum it all up, Christ and the Passover Lambs were killed between the two evenings on the 14<sup>th</sup> of Nisan. Between

**The “New” Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**March 16, 2024 --- Issue No. 163**

the two evenings is talking about the period of time between noon when the sun starts going down in the sky and when the sun actually sets in the evening. Keep in mind that there is still daylight for 45 minutes to an hour once the sun has gone down. That short period of daylight between sunset and darkness is counted as the next day because it is the sunset that divides the day according to scripture.

The Passover Meal including the bread, the wine and the footwashing is to be done at the beginning of the 15<sup>th</sup> of Nisan as the 14<sup>th</sup> of Nisan turns into the 15<sup>th</sup> of Nisan at sunset. It is a Holy Day and not a workday. This is also the time that you start eating unleavened bread each day for seven days, just like Ezekiel 45:21 says to do.

The meal that Christ had with His apostles the night before He was crucified was not a Passover Meal, but Christ did use that meal to introduce the new emblems for Passover, the wine, the bread and the footwashing. See John 13:1 where it clearly says **“Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father,”** This was in context at the point where Christ introduced the footwashing.

**Exo 12:6** And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening. **Exo 12:7** And they shall take of the blood, and strike *it* on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it. **Exo 12:8** And they shall eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; *and* with bitter *herbs* they shall eat it.

**Exo 12:14** And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to the LORD throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance for ever. **Exo 12:15** Seven days shall ye eat unleavened bread; even the first day ye shall put away leaven out of your houses: for whosoever eateth leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that soul shall be cut off from Israel. **Exo 12:16** And in the first day *there shall be* an holy convocation, and in the seventh day there shall be an holy convocation to you; no manner of work shall be done in them, save *that* which every man must eat, that only may be done of you.

**Exo 12:42** *It is* a night to be much observed unto the LORD for bringing them out from the land of Egypt: this *is* that night of the LORD to be observed of all the children of Israel in their generations. **Exo 12:43** And the LORD said unto Moses and Aaron, **This is the ordinance of the passover:** There shall no stranger eat thereof:

Right there it is, it is talking about the Feast of Passover which lasts for seven days and you eat unleavened bread.

#### **The Wave Sheaf Offering**

**Lev 23:9** And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, **Lev 23:10** Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye be come into the land which I give unto you, and shall reap the harvest thereof, then ye shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest unto the priest: **Lev 23:11** And he shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, **to be accepted for you: on the morrow after the sabbath** the priest shall wave it. **Lev 23:12** And ye shall offer that day when ye wave the sheaf an he lamb without blemish of the first year for a burnt offering unto the LORD. **Lev 23:13** And the meat offering thereof *shall be* two tenth deals of fine flour mingled with oil, an offering made by fire unto the LORD *for* a sweet savour: and the drink offering thereof *shall be* of wine, the fourth *part* of an hin. **Lev 23:14** And ye shall eat neither bread, nor parched corn, nor green ears, until the selfsame day that ye have brought an offering unto your God: *it shall be* a statute for ever throughout your generations in all your dwellings.

Notice verse 9 above where it says, “When ye be come into the land which I give unto you, and shall reap the harvest thereof, then ye shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest unto the priest:” Notice also verse 11 where it says the wave sheaf is to be done the day after the sabbath and that day is the high day sabbath of Passover. (See Jos. 5:10-11)

**Jos 5:10** And the children of Israel encamped in Gilgal, and kept the passover on the fourteenth day of the month at even in the plains of Jericho. **Jos 5:11** And they did eat of the **old corn of the land on the morrow after the passover**, unleavened cakes, and parched *corn* in the selfsame day.

The wave sheaf offering takes place on the day after Passover known as Nisan 16. The wave sheaf offering does not represent Christ. The wave sheaf offering represents the First Fruits. See Lev. verse 11 above.

**The “New” Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**March 16, 2024 --- Issue No. 163**

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

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

The wave sheaf represents the ecclesia.

Read Albert Edersheim:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**The "New" Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**March 16, 2024 --- Issue No. 163**

**Joseph Benson Commentary**  
**Numbers 8:11**

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

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

Part of the wave sheaf offering was discarded. Many are called but few are chosen. So just because you are called does not mean you will be chosen to be one of the "firstfruits" it depends on your loyalty to God and His Law and whether you will let the Holy Spirit work in you to lead you into all truth-+.

**The Feast of Weeks (First Fruits)**

**Lev 23:15** And ye shall count unto you from the morrow after the sabbath, from the day that ye brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven sabbaths shall be complete: **Lev 23:16** Even unto the morrow after the seventh sabbath shall ye number fifty days; and ye shall offer a new meat offering unto the LORD. **Lev 23:17** Ye shall bring out of your habitations two wave loaves of two tenth deals: they shall be of fine flour; they shall be baked with leaven; *they are* the firstfruits unto the LORD. **Lev 23:18** And ye shall offer with the bread seven lambs without blemish of the first year, and one young bullock, and two rams: they shall be *for* a burnt offering unto the LORD, with their meat offering, and their drink offerings, *even* an offering made by fire, of sweet savour unto the LORD. **Lev 23:19** Then ye shall sacrifice one kid of the goats for a sin offering, and two lambs of the first year for a sacrifice of peace offerings. **Lev 23:20** And the priest shall wave them with the bread of the firstfruits *for* a wave offering before the LORD, with the two lambs: they shall be holy to the LORD for the priest. **Lev 23:21** And ye shall proclaim on the selfsame day, *that* it may be an holy convocation unto you: ye shall do no servile work *therein: it shall be* a statute for ever in all your dwellings throughout your generations. **Lev 23:22** And when ye reap the harvest of your land, thou shalt not make clean riddance of the corners of thy field when thou reapest, neither shalt thou gather any gleanings of thy harvest: thou shalt leave them unto the poor, and to the stranger: I *am* the LORD your God.

Where to begin. This is another Holy Day which the Worldwide Church of God taught wrongly. At first Herbert W. Armstrong taught a Sivan 6 Pentecost, which was the right one. Then he taught a Monday Pentecost and then a Sunday Pentecost. Apparently, he was a little mixed up in regard to what day to keep Pentecost which is why there are within the Church of God today, three groups all keeping a different day. And they all believe they are right, but who is right on this topic?

Anciently and on the Hebrew Calendar the day being kept was Sivan 6. And scripture backs this date up.

**Exo 19:1** In the third month, when the children of Israel were gone forth out of the land of Egypt, **the same day** came they *into* the wilderness of Sinai. **Exo 19:2** For they were departed from Rephidim, and were come *to* the desert of Sinai, and had pitched in the wilderness; and there Israel camped before the mount. **Exo 19:3** And Moses went up unto God, and the LORD called unto him out of the mountain, saying, Thus shalt thou say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel; **Exo 19:4** Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and *how* I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself. **Exo 19:5** Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth *is* mine: **Exo 19:6** And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These *are* the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel. **Exo 19:7** And Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before their faces all these words which the LORD commanded him. **Exo 19:8** And all the people answered together, and said, All that the LORD hath spoken we will do. And Moses returned the words of the people unto the LORD. **Exo 19:9** And the LORD said unto Moses, Lo, I come unto thee in a thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with thee, and believe thee for ever. And Moses told the words of the people unto the LORD. **Exo 19:10** And the LORD said unto Moses, Go unto the people, and **sanctify them to day and to morrow**, and let them wash their clothes, **Exo 19:11** And **be ready against the third day: for the third day the LORD will come**

**The “New” Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**March 16, 2024 --- Issue No. 163**

down in the sight of all the people upon mount Sinai.

In context Exodus 19 is not only telling us when the law was given to those who came out of Egypt, but it is also giving us the date of Pentecost. They arrived in the third month on the third day of the month. Later, in verses 10 and 11 it shows they had two days of preparation which would be the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of Sivan and they were to be ready against the third day which was when they would receive the law. And that day was Sivan 6.

So, the count to Pentecost began on Nisan 16 the day after Passover. When you count from Nisan 16, the count will always end on Sivan 6. The reason we count from Nisan 16 to Pentecost on Sivan 6 is because a bride always counts to the day of her wedding.

Also, in the New Testament the Holy Spirit was given on the day of Pentecost. This is important because the Holy Spirit is what writes the law of God into our heart (mind) and helps us keep the law of God.

**Act 2:1** And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. **Act 2:2** And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. **Act 2:3** And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. **Act 2:4** And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

In the future the elect of God will be resurrected or changed on Pentecost and be taken to the sea of glass in heaven where they will attend the “Wedding Supper of the Lamb.” After that they will be instructed and trained in their duties for ruling with Christ for a thousand years.

This time period between the Feast of Firstfruits (Pentecost) and the Feast of Trumpets will be when the bowls of wrath are poured out on the earth.

#### **The Feast of Trumpets**

**Lev 23:23** And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, **Lev 23:24** Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, In the seventh month, in the first *day* of the month, shall ye have a sabbath, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, an holy convocation. **Lev 23:25** Ye shall do no servile work *therein*: but ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD.

This is the day the Hebrew Calendar is set by. This day can slide up to two days one way or the other in order to get the full moon to show up on Passover and again on the Feast of Tabernacles (Booths).

This is also the day that Christ will return to earth with His 144,000 Saints to set up the Kingdom of God on earth.

**Rev 14:3** And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred *and* forty *and* four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth.

**Rev 14:1** And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty *and* four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads.

#### **The Day of Atonement**

**Lev 23:26** And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, **Lev 23:27** Also on the tenth *day* of this seventh month *there shall be* a day of atonement: it shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD. **Lev 23:28** And ye shall do no work in that same day: for it *is* a day of atonement, to make an atonement for you before the LORD your God. **Lev 23:29** For whatsoever soul *it be* that shall not be afflicted in that same day, he shall be cut off from among his people. **Lev 23:30** And whatsoever soul *it be* that doeth any work in that same day, the same soul will I destroy from among his people. **Lev 23:31** Ye shall do no manner of work: *it shall be* a statute for ever throughout your generations in all your dwellings. **Lev 23:32** It *shall be* unto you a sabbath of rest, and ye shall afflict your souls: in the ninth *day* of the month at even, from even unto even, shall ye celebrate your sabbath.

For those who have doubts that days should be kept from sunset to sunset, here is the proof you need to show that days



**The “New” Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**March 16, 2024 --- Issue No. 163**

were kept from sunset to sunset. Some believe that only the daytime period is a Holy Day and others add parts of days to this and call it pre-atonement. Neither of those are correct. This is pretty clear that we are to keep atonement from sunset on the 9<sup>th</sup> until sunset on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

Atonement is a picture of reconciliation between man and God and should be kept as a fast day. That means no food and no water from sunset on the 9<sup>th</sup> until sunset on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

There has in the past also been a conflict over who the two goats represent. Both goats represent Christ.

**Lev 16:21** And Aaron shall lay both his hands upon the head of the live goat, and confess over him all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions in all their sins, putting them upon the head of the goat, and shall send *him* away by the hand of a fit man into the wilderness: **Lev 16:22** And the goat shall bear upon him all their iniquities unto a land not inhabited: and he shall let go the goat in the wilderness.

The first goat is a sin offering which was sacrificed just as Christ sacrificed His life for us. The second goat, the live goat also represents Christ in that in a future age all of our sins are put on Christ and taken away not to be remembered again.

### **The Feast of Tabernacles (Booths) and the Eighth Day**

**Lev 23:33** And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, **Lev 23:34** Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, The fifteenth day of this seventh month *shall be* the feast of tabernacles *for* seven days unto the LORD. **Lev 23:35** On the first day *shall be* an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work *therein*. **Lev 23:36** Seven days ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD: on the eighth day shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD: it *is* a solemn assembly; *and* ye shall do no servile work *therein*. **Lev 23:37** These *are* the feasts of the LORD, which ye shall proclaim *to be* holy convocations, to offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD, a burnt offering, and a meat offering, a sacrifice, and drink offerings, every thing upon his day: **Lev 23:38** Beside the sabbaths of the LORD, and beside your gifts, and beside all your vows, and beside all your freewill offerings, which ye give unto the LORD. **Lev 23:39** Also in the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when ye have gathered in the fruit of the land, ye shall keep a feast unto the LORD seven days: on the first day *shall be* a sabbath, and on the eighth day *shall be* a sabbath. **Lev 23:40** And ye shall take you on the first day the boughs of goodly trees, branches of palm trees, and the boughs of thick trees, and willows of the brook; and ye shall rejoice before the LORD your God seven days. **Lev 23:41** And ye shall keep it a feast unto the LORD seven days in the year. *It shall be* a statute for ever in your generations: ye shall celebrate it in the seventh month. **Lev 23:42** Ye shall dwell in booths seven days; all that are Israelites born shall dwell in booths: **Lev 23:43** That your generations may know that I made the children of Israel to dwell in booths, when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I *am* the LORD your God. **Lev 23:44** And Moses declared unto the children of Israel the feasts of the LORD.

This feast represents what most people are looking forward to, the Kingdom of God on earth, the 1000-year millennial reign of Christ. This is the time period when the 144,000 elect of God will be ruling with Christ and teaching mankind how to live.

The eighth day is when the rest of the dead are resurrected to life or to death.

### **Conclusion**

As you can see, all Annual Holy Days are to be kept once a year, in certain months (seasons) and on certain days. The Hebrew Calendar as preserved by the Jewish People is the calendar, we should all use until such time that Christ tells us differently.

Through the years many people have been trying to lead God's people in a different direction, for example moon sightings or barley sightings. Neither of those are backed up in scripture. The moon sightings don't work because some figure the dark moon and some the crescent moon which cannot be seen with the natural eye and even scientists are not accurate in sighting the moon even with their vast array of instruments. As for the barley, it will ripen in different parts of Israel at different times.

The best reason to use the Hebrew Calendar is because it was the calendar that was used at the time of Christ and all

**The "New" Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**March 16, 2024 --- Issue No. 163**

the Holy Day dates listed on it can be found and proven from scripture.

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## What is the World's Biggest Problem?

(Copyright 2010) by John Jewell (London, England)

What would you say is the biggest problem in the world today? There are a lot of problems but which one of them is the one that contains the greatest threat to the world, to nations, to people? Which one over the years has caused more trouble than almost anything else, still does and threatens to bring even more? What would you say?

War is a big problem. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century alone, we had two wars which involved nearly every nation on earth. Two wars fought with a blood-thirsty, cruel ferocity that was almost beyond belief. From the end of the second world war and through the remaining 50 years of the century there were more wars. Notable among them was the Korean war and the Vietnam war. Both involved a number of nations but mainly the United States which featured in both and then Britain which was involved in the Korean war in addition to a number of smaller wars and conflicts. As we came in to the 21<sup>st</sup> century we still have wars. Two are going on right now in the Middle East and there are a number of others going on around the world.

Going back in history we find many more wars, prominent among them being the Peninsula war, the Boer war, the opium wars, the Napoleonic wars, the Trojan wars, the many wars fought by Imperial Rome and the occasion when England under King Harold lost the battle to the French under William the conqueror. I think it is correctly said that there is virtually never a time and never has been, when there isn't a war going on somewhere. And it's been like that from beyond the beginning of time. Before addressing that important point let us just ask the question, has anything positive been achieved by war? A history of war through the ages would show that nothing positive is ever achieved. North Korea is separated from the South and now has the atomic bomb and nuclear missiles.

Throughout the world at this time, wars, and conflicts of all kinds, are being fought. We have the war in Afghanistan, another in Iraq and another always threatening to break out between Israel and the surrounding nations. Some might say that many useful inventions were developed through war! Oh, were they? Electricity? Radio? Television? Telephones? None of these, or other developments, were as the result of war. What war has produced has been misery for millions! Nations set back centuries. War is a strong candidate for biggest problem!

Other problems exist such as climatic conditions, for example, widespread drought. Through history this also has set nations back, caused misery for multitudes and still does. Drought today is affecting most of the northern half of the African continent, a big area of the United States, South America and Asia. Famine also. Widespread diseases such as the Black Death which swept Europe have been a problem. There have been smallpox epidemics and then there was the Spanish flu which broke out in 1918 causing millions of deaths and then back in history there was the great epidemic of 1557. The world, in spite of the experiences of those pandemics is still at risk, perhaps more than ever, from similar diseases. Recently there was the swine flu scare! This, although in the event was not the threat at first thought, it not having the virulence originally assessed, did remind us all that the threat is always there, especially in these days of mass travel in crowded, packed airplanes and crowded trains.

Terrorism is a big problem and probably affects all nations in one way or another. For example, the United States saw the destruction by terrorists of the two towers of the World Trade Center, most of the world saw it on television. Then

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**The “New” Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**March 16, 2024 --- Issue No. 163**

there was the destruction in mid-air of a Pan American plane which crashed on the town of Lockerbie in Scotland with an overall death toll of around 260 people. There have been many other examples. The biggest effect however is the world-wide precautions that have to be taken to defend individual nations from terrorist activity.

Another problem for the world at large is that of crime! There isn't a single country on the face of the earth which is not affected by crime in one way or another. There are the small crimes such as taking, without permission, for personal use office stationery. But there are the huge crimes such as have recently come to light where people have set themselves up as investment bankers and taken, stolen, millions of dollars, millions of pounds, from others who trusted them and who could least afford to lose the money. Others, being trusted by a family member, have misused, and stolen the monies in their charge, betraying the trust in them.

Crime is widespread and what is more, is glorified along with war, in movies or films and on television. So, through the media our children are being influenced to see nothing wrong in it. As long, as the proviso goes, no one is hurt by it. But someone is always hurt by crime whatever it is.

Then there is religion! You wouldn't think that religion would be a major problem for the world would you! Would you?? Well, you know it is!

A handbook of the world's religions will have listings of hundreds of different religions. In the professing Christian religion there must be around 600 different groups in America alone, at least another 200 in Britain with more in Europe and around the world. Most will have variations of belief. For the truth of that just list the doctrines of the Catholic church against those of the Presbyterian church and they're quite different. Yet both profess to be Christian. Then there are major religions such as Buddhism, Islam, and of course Judaism and each has its individual splinter groups. Each and every one of them professes to have the truth! And they will be quite intolerant of all of the others. With some exceptions they all however profess to worship the one true God. Then there is indeed the one true church of God and even then, there are those who believe different things. They come up with ideas of their own! There seems, even within true Christianity, let alone any of the others, an inability to come to a joint agreement and understanding. It would appear that sometimes adherents get ideas contrary to everyone else, they have an understanding no one else has! Reminds me of George Orwell's book Animal Farm, it is there that all pigs are equal except some are more equal than others!

So, what problem does religion hold for the world? Although ostensibly it isn't violent, physically speaking, it can generate violence as it has in Northern Ireland and many other parts of the world, and still threatens to break out yet again in Ireland. Yet it presents a confused view of life and what the purpose of life is and so people are just as confused as they always have been. Religion is a big problem in the world, and it is instrumental in preventing a unity developing among peoples. Everyone's religious belief is the right one and adherents take great reassurance from convincing others of the rightness of their beliefs, that they might in fact be wrong isn't an issue to them, how can it be when in their mind they are right! Gaining converts to their thinking reinforces their view as to the correctness of their beliefs, especially if they themselves are converts.

We have the example of the Crusades of the Middle Ages dedicated to recovering the Holy Land from the Moslems, and now in one of the daily newspapers there is a photograph of a group of Moslems holding a big banner with the slogan "Islam will dominate the world" With everything else that is happening one would have to say there really is no hope for this world. Everywhere we look today, and indeed people have looked for centuries, we find confusion, everyone is right! In their own eyes, or in their view, they are. To talk in terms of "dominating the world" is aggressive, such a sentiment does not come from the one, true God. The bible itself mentions this as a problem. In Proverbs 21:2 it says this: "Every way of a man is right in his own eyes but the Lord ponders the hearts." Another passage, this time in Isaiah 66:2 says "... To this man will I look, even to him that is poor (or "humble") and of a contrite spirit, and trembles at my word."

The one big problem for the world is that of government. It's a question of "Who rules!" Whose word is paramount? Has there ever been even one successful government of man. It all started with the spirit world God created of angels, the word actually means "messenger". There were three archangels, of which one was Lucifer who rebelled against God. He is described as being filled with violence, as being profane with the wisdom he originally had, now corrupt. He was cast out and then to be contained on the earth. Lucifer, now Satan, who wanted to take God's position is now the god of this world. In 2nd Corinthians 4:4 it says how the god of this world has blinded the minds of those who don't understand or believe the truth. In other words, it is the spirit of Satan that fills this world. A violent, profane, corrupt spirit. The master

**The “New” Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**March 16, 2024 --- Issue No. 163**

of destruction and confusion. Everyone, and I mean everyone, is a target.

It is no wonder therefore that the world is as violent as it is. Satan knows his eventual fate and he wants to destroy any and every possibility of mankind fulfilling its true destiny. He has generated all kinds of religious beliefs in an effort to distract people from the biblical truth. He is the master of deception and has something for everyone. If you like lots of ceremony there are religious beliefs that will give you that! Lots of emotion? There are groups that will provide that! How about something which is very esoteric, capable only of being understood by the initiated, that's there as well. Then there are those who really should be on the stage as they work best with large attendances, and everything becomes a theatrical performance.

The truth contained in the bible is not difficult to understand. The apostle Paul in the New Testament in 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 1:12 said that he presented the truth not as the world would present it, but “... in simplicity and godly sincerity, ...” and in 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 2:4 referring to Jesus Christ who, as he says, “... will have all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.” Basically, if something is complicated and not easy to grasp then you can be fairly certain it is not of God.

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## And Hagar WENT BACK

(Copyright) by Catherine C. Kroeger (Brewster, Massachusetts)

*What a disappointment it is when we try so very hard to help a woman who has decided to leave an abusive situation! We scurry around to locate food, clothing, toiletries, toys for the children, furniture and bedding, a place to stay. We approach the deacons for emergency funding. We befriend her and pray for her. We watch the children, drive the survivor to get food stamps and a restraining order, and then suddenly she returns to her abuser! All of our work has been for nothing, or so it seems.*

*We can end up feeling downright foolish about the whole effort. How can we demonstrate a gracious attitude if the victim approaches us again for help? In point of fact, this experience is a very common one. Most women who decide to leave their abusers return approximately seven times before they make the final break.*

*There are many reasons why women go back to the situations from which we have tried to rescue them. The victim may feel that she has no other option for surviving financially, she may fear that her abuser will kill her unless she returns. The offender may have told the woman that she is totally inadequate to cope without him, and she has bought into his lie.*

*She may fear the rejection of her family or her friends at church. She may cling to her marriage vows and refuse to break the binding promise that she made at the altar. Her pastor may demand that she return. She may have been told that the Bible requires her to remain in the marriage even when her life is at stake, or even that she may win the abuser to Christ if she continues to submit to his abuse.*

*There are some forty other reasons that women return, among them being quite simply that she still loves the perpetrator. But how can we ever get anybody at our church to help any other women if it turns out to be simply wasted effort? Again, the scriptures can help us. We read of Hagar, the Egyptian slave who escaped from the abuse that she was suffering at the hands of Sarah, wife of Abraham.*

**The “New” Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**March 16, 2024 --- Issue No. 163**

*How tragic that he, the father of our faith, had allowed his wife to mistreat the slave girl whom he himself had impregnated! It may be helpful to remember that even some very pious people have condoned appalling abuse of family members, and Abraham is no exception.*

*As Hagar fled into the desert, she sank down at a well, homeless and friendless. It was at that point that she discovered that she was not after all alone. There God began to speak to her; and in that moment of fleeing from abuse, she came to know the Friend who would always be with her in love and support. There she received a name for her unborn child (Ishmael, meaning “God shall hear”), and there she gave the Lord a Name “the God who Sees.” Actually, she is the only person in all of Bible history who gives God a name, though others experienced the revelation of a divine name. She had discovered that God both hears and sees abused women.*

*Hagar was given a mighty promise, that she should be the mother of a mighty nation, whose people should be as many as the sands of the desert. And she was promised that her unborn son should be a “wild ass of a man.” This seems a dubious title for an unborn child. Nevertheless both in biblical times and in present day Israel, the wild ass cannot be harnessed or subjected to human domination. Job declared, “the wild ass can no man tame.” (Job 39:9-12) Thus Hagar was promised a son who would be freer than free, unshackled by slavery or oppression.*

*And then God SENT HER BACK to the home where she had been abused! In the end, she would go forth from that home with her young son, freed from her concubinage, slavery and oppression, but there were at that crucial moment some pressing necessities. There was a need for shelter and food and care during her impending delivery. We can only hope that Abraham was deeply concerned for the mother of his son-to-be-born child and that she was received back by Sarah with a more gracious attitude. Return does not seem a good option, but in the harsh realities of desert existence, it was the least undesirable option.*

*It was in that first departure from abuse that she found God for herself in a personal relationship. Hagar did not return as the same person who had fled. She knew not only the God who had listened to her plight, but she knew herself as heir of a divine promise. She returned with a new understanding, a different person with a different perspective. The escape, the encounter and the returns were all part of her spiritual progress. How important it is to understand that God deals with people in circumstances that do not always meet with our personal convenience or preconceived notions. We cannot tell what may have happened within the soul of the person whom we consider to have behaved with such ingratitude when we tried so hard to help.*

*Although we may be disappointed when a survivor returns to an environment that does not seem safe, she can return with a new awareness of Christian concern, of God’s care for her, of love and prayer support. She can know what the scriptures teach about God’s condemnation of physical, emotional, sexual, and mental abuse. She can go back with the awareness that she did not cause the abuse, cannot control it and cannot cure it. She can go back with prayer support in place.*

*A woman can learn that she can call upon us again, that we respect her right to make her own choice, even though it is one that fills us with concern. She can understand the importance of making a safety plan in case she needs to leave again in a hurry. She can learn how to contact a local shelter, how to keep important documents where she can retrieve them quickly (driver’s license, green card, prescriptions, birth certificates for the children). She can figure out through what door or window she might escape, how she can obtain transportation and to whom she can turn for safety. She can contact PASCH to request prayer support ([webmaster@peaceandsafety.com](mailto:webmaster@peaceandsafety.com)) for “God shall hear.”*

*Hagar’s experience did not end with her return to the home of Sarah and Abraham. At the insistence of his wife, Abraham sends out his former concubine, now a freed woman along with her young son. And so, she is evicted into the wilderness, this time with the care of a child who rapidly succumbs to the heat of the sun and the lack of water. Nothing is left to her but the wailing of her grief, and it is just then that God hears again and intervenes.*

*Hagar is about to take another major step in personal and spiritual growth. At first reading, God’s command does not seem particularly sympathetic. “Stand up and take your child by the hand.” If Hagar had previously been sent back to receive care that she needed, she must now learn to care for herself and her child. Feeling helpless or sorry for herself is no longer a viable option.*

**The “New” Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**March 16, 2024 --- Issue No. 163**

*The first lesson will be survival in the desert. The Bible tells us that “God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water that she had not seen before.” (Genesis 21:19) She hurries to bring water to revive her child, and together they embark upon a life of freedom and fulfillment. She has come to a place of independence, already filling the role of decision maker as she sends to Egypt for a bride for her son.*

*And what does this story from scripture suggest to us who seek to minister to women that later return to their abusive situation? That the time during which we render them service may afford them an opportunity to meet God in a new way. That window of respite from abuse may constitute an important spiritual milestone. A person who again seeks help should not be condemned for changing her mind but challenged to grow both in her understanding of her situation and of God’s continuing love and care.*

*The church can demonstrate its concern with all the material assistance that is necessary, but the greatest gift is made to the victim’s soul. We may find that the community shelter is far more effective than we in providing for some of her needs, but the people of God excel in prayer support, loving fellowship, and spiritual guidance.*

*As the scripture exhorts us, “Share the sorrow of those being mistreated, as though you feel their pain in your own bodies.” (Hebrews 13:3) and “Never get tired of doing good.” (2 Thessalonians 3:13)*

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**See Catherine C. Kroeger’s other articles at:**

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## **George Washington’s Secret Weapon for Defeating the British** (Copyright 2024) by Eddie Hyatt (Grapevine, Texas)



Monday February 19 is a national holiday in the U.S. known as “President’s Day,” honoring America’s two greatest presidents, George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln’s birthday was February 12 and Washington’s is February 22. The following is an article with some amazing, little-known facts about Washington and America’s War for Independence.

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**The “New” Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**March 16, 2024 --- Issue No. 163**

In May of 1775, Washington answered the call of the Continental Congress to be commander-in-chief of the American forces. It was a daunting challenge preparing the ragtag, colonial militia groups, made up of farmers and various townspeople, into an army that could face the mighty British war machine. He knew that apart from God’s intervention and help, there was no hope, leading Michael Novak to say,

Washington knew his only hope lay in a profound conviction in the hearts and daily actions of all his men that what they did they did for God, and under God’s protection (Hyatt, [\*1726: The Year that Defined America\*](#), 114).

**Prayer Made a Priority in the Revolutionary Army**

Washington, therefore, issued an order stating that each day was to begin with prayer led by the officers of each unit. He also ordered that, unless their duties required them to be elsewhere, every soldier was to observe “a punctual attendance of Divine services, to implore the blessing of heaven upon the means used for our safety and public defense.”

He also forbade profanity, swearing, gambling and drunkenness, explaining that “We can have little hope of the blessing of Heaven on our arms if we insult it by our impiety and folly.” He went on to express his desire that, “Every officer and man will endeavor so as to live and act as becomes a Christian soldier” (Hyatt, [\*1726: The Year that Defined America\*](#), 114).

During a difficult period of the war when Washington and his army were quartering at Valley Forge, Rev. Henry Muhlenberg (1711–1787), pastor of a nearby Lutheran Church, observed Washington’s activities. He wrote, “Washington rode around among his army yesterday and admonished each one to fear God.” Muhlenberg went on to say,

This gentleman does not belong to the so-called world of society, for he respects God’s word, believes in atonement through Christ, and bears himself in humility and gentleness. It appears that the Lord God has singularly, yea marvelously, preserved him from harm in the midst of countless perils . . . and hath hitherto graciously held him in His hand as His chosen vessel (Hyatt, [\*1726: The Year that Defined America\*](#), 115).

Not only was there corporate prayer in the ranks of the Colonial Army, but Washington engaged in private prayer on a regular basis. This was confirmed by the Quaker, Isaac Potts, who lived near Valley Forge, and happened upon Washington alone at prayer in the forest. He said,

I heard a plaintive sound as of a man at prayer. I tied my horse to a sapling and went quietly into the woods and to my astonishment I saw the great George Washington on his knees alone, with his sword on one side and his cocked hat on the other. He was at Prayer to the God of the Armies, beseeching Him to interpose with his Divine aid, as it was ye Crisis, and the cause of the country, of humanity and of the world. Such a prayer I never heard from the lips of man (Hyatt, [\*1726: The Year that Defined America\*](#), 115).

Potts and his wife were Quakers and pacifists who believed that war was antithetical to Christianity. However, seeing and hearing Washington at prayer that day challenged his thinking, and he said, “We never thought a man could be a soldier and a Christian, but if there is one in the world, it is Washington.”

Not only did Washington and his troops pray, members of the Continental Congress opened each of their sessions with prayer. They also issued no less than fifteen proclamations for national days of repentance, prayer and fasting. Novak is thus correct in saying, “In all moments of imminent danger, as in the first Act of the First Continental Congress, the founding generation turned to prayer” (Hyatt, [\*1726: The Year that Defined America\*](#), 109).

**Amazing Answers to Prayer**

Although it was a grueling seven years of war, numerous answers to prayer occurred protecting Washington and his troops and giving them victory when defeat seemed inevitable.

For example, in the early part of the war, Washington and his 12,000 troops were trapped on Long Island by a British army at least twice that size. The British took up positions and got ready to march forward and pin Washington and his troops against the East River. Confident of their position, the British decided to wait until morning to make their advance and put a quick end to this colonial rebellion.

During the night, however, the Americans prayed and scoured the area for boats of any kind that would take them, their cannon,

**The "New" Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**March 16, 2024 --- Issue No. 163**

and their armaments across the East River to Manhattan. As dawn approached, it was obvious they had not achieved their goal.

However, at that point a heavy fog rolled in wherein a person could only see a few feet in front of themselves. It remained for several hours until the entire army and all its cannons had been moved across the river to Manhattan. The fog then lifted, and the British were amazed to see that the colonial army with its armaments had disappeared, as if into thin air.

**God is Acknowledged and Praised**

After the British General Cornwallis ended the war by surrendering to Washington on October 19, 1783, Washington appointed Israel Evans, a chaplain in the Revolutionary Army, to deliver a Thanksgiving sermon to the troops that same day.

A massive crowd from the surrounding region gathered with the troops to hear this sermon. Evans exhorted them to give thanks to God, knowing that their victory was not the result of their own strength and prowess. He also declared that the same God that fought for Israel in days of old had fought for them. In poetic verse, he declared,

*To Him who led in ancient days,  
the Hebrew tribes, your anthems raise.  
The God who spoke from Sinai's hill,  
Protects His chosen people still,  
Not in ourselves success we owe,  
By Divine help we crushed the foe.*

**Can We Recover Washington's Secret Weapon?**

Yes, Washington's secret weapon for defeating the British was prayer, both private and corporate. His example highlights just how far America has departed from the character and vision of her founders. But all is not lost. Ever since 2010, when I experienced a 7-hour visitation from God, I have known that America can be saved.

Her salvation, however, is not in a political party or political process. America will be saved when the bold witness and sincere prayers of God's people reach a "tipping point" and another Great Awakening is unleashed across the land.

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**See Eddie Hyatt's other articles at:**

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

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**“Are You Taking the Sabbath for Granted?”**  
**(Copyright 2001) by Kristian Kristiansen (Oregon, Wisconsin)**

Do you remember the thrill you experienced when you first came to know that God's true rest day had not actually been lost? Lost, yes, to the majority of the world, but still plainly revealed in God's Word, which is Truth. Do you remember the eagerness, the dedication, and the zeal with which you originally kept it, after having conquered the initial obstacles of job, family and friends?

The Sabbath was like a "first love," so to speak. Like the proverbial "wife of your youth," you truly rejoiced in it. You were blessed by it.

But what has happened? Has your "delight" in the Sabbath faded with the passage of time? There is a saying that familiarity breeds contempt. Is that true in your case? Have you simply "gotten used to it?"



**The "New" Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**March 16, 2024 --- Issue No. 163**

And just what do I mean by that? Let me illustrate. An old Indian was once asked to define the term "conscience." He did so by comparing it with a sharp-edged instrument in his breast. "When I do something wrong," he reflected, "it turns around, and it hurts. When I continue in doing this, the edges finally disappear, and it doesn't hurt any longer."

Has your "conscience" become dull regarding the Sabbath due to its weekly recurrence? Because the Sabbath is as sure to come as the rising of tomorrow's sun, have you been guilty of taking it for granted, and in this way have forsaken a "first love?"

What would happen if you started taking your wife for granted? It would no doubt lead to a neglect of appreciation and honor where honor is due. Your marital relationship would enter dangerous grounds.

A booklet by Kenneth J. Holland, entitled *The Magnificent Seventh* (Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1980), illustrates this concept very well in a slightly humorous way:

*If I had seven ladies lined up in a row and the seventh one happened to be my wife, would it make any difference which one I walked up to and slipped my arm around? If you knew my wife, you would know it would make a difference! Why is it all right for me to show this kind of affection toward only one of the seven? The first one might be a great deal closer and much handier, but only with the seventh am I to have any special kind of relationship, for the reason that once upon a time this lady and I walked down the aisle of a church and were set aside for one another in a very special way.*

*As long as I live and that woman lives, our relationship to each other must be different from our relationship to anybody else on earth. This is exactly what happened back there on the seventh day of creation. God set aside a specific day for a specific relationship between that day and man. As long as the Sabbath continues, as long as time continues, my relationship to that one specific day must be different from my relationship to any other day (pages 49, 50).*

In his letter to the Ephesians, Apostle Paul writes (possibly alluding to the whole context of a traditional Jewish Sabbath meal, including the serving of wine and the singing of *zemirot*, special Sabbath songs):

*And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; (Ephesians 5:18-20)*

One of the most *vital* keys to avoiding the dangerous pitfall of taking things (in this case, God's Sabbath) for granted, is, simply put: *thankfulness*. It is the antidote.

This coming Sabbath, why not take time out to meditate upon and to give God the thanks for the manifold blessings He has provided you: faith, hope and love; truth, knowledge and understanding; a wonderful wife or husband; children, along with the awesome, but happy responsibility of bringing them up in the way they should go; health, happiness and your everyday needs; and last, but not least, the Sabbath-rest itself?

The Sabbath is a privilege bestowed upon us by the hand of a loving and benevolent Creator. Are you taking it for granted? Don't you do it! It is far too precious.

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## 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 Laura Lee (Bismarck, North Dakota)

The "Iron Sharpening Irons" are not meant for one person to write one and then everyone is supposed to just believe what is being said is true. In other words, if you write up an "Iron Sharpening Iron" you should not do it with the expectation that everyone will automatically agree with you on every point. Christ does not force anyone to follow Him. You do it because you want to.

The "Iron Sharpening Irons" are meant to be a two way conversation where you can express yourself and then if someone either agrees with you or does not agree with you they can also state what they want to state in regard to the subject. The "Iron Sharpening Irons" are also not meant for only one person to listen to what is being said. All people in the conversation should be listening to each other.

I believe you left the conversation too soon. The conversation is still going so if you want to join the conversation again you know where to sign up. Remember that I have printed some of your stuff and did not write up any "Iron Sharpening Irons" on it because I found it to be scriptural, so I do agree with you sometimes, just not all the time and you should not expect people to agree with you all the time because if you do then you should step down from trying to teach people. As a teacher all you can do is present your case and let those who heard it decide for themselves whether they will believe it or not.

## In regard to: Is Yayshua God?

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

### Avram writes:

Phew...you wrote a lot but said nothing, except to rebuke me for **some alleged sense you have that everyone must agree with me. I never said that. I left the forum because of you. You are the "leader," and I never realized that you teach only two Persons in the Godhead. That is far outside mainline Christianity.** Yes, my idea that the Holy Spirit is also the Mother in the God Family is outside mainline Christianity, but I have seen from the Scriptures that this is what the Holy Spirit is. Your boiling down my position to what Prov. 8 says is dishonest.

### Laura writes:

Read what you wrote above, you left the forum because of me, because I do not believe in a trinity doctrine like you do? Isn't that the same thing as saying I have to believe like you in order for you to be on our mailing list? And you dropped several other clues to me throughout your emails that you felt just that way. So I believe that my feeling in regard to that was legitimate and you just confirmed it.

**"That is far outside mainline Christianity."** We are not part of mainline Christianity, we are the "Church of God" part of the remnant church spoken of throughout the Bible from one cover to the next. It says "Church of God" on our website and on our emails. The "Church of God" in the bible is not part of mainline Christianity and never was.

There is so much more to your trinity doctrine than Proverbs 8 so don't think for one second that I boiled your doctrine

**The “New” Church of God Messenger**  
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**March 16, 2024 --- Issue No. 163**

down to Proverbs 8. That is what happens when you only hear a part of what is said. But for the record up to the point of this writing to my knowledge the only thing I said about Proverbs 8 is what was said in Issue #155 and that was only after you brought it up.

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**From Issue #155**

**Avram’s Iron Sharpening Iron:**

The Holy Spirit being the Mother in the Family of God (what family does not have a mother?), is also taught in the ancient Syrian or Eastern Orthodox Church which, from the time of the Apostles, has seen that the Holy Spirit is the Mother in the God Family. Also, Proverbs 8 is not speaking about wisdom as an abstract entity, nor is it speaking about Jesus. It presents the Holy Spirit, the God Mother, as divine Wisdom. It’s universally recognized that “wisdom” in Prov. 8 is a personification of a Person. That’s why most in the West see it as Jesus, but the word wisdom in Hebrew is a feminine noun, and as such, it speaks of the Holy Spirit or the Mother in this God Family. If you read Prov. 8 this way it’ll make a lot of sense. The Holy Spirit was with the Father “in the Beginning,” before time, before Creation.

**Laura writes:**

In Proverbs 8, wisdom is presented as a woman but is not a person. When we read the entire chapter in context it is telling us that wisdom existed from the beginning. Why would that be? Look around you and take note of how much wisdom it takes to create all that Christ created. The chapter is also encouraging all people to get wisdom. Why would that be? Solomon had wisdom and as long as he used it he was with God, but when he went after all those strange women his wisdom was failing and he was unwisely going after other gods. You cannot get anything more from this chapter except it is talking about wisdom, just like the love chapter is talking about love. If people would stop putting their own words and ideas into what scripture really says we would not have all these false doctrines. (End Quote)

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**Avram writes:**

What you wrote in defense of your position against mine, was nothing but your opinion. It had no connection to Scripture, even though you used Scripture. For instance, you spoke of how the English translations of the New Testament speak of the Holy Spirit as a “he,” but I revealed in my paper that the Greek word can be translated as either “he, she, or it.” How is it that you failed to respond to that, and also, that any Hebrew translation of the New Testament always has “She” for the Holy Spirit when She is the subject of the phrase. Always.

**Laura writes:**

I answered this, you just don’t listen. It does not matter if you want to call the Holy Spirit a he, a she or an it. The Holy Spirit is not a person, it is the POWER OF GOD.

**Avram writes:**

Truly, you are out “in left field,” when you speak against the Personhood *and* the femininity of the Holy Spirit, and you don’t realize it.

**Laura writes:**

There is no scripture in the bible that ever calls the Holy Spirit a person and if there was a scripture in the bible that says the Holy Spirit is a person you never brought it to my attention, so what kind of a teacher are you?

**Avram writes:**

I didn’t immediately leave, but I responded to your thoughts to my replies. When I saw though, that you “dug in your heels” and truly didn’t respond in a meaningful way to the second time I responded to you, I saw that there wasn’t any more room for “iron sharpening iron.” You weren’t debating me; you were doing what you accuse me of: having to believe what you wrote.

**Laura writes:**

So, you wanted me to believe your doctrine was true and if I didn’t it was called “digging my heels in” and therefore you didn’t have to listen anymore. Do you even begin to see how you are?

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**Avram writes:**

Also, in my last email I asked you what you thought about what I had written before, but I didn't get back anything from you about that in this email, except to say that I shouldn't expect everyone to instantly believe everything I say, and that I should “step down” from teaching because of that.

**Laura writes:**

I didn't answer your question because I had emailed first to find out if you would come back to the conversation but then I got this scathing letter from you accusing me of all sorts of things. The answer to your question is in my printed answer to you found in the March 2, 2024, issue of this newsletter.

And what I actually said was this: “... and you should not expect people to agree with you all the time because if you do then you should step down from trying to teach people. As a teacher all you can do is present your case and let those who heard it decide for themselves whether they will believe it or not.”

I used the word “if” because you would use the word “if” not because you are accusing anyone of anything but if that is why you are teaching then you should step down. My statement used the word “if” purposely because only you can know why you are teaching anyone anything and if that purpose is that you expect those listening to you to agree with you then you should step down. It was not an accusation it was a statement.

**Avram writes:**

Really, Laura? Wow...your understanding of why I broke away is very foolish and thoughtless. It has nothing to do with reality.

Your words only reveal how far away you are from accurately understanding my position and being able to respond to it. For instance, you disregard, with a cavalier and proud attitude, my concept that the Holy Spirit must be the Mother in the God Family, when I ask, If there's a Father and a Son, what is missing from this God Family? Scripture establishes that there is a Father and a Son, but you cast aside that reality and the question by giving your opinion that God is God and we're just humans, and so yes, we have a father, mother, child, but God could never have this, especially your God, Laura, with only a Father and a Son. Yet, Scripture says of Adam and Eve that they were created in the Image of God:

“Then God said, “Let Us make Man in Our Image, according to Our Likeness...” (Genesis 1:26)

Have you ever thought about what the Image is? Why was Eve created? If God is only Father and Son, how can Man be father, mother, and son?

Many say the Image is human intelligence or the ability to worship God, which animals don't have. Others say we have a spirit and animals just have souls. There are other things that people toss out, hoping to make sense of what that verse means, but I've come to see, from Genesis 1:1-3, that first there was the Father, and then the Mother, eternally within the Father, like Eve was within Adam (wow, what a picture, Laura), came forth from the Father (as Jesus states in John), and then the Son came forth from their union (Gen. 1:2-3), just as Cain came forth from the union of Adam and Eve. **That** is how Man has been made in the Image and Likeness of God (Elohim, literally Gods). See! I've explained it to you in simple terms, but can you see that? Of course not because your God consists of only two male figures. There is no room for a third person, especially a female but you saying that it's not so, and the preposterous unscriptural reasons you give, do not negate it, Laura. You cannot negate what I've said with Scripture, common sense, or logic because it's the Truth. Please don't try and tell me where I am wrong, Laura, because you are not up to the task. Personally, you don't have it in you to debate at this level, as you've already revealed, which is no slur against you: most don't know how.

I pray that the Lord Yeshua opens your eyes to His Truth, especially in this area of divine Personhood for the Holy Spirit—the Mother of Jesus, God the Son.

**Laura writes:**

I do understand your position, your entire doctrine is based on a doctrine of Satan and has nothing to do with what scripture actually says. There is no reality in your doctrine it is a fable of Satan and you fell for it. There never was a debate here, only a conversation, a dialogue about a doctrine you presented to us, a doctrine we researched and found to be false. Our job is to let you know that you are promoting a false doctrine, but you never listened long enough to hear

our research in regard to your doctrine. Trust me, we understand your doctrine and I sincerely hope that you understand it yourself before it is too late.

## **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