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## Articles

### Encouragement

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In these days where we see so many things in the news that can discourage us and make us sad, we can sometimes use encouragement. It is helpful to be able to see the Big Picture at these times. Thankfully there is much in the Scriptures to help us counter such potential impact on our emotions.

Of course, those who may be oblivious to what is going on in the environment, the financial world, the political and the religious world may be an exception; but many see how mankind does not know the way to peace, abundance and joy but our human self-rule only seems to be able to bring discouragement, destruction and ruin. The mainstream media and even the more conservative mainstream media do not always report what is really happening around the world. Sometimes the real news that can or will impact our lives needs to be searched for; and why would we even look for such news? Because actual real news can help us to be aware of what *is* happening and be better prepared for it in any number of ways.

But that is not the point I would like to talk about here. I feel we all could be, and need to be, uplifted by the Word and I would like to share some of these encouraging words here.

First of all, I should address *why* we can have hope of being encouraged by the Scriptures. Yehovah told the obedient patriarch Abraham, “And in your seed shall all the nations be blessed, *because you have obeyed* my voice.” (Genesis 22:18) That is one of the reasons why we should involve ourselves daily in His word, so we can gain wisdom and understanding as to what is the love we are to have toward the Father and also toward our neighbor (Matthew 22:37-40) ...and then show that love not only in word, but in deed (1 John 3:18). In other words we *try* to put on and make it a part of us, the true loving and righteous character that the Son of Yehovah, Yayshua, showed in himself when he was here as a human being.

If the Father’s set-apart or Holy spirit is living in us, then others should be able to see Him at work in our lives, in our attitude, our obedience and in caring for others. However, we certainly remember that at times even some of the prophets got discouraged in the work they had to do when they did not see the results in others that they hoped to see. So, let’s not judge one another if we see some discouragement at times in someone else’s life but do our part in trying to help and encourage. There is reason to have hope! As recorded in Acts 10:34, “Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons.” If those who have a love for the Father and His Son and have an outgoing concern for others and try to show it by how they live their lives, they, or we also, should be encouraged by the examples we find in Scripture.

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And now for some encouraging words straight from selected passages of the Scriptures.

**From an angel**

Luke 2:10 And the angel said unto them, **Fear not**: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, **which shall be to all people**.

**From the mouth of our Savior**

Luke 12:7 But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. **Fear not** *therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows.*

Luke 12:32 **Fear not**, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

John 14:27 **Peace I leave with you, my peace** I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. **Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.**

John 16:33 These things I have spoken unto you, **that in me ye might have peace**. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; **I have overcome the world.**

**From Moses**

Exodus 14:13 And Moses said unto the people, **Fear ye not**, stand still, and see the salvation of Yehovah [the LORD], which he will shew to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever.

Deuteronomy 1:21 Behold, Yehovah thy Elohim [Mighty One or God] hath set the land before thee: go up *and* possess it, as Yehovah Elohim of thy fathers hath said unto thee; **fear not, neither be discouraged.**

**From Elisha the prophet**

2 Kings 6:16 [prophet Elisha who was obedient to his Creator, when the Syrian army surrounded his city] And he answered [a young man servant of his], **Fear not: for they [an army of angels] that be with us are more than they that be with them.** [then the young man was able to see all the angels]

**From the Psalms**

Psalms 27:3-8 [A psalm of David] Though an host [army] should encamp against me, **my heart shall not fear**: though war should rise against me, in this *will I be confident*. 4 One *thing* have I desired of Yehovah, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of Yehovah all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of Yehovah, and to enquire in his temple. 5 For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock. 6 And now shall mine head be lifted up above mine enemies round about me: therefore will I offer in his tabernacle sacrifices of joy; I will sing, yea, I will sing praises unto Yehovah. 7 Hear, O Yehovah, *when* I cry with my voice: have mercy also upon me and answer me. 8 *When thou saidst*, Seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee, Thy face, Yehovah, will I seek.

Psalms 27:14 **Wait on** Yehovah: **be of good courage**, and he shall strengthen thine heart: **wait**, I say, on Yehovah.

Psalms 37:7 Rest in Yehovah and **wait patiently for him: fret not thyself** because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass.

Psalms 37:9 For **evildoers shall be cut off**: but those that **wait** upon Yehovah, they shall inherit the earth.

Psalms 37:34 **Wait on** Yehovah, **and keep his way**, and he shall exalt thee to inherit the land: when the wicked are cut off, thou shalt see *it*.

Psalms 46:1 **To the chief Musician for the sons of Korah, A Song upon Alamoth.** Elohim *is* our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. 2 Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea;

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Psalm 91:1 He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. 2 I will say of Yehovah, *He is* my refuge and my fortress: my Elohim; in him will I trust. 3 Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, *and* from the noisome pestilence. 4 He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth *shall be thy* shield and buckler. 5 Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; *nor* for the arrow *that* flieth by day; 6 *Nor* for the pestilence *that* walketh in darkness; *nor* for the destruction *that* wasteth at noonday. 7 A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; *but* it shall not come nigh thee. 8 Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked. 9 **Because thou hast made Yehovah, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation;** 10 **There shall no evil befall thee,** neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling. 11 For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. 12 They shall bear thee up in *their* hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone. 13 Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet. 14 **Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him:** I will set him on high, because he hath known my name. 15 He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I *will be* with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honour him. 16 With long life will I satisfy him and shew him my salvation.

Psalm 118:4 Let them now that fear Yehovah say, that his mercy *endureth* for ever. :5 **I called upon Yehovah in distress: Yehovah answered me, and set me in a large place.** 6 Yehovah is **on my side; I will not fear:** what can man do unto me?

Psalm 123:2 Behold, as the eyes of servants *look* unto the hand of their masters, *and* as the eyes of a maiden unto the hand of her mistress; so our eyes *wait* upon Yehovah our Elohim, **until that he have mercy upon us.**

Psalm 130:5 I **wait** for Yehovah, my soul doth **wait**, and **in his word do I hope.**

#### **From Proverbs**

Proverbs 19:23 The **fear of Yehovah tendeth to life:** and *he that hath it* shall abide satisfied; he shall not be visited with evil.

Proverbs 20:22 Say not thou, I will recompense evil; *but* **wait** on Yehovah, **and he shall save thee.**

#### **From the prophet Isaiah**

Isaiah 8:17 And **I will wait** upon Yehovah, that hideth his face from the house of Jacob, and **I will look for him.**

Isaiah 30:18 And therefore will Yehovah wait, that he may be gracious unto you, and therefore will he be exalted, that he may have mercy upon you: for Yehovah *is* a Elohim of judgment: *blessed are* all they that **wait** for him.

Isaiah 35:4 Say to them *that are* of a fearful heart, **Be strong, fear not:** behold, your Mighty One [Elohim; God] will come *with* vengeance, *even* Elohim *with* a recompence; he will come and save you. 5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. 6 Then shall the lame *man* leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert. 7 And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water: in the habitation of dragons, where each lay, *shall be* grass with reeds and rushes. 8 And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; *but it shall be* for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err *therein*. 9 No lion shall be there, nor *any* ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; *but* the redeemed shall walk *there*: 10 And the ransomed of Yehovah shall return and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Isaiah 40:31 But they that **wait** upon Yehovah shall renew *their* strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; *and* they shall walk, and not faint.

Isaiah 41:8 But thou, Israel, *art* my servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, the seed of Abraham my friend. 9 Thou whom I have taken from the ends of the earth, and called thee from the chief men thereof, and said unto thee, Thou *art* my servant; I have chosen thee, and not cast thee away. 10 Fear **thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed;** for *I am* thy Elohim: **I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee;** yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness. 11 Behold, all they that were incensed against thee shall be ashamed and confounded: they shall be as nothing; and they that strive with thee shall perish. 12 Thou shalt seek them, and shalt not find them, *even* them that contended

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with thee: they that war against thee shall be as nothing, and as a thing of nought. 13 For **I Yehovah thy Elohim will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee.** 14 Fear not, thou worm Jacob, *and* ye men of Israel; I will help thee, saith Yehovah, and thy redeemer, the Holy One of Israel.

Isaiah 54:14 In righteousness shalt thou be established: thou shalt be far from oppression; for thou **shalt not fear**: and from terror; for it shall not come near thee. [Talking about the future remnant of Israelites from all over the world after being disciplined. Read Isaiah 54-55 for context and comfort]

**From the prophet Jeremiah**

Jeremiah 46:28 Fear **thou not**, O Jacob my servant, saith Yehovah: for I *am* with thee; for I will make a full end of all the nations whither I have driven thee: but I will not make a full end of thee, but correct thee in measure; yet will I not leave thee wholly unpunished.

Lamentations 3:25 Yehovah *is* good unto **them that wait for him**, to the soul **that seeketh him**. 26 It **is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait** for the salvation of Yehovah.

**Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego**

Three Israelite friends of the prophet Daniel who would not bow down to the King's false idol. They were threatened about being put in a very hot fiery furnace, but they did not renounce their faith. In their case they were thrown in but were saved and not even a hair was singed on their head. (See Daniel 3:10-28)

**From the prophet Micah**

Micah 7:7 Therefore I will look unto Yehovah; I will **wait** for the Mighty One [Elohim; God] of my salvation: **my Elohim will hear me.**

**From the prophet Zephaniah**

Zephaniah 3:8 Therefore **wait** ye upon me, saith Yehovah, until the day that I rise up to the prey: for my determination *is* to gather the nations, that I may assemble the kingdoms, to pour upon them mine indignation, *even* all my fierce anger: for all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of my jealousy.

**Paul**

Acts 27:24 Saying, **Fear not**, Paul; **thou must be brought** before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee.

Romans 8:15 [Paul said] For ye have **not** received the spirit of bondage again to **fear**; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

Romans 8:31 What shall we then say to these things? If God *be* **for us, who can be against us?**

Romans 16:20 And God [Elohim] of **peace** shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Yeshua Messiah [Jesus Christ] *be* with you. Amen.

2 Corinthians 13:11 Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, **be of good comfort**, be of one mind, live in **peace**; and the God of **love and peace** shall be with you.

Philippians 4:9 Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of **peace** shall be with you.

Colossians 1:20 And, having made **peace** through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, *I say*, whether *they be* things in earth, or things in heaven.

Colossians 3:15 And **let the peace** of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and **be ye thankful.**

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1 Thessalonians 5:23 And the very God of **peace** sanctify you wholly; and *I pray God* your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Yayshua Messiah.

2 Timothy 1:7 For God hath **not** given us the spirit of **fear**; **but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.**

**From the Book of Hebrews**

Hebrews 11:6 But **without faith** *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God **must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.** 7 By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, **moved with fear**, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.

Hebrews 11:23 By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents, because they saw *he was* a proper child; and **they were not afraid of the king's commandment.**

Hebrews 11:35 Women received their dead raised to life again: and **others were tortured, not accepting deliverance**; that they might obtain a better resurrection: (Now *that* is faith!)

Hebrews 13:5 Let *your* conversation [or conduct] *be* without covetousness; *and be* content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, **I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.** 6 So **that we may boldly say**, The Lord [Yehovah; from Genesis 28:15] *is* my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

**Peter**

2 Peter 3:14 Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, **be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.**

**John**

1 John 4:18 There **is no fear in love**; but perfect love casteth out **fear**: because **fear** hath torment. He that feareth is **not** made perfect in love.

**Revelation 22:1** And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. **2** In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, *was there* the tree of life, which bare twelve *manner of* fruits, *and* yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree *were* for the healing of the nations. **3** And **there shall be no more curse**: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: **4** And they shall see his face; and his name *shall be* in their foreheads.

**In conclusion**

Paul says in Ephesians 6:10, Finally, my brethren, **be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.** 11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*. 13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, **and having done all, to stand.** 14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; 15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 Above **all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.** 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: 18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

**Thank You Everyone for Your Contributions!!!**

## Is the big bang really scientific? (Copyright 2019) by Dominic Statham (Powder Springs, Georgia)

According to most text books promoting evolutionary beliefs, the universe came into existence around 14 billion years ago. Supposedly, it began as a singularity, an unimaginably hot ‘point’ into which was compressed all the matter and energy now making up the billions of galaxies found throughout space. Following the big bang, this singularity started to expand and cool, enabling quarks and electrons to form, these being the building blocks of atoms. As the universe continued to cool, quarks combined to form protons and neutrons. These then combined to produce ‘light elements’, namely hydrogen (including a little ‘heavy hydrogen’ or deuterium), helium, and lithium. And all this supposedly happened in the first three minutes of the universe!

However, these elements were still nuclei, not atoms. That supposedly needed about 379,000 years of cooling so the nuclei could combine with electrons and form atoms. This hydrogen and helium gas is said to have provided the material from which the first stars formed. (Hydrogen, helium, and lithium are known as ‘light elements’ because they have very little mass. Evolutionary cosmologists believe that the heavier elements (which they call ‘metals’) were formed inside stars.)

Biblical creationists, of course, should reject big bang theory because the order of events contradicts the Bible. Whereas in big bang theory, the stars precede the earth, in Genesis, the earth is made before the stars.

There are three main pieces of evidence presented in support of the big bang: background heat, the abundance of ‘light elements’ and the expansion of the universe.

### Background heat

Space appears to be bathed in a low-level background heat which is said to be the ‘after-glow’ or ‘smoking gun’ of the original big bang ‘explosion’. This is known as the ‘cosmic microwave background radiation’ (CMBR).<sup>1</sup> It has been measured very accurately, and in great detail, and is said to have a temperature consistent with what would be expected from the big bang.

Creation scientists, however, point out that this background heat is actually a major *problem* for big bang theory. This is because its temperature is virtually the same across the universe and this would *not* be expected from a big bang. A conventional ‘explosion’ would leave behind an uneven pattern of heat, not the extremely even pattern actually observed.

Evolutionists, of course, are well aware of this difficulty, called the ‘horizon problem’, and some claim to have a solution. Supposedly, very soon after the initial ‘bang’, and for only a brief period, the universe expanded at a much higher rate—in fact faster than the speed of light—and this enabled the background heat to be smoothed out. This very rapid expansion is known as ‘inflation’.

However, according to Paul Steinhardt, Albert Einstein Professor in Science at Princeton University, “inflation is very flexible ... [and] can be adjusted to give any result ... any outcome is possible.” Hence, he says, “it is not possible to find evidence to support or refute inflation”.<sup>2</sup> Creation scientists would agree and argue that it is really no more than a story called upon to explain away facts that point to the big bang theory being wrong.

### Abundance of light elements

Big bang theory is said to have accurately predicted the amounts of light elements that we actually find in the universe. Hydrogen would be expected to be the most common, followed by helium, deuterium, and lithium—which is what is observed. Particularly, it’s said, the amount of helium (25%) is consistent with calculations based on big bang theory. Historically, however, this claim has been very controversial. As pointed out by Professors Burbidge and Hoyle.

“We have now reached the stage where it is argued that the existence of helium ... is taken, together with the microwave background radiation, as primary evidence in favor of the ... big bang .... However, this argument is only powerful if there is no other way to explain the helium abundance and the microwave background radiation.”<sup>3</sup>

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They then argued that this helium was produced by the burning (fusion) of hydrogen in stars (rather than the big bang) and that the light emitted by the stars and absorbed by dust clouds produced the cosmic microwave background radiation.

According to Professor Burbidge, neither the observed abundance of helium, nor the level of the cosmic microwave background, were really predictions of big bang theory. Scientists had already measured the abundance of helium and the theory was adjusted so that it would give the ‘right result’. Referring to the parameter (the number in the big bang theory) which would result in it ‘predicting’ the amount of helium in the universe, he wrote:

*“It is chosen to make things come out right .... This is why the big bang theory cannot be argued to explain microwave background or to explain a cosmic helium value close to 0.25 [i.e., 25%]. ... if you really believe in a big bang, you can choose parameters which will make observation and theory agree, but the argument is not based on basic theory”* (emphasis original).<sup>4</sup>

Evolutionary cosmologists sometimes claim that big bang theory can predict the amount of the light elements using information (data) obtained from satellite measurements.<sup>5</sup> This, however, cannot be so because their theory relies on the existence of ‘dark matter’, a form of matter that cannot be observed.<sup>4,6</sup> (This ‘dark matter’, which many creationists and some secular cosmologists do not believe exists, is also needed to explain how galaxies and stars form by natural processes.)<sup>7</sup>

**The expanding universe**

It is thought that expansion of space would cause light waves to be stretched, resulting in light being reddened.<sup>8</sup> This is known as ‘redshift’ and is observed when we view galaxies. Moreover, in general, the more distant a galaxy, the greater is the redshift.<sup>9</sup> This is understood to indicate that the universe is expanding and that, the more distant a galaxy, the faster it is moving away. Hence, it is argued, winding the clock back, we would see the universe getting smaller and smaller until it reached its original state as a singularity.

While many creation scientists accept the evidence that the universe is expanding, this does not mean that it must have started off as a singularity—it could have started expanding from a fairly large state.

Creationist scientists argue that the atheists’ claim that our universe arose from a random ‘explosion’ is absurd. For example, the rate of expansion would have needed to be just right, as even a tiny deviation from the required rate would have been catastrophic. If just a little faster, particles would have simply flown away from each other, never coming together to form stars and planets. If just a little slower, gravity would have pulled everything back together resulting in a violent ‘great crunch’, with no planets and no life. According to Nobel prize-winner, Professor Steven Weinberg, the number determining the required expansion rate (known as the ‘cosmological constant’) would have had to be just right to within 120 decimal places.<sup>10</sup>

But what does this mean? Well, let’s use as an illustration the mixing of concrete. Here the amount of water added has to be controlled quite carefully, otherwise the concrete will not have the required strength. Typically, for every 100 kg of cement, around 40 kg of water should be added. For a particular building project, there might be generous leeway, where an error of 1 kg in the amount of water added could be tolerated and the concrete still have the required strength. Working with a margin of error of 0.1 kg might still be practical; however, if the allowable error was only 0.000001 kg this would clearly be impractical. 0.000001 has the decimal point six positions to the left of the 1:

6 positions



0.000001

But a number with 120 decimal places has the decimal point 120 positions left of the 1:

120 positions

0.000000000000 ..... 0000000001



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How realistic is it to believe that an ‘explosion’ just happened to produce an expansion rate this critical?

The expansion rate, however, is just one of many factors that would have had to be ‘fine-tuned’ for the big bang to have produced a universe like ours in which life could exist. For example, unless the masses of the particles that make up atoms, the forces that hold atoms together, and the force of gravity had all had the right values, the big bang would have produced a lifeless universe.<sup>11,12</sup> Creation scientists argue that a process that is this critical could not have occurred by chance.

### Conclusion

Christians need not be intimidated into accepting secular accounts of origins. Big bang theory only appears to be scientific because people are exposed only to the evidence that appears to support it. At the same time, nothing is said about its major scientific problems. Big bang theory contradicts the account of creation in Genesis, and Bible believing creationists should reject it on the authority of God’s word.

### References and notes

1. Technically, CMBR is said to date from the 379,000 years after the big bang when atoms were formed. Previously, the energetic nuclei and electrons, as charged particles, would scatter any radiation, but when they combined to form neutral atoms, the universe became transparent to the radiation. Return to text.
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6. Hartnett, J., [Is ‘dark matter’ the ‘unknown god’?](#) *Creation* **37**(2):22–24, April 2015. Return to text.
7. More precisely, because the wavelength of the light is now longer, it has ‘shifted’ towards the red end of the spectrum. Note that this does not necessarily cause a particular star to ‘look red’. Return to text.
8. Professor Halton Arp, however, noted that there are many exceptions to this rule, which are difficult for advocates of big bang theory to explain. See Hartnett, J., [Big-bang-defying giant of astronomy passes away](#), 31 December 2013. Return to text.
9. Weinberg, S., *Facing Up: Science and its cultural adversaries*, Harvard University Press, USA, pp. 80–81, 2001. Return to text.
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**Have a Great Sabbath!**

## Slowly Sinking

(Copyright 2022) by Joseph B. Baity (Charlotte, North Carolina)



Historians commonly refer to the twentieth century as the American Century, mostly due to the overwhelming might of the United States military and its ever-increasing potential to impact the global geopolitics of the day.

Prior to World War II, however, the U.S. was considered a regional power, with little political will to project itself militarily across the Atlantic or the Pacific oceans. Without that will, most observers deemed the U.S. too weak or too disinterested to match the rising Axis powers of Germany, Japan, and Italy. But the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, rallied Americans in a manner never before seen on the global stage. The result was the creation of the most powerful and technologically advanced military machine that history has ever witnessed.

When the Soviet Union—the only legitimate challenger to American hegemony—collapsed in December 1991 (following the Gulf War victory in Iraq), American leaders emphatically proclaimed the U.S. to be an indispensable nation. With the Cold War over, expectations were high that America would lead a movement to democratize the world, bringing peace, prosperity, and protection to every nation.

Three decades later, those once-lofty expectations are trembling precariously, wounded by the realities of careless and godless political leadership. The greatest military on earth today may still be American. However, with thirty years of shamefully slipshod and confusing management, frightening cracks in the armor have appeared, and few seem willing or capable of repairing them.

According to Dakota Wood, editor of *The Heritage Foundation's Index of Military Strength*:

Near the end of the Cold War, we had 770,000 soldiers in the active-duty Army. Today, we have less than 480,000. We had nearly 600 ships in the Navy; today, we have 290 and most of that stuff is very, very old. . . . [A]s a percentage of federal budget, [military spending is] at historic lows. . . . And as a share of our budget, military spending has dropped from 25% to 20% and now it's only 15%.

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Sadly, the same trends are confronting all four of the nation’s armed services. Precious and expensive military hardware, like fighter jets, submarines, troop transports, and tanks, are aging or need repair and replacement parts. These maintenance issues are becoming more difficult to resolve due to supply-chain problems and political conflicts with one of the primary sources of replacement parts, China.

Adding to the negative trends are recent reports from the Pentagon that show a 30% shortfall in recruiting goals for 2022. That translates to an insufficiency of tens of thousands of soldiers for 2023.

According to North Carolina Public Radio military reporter Jay Price, “Recruiters already had been fighting some long-term trends for decades. Rising obesity rates and other physical and mental issues have left just 23% of young Americans eligible to serve.” Price noted that the situation is worsening this year because “the number of potential recruits scoring well enough on the armed forces vocational aptitude test has fallen sharply, apparently because high school academics suffered during the first years of the pandemic.”

Beyond the depressing numbers, American political and military leaders are pressing for a greater emphasis on various LGBT-driven agendas. They express more concern for accepting and promoting “alternative” lifestyles among our fighting men and women than combat readiness. The Pentagon even pays for expensive and time-consuming gender-transition therapy and surgery for any active soldier who desires to change his or her sex. In addition, all armed forces members must undergo sensitivity training—including mandating the use of preferred pronouns—to “combat” the natural challenges to troop unity such policies introduce.

Further weakening our military’s readiness and resolve is the growing belief among political and military leadership that America’s greatest security threat is not from bad actors like China, Russia, North Korea, or Iran, not from terrorist groups or insurgencies, but climate change. In June 2021, during a speech to U.S. troops in England, Biden stated:

You know, when I went over in the Tank in the Pentagon, when I first was elected Vice President, with President Obama, the military sat us down to let us know what the greatest threats facing America were—the greatest physical threats. And this is not a joke: You know what the Joint Chiefs told us the greatest threat facing America was? Global warming.

That consensus is only strengthening today, with the Secretary of Defense, Lloyd Austin, and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, General Mark A. Milley, concurring. The President has also been working openly with key European allies to form a unified approach to combating climate change, a major priority for his administration and, sadly, for our “fighting” forces.

Writing for the *Wall Street Journal*, the Editorial Board published an article on November 4, 2022, titled “[The Big One Is Coming’ and the U.S. Military Isn’t Ready](#),” which claimed

Russia’s invasion of Ukraine revealed the fading power of America’s military deterrent, a fact that too few of our leaders seem willing to admit in public. So, it is encouraging to hear a senior flag officer acknowledge the danger in a way that we hope is the start of a campaign to educate the American public.

“This Ukraine crisis that we’re in right now, this is just the warmup,” Navy Admiral Charles Richard, commander of U.S. Strategic Command, said this week at a conference. “The big one is coming. And it isn’t going to be very long before we’re going to get tested in ways that we haven’t been tested” for “a long time.”

How bad is it? Well, the admiral said, “As I assess our level of deterrence against China, the ship is slowly sinking. It is sinking slowly, but it is sinking, as fundamentally they are putting capability in the field faster than we are.”

As America and her allies head into the frightful waters of the future, it appears they depend less on God and more on a ship that is “slowly sinking” to project power and influence around the globe. Without its once-vaunted military machine ready to deter any opposing aggression, the U.S. may soon be forced to acquiesce to Eastern powers in distressing and disconcerting ways as the world moves forward into what may become the Asian Century (see God’s curse in Leviticus 26:17-19).

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## Prophecy Articles

# The Profound Prophetic Meaning of One Third!

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What is the possible prophetic meaning of one third (1/3 or 33%)? How does the greatest concentration of this number in the Bible reveal its startling and profound symbolism?

A unique repetition of the number one third is found in Revelation 8. In this prophetic chapter, within only six verses (7 to 12), the word "third" (part of a whole or 1/3) is recorded eleven times in the King James translation. The last verse in this set contains this rational fractional designation five times! It is utilized two additional times in chapter 9 with its final appearance in chapter 12.

### The prophetic number 1/3

The "great day of His wrath" (Revelation 6:17), known as the Day of the Lord, begins when the seventh seal is opened (Revelation 8:1). This seal represents seven angels, each with a trumpet, that when blown brings God's judgment on Babylon and punishment to humans who worship the Beast.

The first two trumpets bring death to one third of earth's trees and destroy the same percentage of ships. 33% of ocean water will also turn into blood, killing the same amount of all marine-based life (Revelation 8:7 - 9). Trumpet three causes a "great star" named Wormwood to strike a third of earth's rivers and fresh water sources. It will poison these sources of drinkable water and bring death to countless people (verses 10 - 11).

Trumpet four causes the heavens we take for granted (the sun, moon, and stars) to darken by one third. This 33% decrease means the earth will receive less light during both its day and night portions (Revelation 8:12). Man's punishment for sin, however, is not over!

The sounding of the sixth trumpet heralds the freeing of powerful spirits who will gather an army that numbers 200 million. This army will cause the death of one third of all humans (Revelation 9:15, 18).

### Why is it used?

Why is one third used thirteen times, from Revelation 8:7 to 9:18, to delineate God's punishment on man? The answer is found in the fourteenth and last time this fraction is used in the book. Note that fourteen, which is twice the spiritually perfect number 7, in this case likely represents a perfect and complete revealing of God's righteous judgment.

And his tail (of a great red dragon representing the devil, verse 3) swept away a third of the stars of heaven (formerly righteous angels) and cast them to the earth (which Jesus witnessed, Luke 10:18) . . . (Revelation 12:4).

Lucifer, after he rebelled against God, deceived one third of all angelic beings into believing the same lies he possessed. The deceptions he promulgated brought chaos and spiritual misery to the angels (now demons) who identify him, not the Eternal, as their leader (Revelation 12:7).

God will soon physically punish humans in thirds in the hope they will choose to repent and avoid the same spiritual condemnation as 1/3 of the angels. A never-before or after level of trials and troubles (Matthew 24:21) must be brought upon man in order to get his attention, since he will possess a uniquely hard and unrepentant heart in the End Time (Revelation 9:6, 20-21).

### Non-prophetic number 1/3

King David had to flee Jerusalem when Absalom, one of his sons, led a revolt which sought to take his throne by force (2Samuel 15). He divided his forces into thirds, after leaving the capital, for the inevitable battle that would ensue (18:1-8). Absalom's forces were ultimately defeated and Absalom himself was killed by David's military commander Joab.

Those Jews who returned to Jerusalem, after their Babylonian captivity, agreed to pay a third of a shekel yearly for the service of God's temple (Nehemiah 10:32). This amount was likely reduced from the half-shekel temple tax required of

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all men twenty and above (Exodus 30:11-16) due to the poverty experienced by those recently set free.

**More info on Biblical Meaning of one third**

God, wanting to underscore the wrath Jerusalem would experience due to her unrepented evil, had Ezekiel perform several highly symbolic actions (Ezekiel 5). After cutting, with a sword, all the hair off his head, he divided his locks into thirds.

One pile of hair was burned, symbolizing 33% of those in the capital dying by plague or famine during King Nebuchadnezzar's siege (Ezekiel 5:2, 12). Another pile was chopped into pieces, representing the people dying by the sword. The last one third was scattered to the wind, symbolizing those who survived all the horrors would be taken captive and live in fear.

Zechariah 13 offers a prophecy, which may be fulfilled in the End Time, where one third of the people will be spiritually purified through various trials and survive the calamities that come upon them. The remaining individuals will perish (verses 8-9).

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**Questionable Articles**

**Tell us why you believe this is a true or false doctrine and why?**  
**Learn to Give an Answer!**

**Issue #104 Commentary**

**(Copyright 2023) by Rich Traver (Clifton, Colorado) and Laura Lee (Bismarck, North Dakota)**

**(Things I really disagree with are highlighted in yellow below. Laura)**

**Rich writes:**

I see in your introductory block of the recent 104 edition, a matter that deserves a reply. I've encountered these issues from 'within' for decades from a number of sources. What accounts for it? We can only speculate. **I would assign it to deep-seated Jewish influences.**

**Laura writes:**

I would assign it to a hatred of Jews and people not studying their bibles as they should.

**Rich writes:**

To reflect on my lengthy history – researching and sharing – on the matters in question here, I'm enclosing a copy of my "Passover Observance and the Exodus Experience" booklet. I encourage you to review it thoughtfully. I don't know if there are any 'issues' not addressed.

**Laura writes:**

As much as I sincerely would like to read everyone's books and booklets, I just do not have time to do that. We are putting out a weekly newsletter that takes up a really big block of my time now. My focus is to go over articles and to research those articles I find to have problems. Some of that research only takes a few hours but some of it takes days. If you want me to read this book, you would have to send me each article within the book as a word file which can then be dropped into the newsletter. If you do that, I will be glad to go over them individually and research each one for print in the newsletter.

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**Rich writes:**

From what I've seen, it appears that there are a number of contributors who share the same views on the “Lord's Supper” (as it's mistakenly called) satisfied that it was NOT the Passover, but some ordinary meal. Yet, instructions were given at this event that shaped the manner the New Testament Church has observed the New Testament Passover ever since.

**Laura writes:**

In the Old Testament, Passover was on the latter part of the fourteenth as it turned into the fifteenth. If you can find proof in scripture that Christ changed the date of Passover, I would like to see that proof. Christ's last supper was just a meal and at that meal he introduced, the wine, the bread, and the foot washing. Do you not understand that Christ could not keep the Passover the year He was crucified because He would be dead. He died with the Passover Lambs on the afternoon of the fourteenth of Nisan/Abib.

**Part #1**

**Laura's commentary:**

**Then there was that question about when Christ ate the last supper, did he eat leavened or unleavened bread. My thought at the time was it was probably unleavened bread, but now I am thinking it was leavened bread because the bottom line is that it was not a Passover meal, it was just a meal.**

**Rich's response:**

Plain scripture shows that this WAS the Passover, the legitimate one, and the one that the early New Testament Church observed perpetually thereafter. Even Paul taught Gentiles to do so! [1<sup>st</sup> Cor. 11:23]

**Laura's response:**

1Co 11:23 For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the *same* night in which he was betrayed took bread: (KJV)

In 1 Corinthians 11, Paul never once refers to the Passover. Paul does refer to Christ's last supper but he never calls it the Passover.

**Rich's response:**

Jesus and His Disciples referred to it as the Passover numerous times, like 9 times directly, and specifically by Jesus Himself [Luke 22:15] right at the event itself.

**Laura's response:**

Luk 22:15 And he said unto them, *With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer:* (KJV)

Christ is not saying here that he is eating the Passover meal. What He is telling his disciples is that He desires to eat this Passover with them. In other words, he wants to eat the Passover with them but He can't because He will be dead. Notice Luke 22:16.

Luk 22:16 For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God.

Christ is telling them flat out that He will not eat the Passover again until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God.

The bottom line here is that this was just a meal but the disciples still had to have a place to eat the actual Passover meal so they were preparing for that also.

I understand that the gospels as written are very confusing to many, but there are too many other scriptures throughout the bible showing that Passover was on the fourteenth as it turned into the fifteenth and you have to take all of the scriptures into account and not just the ones that you like.

**Rich's response:**

Confusion on the matter is enhanced by the Phariseean Jews misnomer, calling the week of Unleavened Bread: Passover. (They still do!) Passover was not that week, nor did it fall within those seven days. It was and remains the day before the first Day of Unleavened Bread.

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**Laura’s response:**

The date of Passover was never changed by Christ or anyone else. It has always been at sunset on the fifteenth of Nisan. God is the one that set the date of Passover and not the Pharisees. The Pharisees were noted for teaching the letter of the Law. The Pharisees call the entire week of unleavened bread Passover because it is Passover. Or do you plan to throw out scriptures which do not meet with your doctrine?

**Part #2**

**Laura’s commentary:**

**We printed the first newsletter for nine years and now this one for two years. And through all those years I have heard of and read numerous calendar papers and seen people keep many different Holy Day dates. I am not real sure why there are so many different ones. If I could clearly answer that question maybe I would know how to fix it, but I don’t know, and I can’t fix it. As most of you know we keep the Hebrew calendar including the postponements and have done so for over twenty years now. It is the only calendar that has been sanctified.**

**Rich’s response:**

When was any calendar sanctified? The calendar in use at the time of Christ didn’t involve postponements. Those were developed over the next few hundred years. I’m not suggesting they aren’t legitimate, just that they weren’t known in the first century, so couldn’t have been employed or sanctified then.

**Laura’s response:**

From “The Comprehensive Hebrew Calendar” by Arthur Spier:

In the fourth century, however, when oppression and persecution threatened the continued existence of the Sanhedrin, the patriarch Hillel II took an extraordinary step to preserve the unity of Israel. In order to prevent the Jews scattered all over the surface of the earth from celebrating their New Moons, festivals, and holidays at different times, he made public the system of **calendar calculation which up to then had been a closely guarded secret**. It had been used in the past only to check the observations and testimonies of witnesses, and to determine the beginnings of the spring season.

In accordance with this system, **Hillel II formally sanctified all months in advance**, and intercalated all future leap years until such time as a new, recognized Sanhedrin would be established in Israel. (End Quote)

The problem with your above response is that the calendar calculations were being used at the time of Christ but were a closely guarded secret by the Sanhedrin until Hillel II made them public in the fourth century. And yes, the Hebrew calendar complete with the Holy Day Dates on it was sanctified.

**Part #3**

**Laura’s commentary:**

**It is the calendar that was being kept at the time of Christ. Christ was a Jew just like the Pharisees were Jews. Paul was also a Pharisee. There was nothing wrong with the Pharisees as long as they were teaching the law of God.**

**Rich’s response:**

Pharisees and Sadducees differed in some important ways. One of those ways was the timing of Passover observance. Many Sadducees kept it as the 14<sup>th</sup> day was just beginning (as Jesus and the Disciples did). Jesus and His family were of Sadduceean persuasion. \* He didn’t favor or endorse the Pharisees, but rather took them to task for NOT keeping His Laws faithfully. [Mt. 15:3 & 6; Mk, 7:13; Mt. 23:3, etc.] I wouldn’t assign fidelity to the intent of God’s Law to the Pharisees.

\*Jesus’ great-uncle, Joseph of Arimathea was a member of the Sanhedrin. His uncle, Zacharias was among the priests who served in the Temple. Traditionally, these offices were granted to those of Sadduceean persuasion.

**Laura’s response:**

In Matthew 15:3 & 6, Mark 7:13 Christ is pointing out to the Scribes and Pharisees that their traditions are more important than God’s law. I agree with you, that the Scribes and Pharisees were not perfect, however that does not mean that they did not teach the law of God, they just were not good at doing the law of God.

Mat 23:1 Then spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples, Mat 23:2 Saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit in

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Moses' seat: [Mat 23:3](#) All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, *that* observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not. [Mat 23:4](#) For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne and lay *them* on men's shoulders; but they *themselves* will not move them with one of their fingers.

You have just convicted yourself here with Matthew 23:1-4. Jesus is speaking here to everyone and not just a few. It says multitude. Jesus is telling everyone that the Scribes and Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. Moses' seat was a seat in the temple where the Scribes and Pharisees sat and taught the Law of Moses. Verse three says for us to observe and do what the Scribes and Pharisees tell us to observe and do from the Law of Moses. But we are not to do what the Scribes and Pharisees do for they say (teach the right things) but they do not do the right things. Jesus gave credit and authority for their meticulous teaching of the Law of God. It was the stuff they added to the Law that always got them into trouble.

Christ gave no such directive of the Sadducees. Christ and by extension the people you list above were of the persuasion of the Scribes and Pharisees for their meticulous teaching of the law of God. The Sadducees were not religious people. The Sadducees stood for everything that Christ was not.

The Pharisees also held positions in the Sanhedrin, it was not just made up of Sadducees.

[Luk 1:36](#) And, behold, thy **cousin Elisabeth**, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren.

Elisabeth and Mary were cousins, so through Elisabeth's marriage to Zacharias, Christ was related to Zacharias.

However, Joseph of Arimathea was not related to Christ at all. It is not in scripture, and it is not on the internet that I could find. If you have proof that Joseph was Christ's Uncle, I would like to see it. What the Bible says is this:

[Mat 27:57](#) When the even was come, there came a rich man of **Arimathaea, named Joseph**, who also himself **was Jesus' disciple**:

**Rich's response:**

There are sources that explain that the man carrying the waterpot was already preparing a venue for Passover. When asked, he didn't need an explanation as to which Passover they intended to be observing. This man knew the correct time, so didn't need any such clarification. He and other situations bear further witness of this being the correct observance.

**Laura's response:**

Of course, the man carrying the water pot knew when Passover was. All of Jerusalem knew when Passover was because all of Jerusalem kept Passover at the same time.

**Rich's response:**

There are scholars in our religious genre who identify the Jewish Passover observance (prior to midnight on the 15<sup>th</sup>) as being the Passover of the blinded. [Rom. 11:7; 2 Cor. 3:14, 25 & 32] Unfortunately, the blind still follow the blind.

**Laura's response:**

[Rom 11:7](#) What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but the election hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded.

[2Co 3:14](#) But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which *vail* is done away in Christ.

I can clearly see there are such men teaching these false doctrines. An early 14 Passover narrative based on the Jews captivity in Babylon where many of you believe the Jews totally forgot when Passover is, is the one that was taught to those who sat in the Worldwide Church of God for many years. You don't believe this narrative because you actually studied the subject from your bible, you believe it because it was what you were taught and when you are taught something it is really hard to unlearn it. It would also be embarrassing if you were in a seat of authority and now had to tell people you are wrong about what you taught people for years. Instead, it was easier to just throw the people that did



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study this subject and learned the truth out of your midst all together. Problem solved. Only God knows who the blind are so instead of insinuating that I am one of the blind perhaps you should check to make sure that you are not blind. Instead of discussing Passover with friends and all coming to the same opinion, why don't you try a new concept and study your bible.

**Part #4**

**Laura's commentary:**

Since I found this scripture in Ezekiel, many of you have become real silent. I hope it is because you are studying your Bibles in regard to the Holy Days. **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. Even though many do not want to believe it, Passover is an annual Holy Day and High Sabbath.

**Rich's response:**

Passover is a workday, not a High Sabbath. Now, on the Ezekiel reference, please understand that there were no chapters and verses, and no punctuation in the original texts. Those were added in the 13<sup>th</sup> century AD. "The Hebrew Old Testament was divided into verses by a Jewish rabbi by the name of Nathan in A.D. 1448." Wikipedia Your single-source choice of reference is misleading in that it doesn't indicate the topical break between the two subjects.

**Laura's response:**

Passover is an annual Sabbath and not a workday. And yes, I understand there was no punctuation, chapters, or verses originally. By topical break you mean splitting Passover from Unleavened Bread? Fortunately for you I do not use a single source or a single scripture to prove that Passover is an annual Sabbath. I use many scriptures throughout the bible to prove this point.

**Rich's response:**

A cross reference (one of many) would be Numbers 28:16-17. "And in the fourteenth day of the first month is the Passover of the LORD. And in the fifteenth day of this month is the feast: seven days shall unleavened bread be eaten." Passover is in the 14<sup>th</sup>, not in the fifteenth. This and the original instruction [Ex. 12] is quite specific and clear. **Why I say Passover Day (the daylight half) was a workday**, is that it was the day when de-leavening was to be undertaken. Another insightful account is that Joseph and Nicodemus had to hastily complete their burial tasks and roll the stone as the High Sabbath was pending. [Lk 23:54-55 **Now, in saying that the Passover was that day that was 'drawing on', you're alleging that Jesus was not crucified and killed on the Passover, but the day before.** Another clear reference is Numbers 33:3 The Exodus began on the 15<sup>th</sup>, the day AFTER the Passover.

The KEY consideration that we need to satisfy ourselves on is, which midnight did the LORD pass-over?

**Laura's response:**

**Lev 23:5** in the fourteenth *day* of the first month **at even** *is* the LORD'S passover. (KJV)

**Lev 23:5** in the first month, on the fourteenth of the month, **between the evenings**, *is* the passover to Jehovah; (YLT)

Look at Lev. 23:5 closely. The wording starts with "in" meaning later in the day. The King James Version later uses "at even" when the wording should be "between the evenings" as in Youngs Bible. Between the evenings is an idiom for "Afternoon". Afternoon as defined in the bible is between noon and sunset.

Now look at:

**Num 28:16** And in the fourteenth day of the first month *is* the passover of the LORD. **Num 28:17** And in the fifteenth day of this month *is* the feast: seven days shall unleavened bread be eaten.

Notice again the use of the word "in" Lev. 23:5 and Num. 28:16 are both talking about the Passover Sacrifice and not the day of Passover. Here again scripture says there is a feast of seven days (calling it by no name) then continues just to say that unleavened bread shall be eaten.

**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**. (KJV)

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**Exo 12:6** 'And it hath become a charge to you, until the fourteenth day of this month, and the whole assembly of the company of Israel have slaughtered it **between the evenings**; (YLT)

For the Passover all de-leavening had to be done by noon on the 14<sup>th</sup> before the Passover Lambs could be killed. Yes, the 14<sup>th</sup> of Nisan was a workday, the entire day of the 14<sup>th</sup> and not just the daylight portion. The 14<sup>th</sup> of Nisan was the preparation day for the Feast of Passover and Unleavened Bread. Christ was killed on the Preparation Day and had to be buried before the Passover started. There is a difference between when the bible is talking about the Passover Sacrifice, Passover Meal, Passover Feast. The sacrifice took place during the afternoon of the 14<sup>th</sup> and the meal, and the feast took place on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

Christ and the Passover Lambs were killed on the preparation day and the lambs were eaten on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Christ was not killed on the Passover, He was killed on the afternoon of the preparation day for the Feast of Passover.

**Joh 19:31** The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day, (for that sabbath day was an high day,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and *that* they might be taken away.

**Num 33:3** And they departed from Rameses in the first month, on the fifteenth day of the first month; on the morrow after the passover the children of Israel went out with an high hand in the sight of all the Egyptians.

Numbers 33:3 is pretty clear. They left Rameses in the first month on the fifteenth day on the morrow after the Passover. The Passover meal was the night before and the sacrifice was the afternoon before. That does mean they left on the morrow after the Passover.

The sequence of events is as follows, the Lambs were killed on the afternoon of the 14<sup>th</sup>. The blood was daubed on the doorposts. The Passover meal was eaten the night of the 15<sup>th</sup> and the Death Angel passed over at midnight on the 15<sup>th</sup> of Nisan.

**Part #5**

**Laura's commentary:**

**I am sure I don't have to say this, but God only has one calendar and God only has one set of Holy Days on certain dates which He wants us to keep. God got mad when they did not keep his Holy Days on the correct dates. What that means is all of these calendars and Holy Day dates that so many people are keeping now cannot all be right. In order to understand this subject, you have to study it.**

**Rich's response:**

It would be good if people studying (by themselves as you say) would bring them to a sound, uniform and correct understanding. No ethnicity has done that more diligently than the Judaics. But unfortunately, as we've seen in the Church of God communities, the outcome is varied. No more evident is the variety of beliefs where it comes to 'calendar issues' and the Passover events sequence. **Jewish influence has distorted the belief systems of a wide array of persuasions to the present day.** Unfortunately, a great deal of that is found embedded in our Sabbatarian Communities. Where are our "scholars"? A rare gift anymore!

**Laura's response:**

If the Jewish community had been able to influence the Church of God Community, we would all be using the same calendar and keeping all the same Holy Days but we are not. You cannot blame the Jews for the confusion in the Church of God. That confusion started with your leader when he told you the Jews forgot when Passover was. Some of us saw a problem with that and did study our bibles. We found we were lied to. Whether that lie was intentional or not intentional only God knows, but it scattered the church and led people to believe whatever they wanted to believe and do. So how is the Church of God better than Jewish people, Pharisees who added to the Law of God and then went out and taught it to others. Most everyone in the Church of God is guilty of adding to the law of God and then teaching it as if it were the law of God.

It is getting harder and harder every day to find truth of any kind on the internet. Websites we could depend on for at least a good share of truth are no longer there. They are little by little being replaced with lie after lie as to what scripture is

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saying and you have to take that into account when you are studying. Even many commentators on various subjects have no idea what they are saying nor do they understand scripture. The bottom line is that not every single person past, present or future who is a part of the Church of God is going to be in that First Fruits Resurrection. If you do the work needed to make that resurrection God will help get you there, if you are sitting around discussing scripture with others and saying to yourself we all agree on this subject so therefore we are right that could be a problem. You have to do the work it takes before God will help you the rest of the way. Your proof on any given subject must be solid and unbreakable. If it is not then you are wrong and not God or the Jews.

And would any of you know a real teacher (scholar) of scripture even if you met one. I doubt it because you have already decided for yourself what you will and will not believe even if you never studied it in scripture.

**Conclusion**

**Rich writes:**

Please understand, I've had deep and thorough discussions with people who represent that take on the 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> Passover issue. Some right here in town! I think we've touched on every point there is at length.

That 1920 National Geographic article in my booklet is insightful, except for one textural alteration made at the last, where a bone was offered to the Jews on the NGS board back then. No such element there now, as they're all evolutionists (not that some secular Jews aren't). The daylight portion of the 14<sup>th</sup> after the Passover was not the first Holy Day, but the preparation day for it.

One obvious give-away of the subterfuge in the National Geographic summation is that days begin and end at sunset, not dawn.

**Laura writes:**

Instead of exchanging opinions with like minded people you know, study your bible first.

And which Jews are you speaking of here. Your National Geographic article was about the Samaritans who in 1920 were fast disappearing. The Sadducees have not existed since 70 A. D. when the temple was destroyed. The Pharisees (Orthodox Jews) still exist today and they still train Sanhedrin Priests. They would not still be training Sanhedrin Priests today if they were not a part of the original Sanhedrin and Temple. They also preserved the calendar and the scriptures that we have today.

I believe you are sincere in your beliefs but I believe you are sincerely wrong that Christ or members of His family would follow the Sadducees in anything.

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## Feast Sites

### Need Input on Feast Site (Copyright 2023) by David Antion (Pasadena, California)

Dear Brethren,

I am writing to once again ask you for your input and opinion. We had thought of holding the Feast at Kanab, UT, and were making arrangements. However, after not hearing back from the hotel with a proposal and getting input from some of our members we are rethinking this situation.

The obstacles for Kanab are:

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1. There is another large activity there that has taken the meeting room at the Hotel for the first holyday and for the day following.
2. We now know that it is not as easy to get to Kanab. People flying in would probably have to go to Las Vegas and do a 4-hour drive to Kanab.
3. While there are beautiful parks (Zion and Bryce Canyon), many of our attendees are older and cannot hike to explore these places. No doubt they could see them from their car.
4. Most of the recreation for our Brethren consists of getting with people they know and want to know better and going to lunches or dinners at nice restaurants. Kanab, I'm told, doesn't have that many great restaurants.

So, we are reconsidering South Lake Tahoe at the same location we had last year. We had great comments about the Feast there and also about the beautiful Lake Tahoe. There were plenty of fine-quality restaurants all around and within a few miles of the Beach Retreat & Lodge Hotel.

We need your help: Please let us know if you would be interested in attending with us at South Lake Tahoe. We can get the rooms for the same price as last year plus \$3 more per night. That would be \$129 + \$3 = \$132 per night.

Please let us know if you would like to attend with us at South Lake Tahoe.

Reply to: [davidantion@reagan.com](mailto:davidantion@reagan.com)

Yes I plan to attend with Guardian Ministries at South Lake Tahoe.

No I cannot attend with GM this year at South Lake Tahoe.

I would prefer Kanab in the future.

Thank you for your time and attention to this request. I send my warmest greetings to you and those you love

Sincerely,  
David L. Antion

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<http://daveantion.com/>  
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## Prayer Requests

### **Prayer Request for James McBride (March 6, 2023)**

We don't really have any information as far as what James's health issues are here. All we do know is that his health took a turn for the worse in November 2022 and he ended up in the hospital and was unable to answer email until recently. Pray for James to be fully healed.

## Announcements

### **Announcement from Craig White (March 4, 2023)**

More old WCG/AC items and articles published

Further to the e-mail below concerning the item Summary of first 12 Years of Ambassador College and a Survey of all Ambassador Students (1947-59), I now have been sent the 'AC Scroll of Alumni 1951-62' and 'Canadian Pioneers' of the Church by Kenneth Herrmann.

You may be interested in my article on 'A Woman Rides the Beast' published by ICG in their magazine and also online at <https://www.21stcenturywatch.com/2022/12/21/a-woman-rides-the-beast/>

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Another is 'Church of God History. Tending to the Past. Preserving for the Future' published in *The Sabbath Sentinel*, March-April 2023, pp. 12-13 (the article is attached) and also available here <https://biblesabbath.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/March-April-2023.pdf>

Finally, the next issue of *Church of God and Sabbatarian News* (no. 5) has been sent to subscribers – feel free to subscribe to it if you already haven't. The link is [here](#) and just scroll down to the form.

**Announcement from Zac Poonen (March 6, 2023)**

**MESSAGES**

**The Kingdom of God is Our Birthright**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NJhvqLBIRGM>

**Through Many Trials We Enter God's Kingdom – Right Now**

<https://rlcf.church/media/sermons/through-many-trials-enter-gods-kingdom-right-now>

**CFC Bangalore**

<https://cfcindia.com>

## Other Items

(Poems, Jokes, Questions etc.)

## Middle East Showdown

(Copyright) by Dwight Fleming (Oroville, California)

Things are heating up in the Middle East. Israel is greatly concerned about Iran's enrichment of uranium. Once Iran reaches an enrichment of 90 percent, it would be capable of producing a nuclear weapon. Will Israel be forced to make a pre-emptive military strike against Iran in hopes of preventing a possible future nuclear attack against Israel?

Does Bible prophecy give us any forewarning of a nuclear attack against Israel and the repercussions that it would cause?

[https://www.youtube.com/shorts/N6Zn\\_ACuFr8](https://www.youtube.com/shorts/N6Zn_ACuFr8) Israel Not Bluffing

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N4eBVodkJYQ> Iran Could Build Nukes

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yP9M\\_K75ApQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yP9M_K75ApQ) Iran's Precision-Strike Weapons

## Church Bookstore

**We have not read these books, and so do not know what is in them.**

In order to list your book or booklet in this category, we will need the following:

1. .jpg or .gif file of the front cover of the book or booklet.
2. .jpg or .gif file of the back cover of the book or booklet.
3. A one or two paragraph description of the book or booklet
4. If the book or booklet is free we need the link for where it can be downloaded.
5. If you are selling the book or booklet we need a link to the page where people can buy the book or booklet.
6. One book or booklet per email. If you do more per email we will dump it in the trash can.
7. Send it to [church-of-god-bismarck@hotmail.com](mailto:church-of-god-bismarck@hotmail.com)
8. The Link for the Church Bookstore is found here: [Church of God, Bismarck!, The "New" Church of God Messenger \(church-of-god-bismarck.org\)](#)

## The Millennial Reign of the Messiah (Copyright) by Craig White (Australia)



We often speak about the Millennial rule of the Messiah in the Churches of God, but how much understanding has been lost? How much detail does the Bible reveal? Or is it very general with only a few Scriptures on the subject? Let us explore the Bible deeply on this precious truth. For we will be an essential part of the Wonderful World Tomorrow and should familiarise ourselves with that system now! (53 pages)

Found in Church Bookstore.

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

### Holy Days 2023

Passover – April 6, 2023 (Observed at Sunset the Evening Before)  
Passover/Unleavened Bread – April 6-12, 2023  
Pentecost – May 26, 2023  
Trumpets - September 16, 2023  
Atonement – September 25, 2023  
Tabernacles –September 30, 2023 to October 6, 2023  
Last Great Day – October 7, 2023

### Notes