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The “New” Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
April 1, 2023 --- Issue No. 113

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Articles

are the shepherds safeguarding the lives of the sheep?

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Only yesterday I was told of a Christian woman who escaped a viciously cruel marriage and went to consult her pastor. The man of God, wishing to restore domestic peace and harmony, sent the fearful congregant back to her home along with his well-meant prayers and good advice. Two days later the woman was dead, slain by the hand of her husband.

Only weeks before a similar tragedy had been played out in a neighboring parish. Although the pastor had intended to reestablish the marital union, his guidance had led to its permanent destruction. His first obligation was to do all in his power to safeguard the life of the parishioner.

Are our evangelical shepherds endangering the lives of the sheep? Ezekiel speaks of the watchman appointed by God who is responsible for the safety of the lives entrusted to him. “If the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet to warn the people and the sword comes and takes the life of one of them, . . . I will hold the watchman accountable for his blood.” (Ezek. 33:6)

But most of our pastors are unaware of the danger. C. S. Lewis observed that one of the devil’s cleverest tricks is to convince folk that he does not exist. Unencumbered by Christian wariness, he is far more free to wreak his mischief in our lives. Similarly, there is a belief among evangelicals that domestic violence does not exist within our ranks, that the horrifying statistics are only feminist fabrications. Yet the government computes the body count with data gathered from hospitals, police stations, and morgues.

In America fifteen hundred women a year are killed by their intimate partners, and the toll for children is even higher. The facts tell a grisly tale that we have chosen to ignore. Throughout the world, the death rate is equally high and sometimes far higher. Most abused women and children do not die, but they often carry the wounds for life - in terms of both physical and emotional injuries. We must also note that five percent of abusers are women, although their lack of physical strength makes them less likely to inflict serious injury.

Tragically, our longing to see the family made whole has blinded us to the dangers that lurk in family life. We must first admit that the danger is real and that we have been slow to recognize it. Isaiah lamented “Israel’s watchmen are blind; they all lack knowledge... They are shepherds who lack understanding.” (56:10,11)

We are ignoring the danger to thousands of women and children within our churches. No type of faith community is immune from the scourge. Sociologist Nancy Nason Clark has researched the prevalence of abuse in evangelical families and finds the rate about the same as in the general population. In North America, a pastor preaches on Sunday morning to a congregation in which, on average, there is abuse in one quarter of the families. Other studies, such as that done at Calvin College, confirm the findings.

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We are not facing this reality, nor are we prepared to deal with the terrible reality that engulfs us. Few pastors have been given adequate preparation to deal with domestic violence. Our seminaries seldom offer instruction on the issue, although pastors report that they spend more of their counseling time on this subject than on any other.

A Canadian study revealed that the more training pastors had been given on the subject, the more they were to refer the problem to a highly qualified professional. The less training pastors receive, the more likely they are to feel that they can handle the challenge themselves.

Studies show that when a Christian woman seeks help in an abusive marriage, she ordinarily consults either her pastor or a Christian woman in the congregation. The first lesson that we must teach pastors is that the danger is real and that it takes great courage for a woman to disclose the humiliating truth that she is a victim. She is well aware that many a woman is sent home by the pastor along with the rebuke that if she had been a better wife there would have been no problem. Thus, she must struggle not only with shame but also with fear - fear that she will not be believed and fear that it may go worse for her at home once she has made the disclosure.

“They have healed the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying “peace, peace” when there is no peace.”
(Jer. 6:14)

The Pastor’s Dilemma

Some pastors suspect that the women are fabricating stories of their abuse, and they are very reluctant to hear of such behavior on the part of their fine church members. Occasionally a woman does indeed make up the charge, but most of the time the fears that she expresses are based in reality. It is far better to err on the side of safety and to make sure that the woman is placed in a secure location even when she may be too distraught to give a rational account of the problem.

Pastors must understand that even the most astute of mental health experts have been misled by putative perpetrators. Abusers may seem very pious, very self-controlled or even very repentant, but they may be very dangerous. Even the most convincing of statements may not guarantee safe behavior behind closed doors.

Those who work most extensively with endangered women maintain that the victim herself usually has the most accurate understanding of the level of risk to herself and her children. We must not ignore or minimize her appeal for help in the face of her perceived peril. The woman can be helped to make a safety plan to be utilized if there is need. Often those best equipped to help with the plan are ready at the other end of a hot line.

The victim can also be told of the resources that are available to her in the community.

The Pastor’s Resources

The first and mightiest tool that the pastor has is prayer, but he (or she) must add other weapons to this arsenal. There must be both basic information and essential contacts. Many different kinds of resources will be needed in a crisis. In dealing with a life-threatening situation, it is imperative to move cautiously. A pastor should not enter a house where there is active violence until s/he is accompanied by police or other members of the church.

Bear in mind that many a police officer has lost his life in responding to domestic violence calls. Frequently the safest place for an endangered woman is the community shelter. The experienced staff has in place many safety features that might not occur to a congregation, no matter how well intentioned they might be.

It is important that the location be unknown to the perpetrator and that it is an unlikely one for the perpetrator to discover. Remember that stalking and lying in wait frequently accompany other kinds of abusive behavior. More than one church member has been slain because they offered housing to an abused family.

Many pastors are fearful of sending a member of their congregation to a shelter that is operated by persons with another life philosophy. This is sometimes a necessity, the best immediate solution for a terrifying problem, one that provides far more security than a local church can offer. The path of safety runs “from the steeple to the shelter.”

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As is so often the case, the church has lagged behind other elements in our society when it comes to addressing an evil that cries out for redress. Feminists have led the way in developing a methodology and an expertise in saving the lives of endangered women and children. Much of the operation depends upon dedicated volunteers who are trained to answer hot lines, transport endangered victims, staff shelters, locate safe houses when all the beds at the shelter are full. Some are skilled in filling out applications for restraining orders and will accompany the victim to court.

Others provide care for bewildered children, locate food, clothing, toys. How much this mission should be shared by the church! Churches may well partner with a local shelter, supplying basic necessities, painting a room, providing special treats for a holiday. Better yet, church members could take the basic training for rescue workers.

They may not care for some of the sentiments expressed or the language in which it is voiced, but this is true in many aspects of contemporary society. Nevertheless, there is much that dedicated members of a congregation might learn to help their own members in time of trouble - and much to help others. If it is necessary for a woman to flee from a dangerous situation, trained workers can help make the transition safer.

Seventy-five percent of all domestic murders take place before, during, or shortly after the woman leaves. The preparatory arrangements must be disclosed to as few people as possible, and judicious guidance is indispensable in the planning. Various precautions and strategies of secrecy can make the process more orderly, safe and effective, with necessary funds, documents, and medicines in hand.

Where are the Christians in our congregations who stand ready to give this kind of care? There are many other issues that arise in long-term care for abusive families. Often the victim is flooded with advice, but no one addresses the perpetrator. Some maintain that it is not right to interfere with the way a man conducts the life of the family in his own home, but this is not what the Bible says.

“If a brother be overtaken in a fault, ye that are spiritual, restore such a one.” (Galatians 6:1)

Sometimes pastors have been slow to refer offenders to batterer intervention programs because there has been a very low rate of success. In God’s providence there are now a few Christian intervention programs with improved rates of transformed conduct. The best rates ensue when the offender is referred by the pastor, the family, or the church.

We evangelicals must insist that these programs be studied carefully and that qualified therapists be trained in these techniques. There are answers to be had, but we as the people of God must work together to find them. We must establish as well a network of Christian hot lines, Christian shelters, Christian rehabilitation centers – for both victims and perpetrators. Our lack of caring has made us a reproach in many circles. It is time that we take action, but first we have a need for pastoral leadership. We need to be challenged to offer prayer and practical support to victim and offender alike. We can be there to listen and to care, to set up accountability groups within an atmosphere of zero tolerance for the offense; but we must be led.

The Pastor’s Mission

The first obligation of the pastor remains that of proclamation. It is the duty of a prophet to observe evil in our society and to speak out against it by applying the Word of God to the need. The scriptures contain over one hundred condemnations of violence, stalking, lying in wait, word twisting, as well as mental and emotional abuse.

Very seldom do we hear these issues addressed from the pulpit. The Bible says that it is the obligation of the righteous to deliver the oppressed from the hand of the violent. Few sitting in the pews have ever heard an exposition of this biblical mandate. Fewer yet have been called to committed and constructive action.

All too often we have failed to view the totality of biblical teaching on God’s patterns for the home. In the Bible, one of the features most strongly emphasized for godly homes is that of safety.

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My people will abide in a peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places.? (Isa. 32:18)

Within their own homes, God’s people should be able not only to lie down in safety (Lev. 26:6; Ps. 3:6; Is. 14:30; Jer. 23:6; 32:37; 33:16; Hos. 2:18) but also to live in safety (Jer. 23:6; 32:37; 33:16; 34:3:24-28; Ez. 28:26; 34:24-28; 38:8)

“You shall know that your tent is safe? (Job 5:24).

As heavenly husband, Yahweh vows to his repentant wife Israel a home life free of fear and abuse: “your children will be taught by the Lord, and great will be the prosperity of your children. In righteousness you shall be established. You shall be far from oppression, for you shall not fear; and from terror, for it shall not come near you. If anyone stirs up strife, it is not from me; whoever stirs up strife with you shall fail because of you. . . No weapon that is fashioned against you shall prosper, and you shall confute every tongue that rises against you in judgment. . . this is the heritage of the servants of the Lord and their vindication with me, says the Lord.” (Isa. 54: 13-14, 17)

If this is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, then we must help them to claim it. How often does this promise enter our discussions of the Christian family? Faithful teaching on the Christian family must include at least as much proclamation of these aspects as is accorded in Scripture.

Who rises up for me against the wicked? Who stands up for me against evildoers? (Ps. 94:16)

The Lord saw it, and it displeased him that there was no justice. He saw that there was no one, and was appalled that there was no one to intervene. (Isa 59:15b-16a).

Where are the pastors who will bring pastoral care and biblical perspectives to abusive situations?

Suggested resources:

James and Phyllis Aldsdurf, “Wife abuse and Scripture” in *Abuse and Religion: when Praying Isn’t Enough*. Ed. A Horton and J. Williamson Heath Publisher, 1988 pp 221-28.

Catherine Clark Kroeger and Nancy Nason-Clark, *No Place for Abuse: Biblical and Practical Resources to Counteract Domestic Violence* InterVarsity Press, 2001

Al Miles, *Domestic Violence: What Every Pastor Should Know*. Augsburg Fortress, 2000

Nancy Nason-Clark, *The Battered Wife: How Christians Confront Family Violence*.

Westminster John Knox, 1997, *Christian Intervention Programs: Northwest Family Life*, Seattle , WA

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Circumcision of the Heart

(Copyright 2022) by Zac Poonen (Bangalore, India)

Many old covenant rituals have a fulfilment in the new covenant. Circumcision was a very important ritual under the old covenant. Surely, such an important ritual must have a significant spiritual meaning in the new covenant - and it does.

“God wants us to be circumcised in heart so that we can love Him with all our heart.”

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Its meaning is described for us in *Philippians 3:3, 4*: “*We are the true circumcision who worship in the Spirit of God, glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh*”. These three expressions are all related to each other. To worship in the Spirit is to glory in Christ alone and is manifested by a life where we have no confidence in the flesh.

In physical circumcision people cut off a part of their physical flesh. In spiritual circumcision, we cut off our confidence in the flesh (our Self-life) and put it to death. In the Old Testament those who were not circumcised could not be a part of Israel (*Gen. 17:14*). In the New Testament, anyone who has confidence in himself cannot be a part of the true church of Jesus Christ. Only those who *glory in Christ alone* and have *no confidence in themselves* are part of the true church. If we glory in the fact that we have built our church better than what others have built, God will have no place for us in His true church.

Acts 7:41 speaks of people who glory *in the work of their own hands*. If we boast in what we have accomplished, then we are spiritually uncircumcised. If you feel that *you yourself* have accomplished something, then your faith has failed. Then God in His love for you, will allow you to “*fish all night and catch nothing*” (*John 21:3*), in order to teach you that true faith means a total dependence on Him alone.

One day Nebuchadnezzar stood on the roof of his palace and gloated over the great kingdom of Babylon that he had built (*Dan. 4:29, 30*). As soon as he thought like that, God removed his kingdom from him and made him like an animal. It took him many years thereafter to be restored to sanity. Like him, many believers also gloat inwardly over *what they have accomplished* for God. But Nebuchadnezzar finally repented of his folly and glorified God (*Dan. 4:34-37*). He was finally circumcised in heart. The sad thing is that many Christian leaders have not experienced this spiritual circumcision.

God wants us to be circumcised in heart so that we can love *Him with all our heart* (*Deut. 30:6*). That is the mark of circumcision of the heart. We are *not* circumcised if we love ourselves and glory in ourselves.

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Pigs Might Fly!

(Copyright 2012) by John Jewell (London, England)

A not uncommon saying in Britain is “pigs might fly!” -- in other words, this or that will probably never happen just as pigs won't develop wings and fly! I had such an experience the other day as I was reading one of my morning newspapers. **The heading read “Evolution does not mean there isn't a God, says Attenborough.”** My immediate reaction was to blink my eyes and think “Can this be the Attenborough we all in Britain know?” Who, along with other notable atheists has consistently denied God and the Creation. I read the report! Apparently, he took part in a recent popular BBC radio programme “Desert Island Discs” and said to the presenter, Kirsty Young, **that he now recognised the possibility that God could exist!** And this meant he was an agnostic rather than an atheist. To be an atheist is to be one who denies or disbelieves the existence of God – whereas an agnostic is one who holds that the existence of anything beyond the physical, or of the First Cause cannot be known.

Professor Richard Dawkins, known by surely most people in Britain, has made it abundantly clear as to where he stands regarding God, but can present no proof, or even a reasoned argument against the fact of God's existence. Where do you stand? Do you believe, truly believe, in God? Do you believe, truly believe that the bible is the inspired word of God? Most of the western world does not believe these things. How do we know that? Because the bible gives us the answers to virtually all human problems. In the gospel of Matthew chapter 7 it says that we can understand, we can know, people. The phrase is “by their fruits you shall know them.” The measure isn't just what people say, importantly it's what they actually do! There are many examples in today's world.

The lunatic fringe of Britain preaches equality. But it isn't really equality it talks about. What it wants to do is to turn the British people, people who have descended from one of Joseph's children, Ephraim, into a corrupt society. A society

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which should be leading the world. But a society which will then be so far from God as to render it almost impossible for there ever again to be any relationship with God who describes Himself as our Father. What kind of society are we rapidly becoming? We are becoming, and already are that society, far from God, a corrupt society. The change, the speed of degeneration is accelerating and taking us further and further away from Him. **So much so that a dreadful penalty will be exacted upon us to try and wake us up!**

There are many examples. One would think that to the average parent in today's American and British society one of the most important responsibilities would be the education and bringing up of their children. But then in what way should they be brought up? The bible, in virtually every aspect of human life, is clear and to the point. **Some like to say how you can make the bible say anything! Not true!** This is said in order to justify their rejecting God and the bible, His word. They just don't want to obey God; they want to simply pander to their own lusts and corrupt ways. Proverbs 22 verse 6 says that parents are to train up a child in the way he should go. What way is that? Psalm 78 has one part of the answer! It says **“Teach the law (God's ways and His law) to one's children. Let it be important to them** so that they will, as it says in verse 7, “...set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments.” Have we done that? Are they good citizens? Good neighbours! Good parents! Are they learning what it is, and why it is, we are male and female, men and women!

In Matthew 19: verse 4 Jesus Christ is quoted as saying: “Have you not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female.” He continues: “... for this cause shall a man leave father and mother and shall cleave to his wife and they twain (or both of them) shall be one flesh” Speaking metaphorically, but meaning that they are then to work together, helping, supporting one another, strengthening and encouraging one another that their children might grow up knowing God, and that they too might enter into God's family. **The God given human relationship is, and only is, that of man and woman joined together in marriage. Anything else is of, as Christ said, Satan or the devil.** He, Satan, becomes your father if you enter into any other sexual relationship.

There has arisen yet another strange belief, theory or whatever it could be called. Currently it is referred to as “gender neutral” – an example given is that of a young boy whose parents decided they wanted to avoid classifying him as either a boy or a girl. They are also quoted as saying that their son should be free to reach his full potential. So, they dressed him in pink frocks with beads. But full potential as what? A pseudo girl? a corrupted boy? It's interesting to note that no effort is made to turn the little girls into pseudo boys! Other than giving them more of the mechanical type toys etc. This is again part of the Satanic society. Part of the drive to wreck the plan of God for mankind. We are created male and female in order that a family may result and children born into that family, that may come to know God and look forward to being in the family of God as spirit beings, to live forever as His children.

You might have thought that the example was only about Britain. No, it isn't! In an article by journalist Melanie Phillips she mentions that the Council of Europe has drafted a definition of gender as an artificial social construct which has little to do with biology. She quotes the California Teachers' Association's conference which held a conference advocating 'gender liberation'. It appears that they also issued instructions on 'gender etiquette' which said it was polite to ask people with which sex they identified. **The bible tells us in Proverbs 22 that we are to “... train up a child in the way he should go.” If the child is a boy, he should be trained to know what it is to be a man, but a man obeying God's laws.** If the child is a girl, then she should be trained to know what it is to be a woman, a woman obeying God's laws. Any family which has had within it both young boys and young girls will know how different they are from each other. Yet, in spite of the experience of many there are still those who try to deny that there is a basic difference between boys and girls. They do this in order to foster the view that there is no difference and that the two sexes can be whichever they want to be.

From our own experience as grandparents, it was fascinating to see how different a grandson was from a granddaughter. A box of trains and tracks together with houses and trees all made of wood and painted given to them would see the girl ignoring the train, the engine and the track but going straight to the houses, trees and bushes. He would build a layout; she would build a village where people lived. Boys will make engine noises; girls will carry on conversations. They don't do this because they have been taught to, they do it because of the inherent basic tendencies which some in the Human Rights industry like to deny.

Once again **God's laws are very specific and up to date.** In Deuteronomy chapter 22, verse 5 it is written very clearly that **“The woman shall not wear that which pertains to a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for**

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all that do so are an abomination to the Lord your God.” God says there is a difference between men and women. But society says No, that’s wrong it would deny the individuals their human rights. The right to be whichever gender they want to be. And we can’t allow that can we! Great efforts are made to side--line men! As such there has been considerable development in the production of fertilised human eggs which are then implanted into the woman’s womb. She thereby can have a child how and when she wants without a man being involved. Some women have actually made a business of selling their eggs. Who ever considers the resultant children. Who is their father? Who is their biological mother? It is quite possible that with the direction society is going that brothers could indeed marry sisters and never realise it.

The apostle Paul wrote a number of letters the significant ones of which are gathered together for us in the bible. It is surprising how up to date those letters are. When we read through them we see this present evil world presented, opened up before us for us to be warned as to the age in which we now live. He wrote two letters to Timothy. Reading some of the passages you might think they were to someone in the world we all now live in. In fact they are. They are written about this age, and they are intended for you, for me, to take warning as to what in fact is happening. **In the second letter to Timothy, chapter 3, verse 1, we read this: “This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.** For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy. Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God. Having a form of godliness but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth...”

Britain is now faced with a time of trouble which will come upon us as a punishment for our total disregard of God’s laws and ways. Maybe then we will cry out to Him for mercy. Our American cousins will likewise suffer in similar fashion for the same reason, for America is not far behind Britain in its corrupt way of life, with its similar total disregard of God’s laws and ways; and especially for the way the God given marriage relationship between man and woman has been so freely abused and mocked. A marriage relationship which also reveals the coming relationship between the risen Jesus Christ and those who over the centuries and also at this time repented, received God’s Holy Spirit and now form **the true church of God to be resurrected at Christ’s return. A return which now is not far off! Will you be ready to meet him?**

Or will the pigs start flying?

Articles – More Parts
(Other Parts of Already Printed Articles)

The Model Prayer (Part Nine): Kingdom
(Copyright 2023) by Richard T. Ritenbaugh (Charlotte, North Carolina)

Most noticeably, Jesus’ Model Prayer in [Matthew 6:9-13](#) differs from Luke’s version ([Luke 11:2-4](#)) in its ending, adding, “For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.” Some Bible translations note that this doxology (“a liturgical hymn or verse glorifying God”) is not present in the oldest manuscripts, and they either leave it out or relegate it to the margin. However, a majority of later manuscripts include it. Several early ancient documents, including the *Didache* (c. AD 100) and the *Apostolic Constitutions* (ad 375-380, composed of some earlier works) attest to its authenticity. Jews of Jesus’ day would not have ended a prayer without a doxology and “Amen.”

Even if it did not appear in the original text of Matthew’s gospel, it is an appropriate and theologically sound way to end a prayer. As theologian William Hendriksen comments on this verse, “It would be difficult, indeed, to frame or devise a more fitting close.” After the three personal requests in verses 11-13, it returns the petitioner to acknowledging God’s ultimate sovereignty over all things, His tremendous power, and His eternal glory. The doxology leaves the praying individual with God on his mind as he returns to his responsibilities in the world.

1. Does the doxology in the Model Prayer parallel other New Testament doxologies? [II Timothy 4:18](#).

Comment: The apostle Paul ends his second letter to his protégé, Timothy, with a similar verse of praise that many consider to be based on the one in [Matthew 6:13](#). Others believe it worked the other way around—that the church

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later interpolated a heightened form of Paul’s doxology into the Model Prayer.

Whatever the case, both doxologies appear to be modeled on a much earlier Hebrew glorification of God given by King David:

Yours, O LORD, is the greatness, the power and the glory, the victory and the majesty; for all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours; Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and You are exalted as head over all. Both riches and honor come from You, and You reign over all. In Your hand is power and might; in Your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all. (I Chronicles 29:11-12)

Another example of a New Testament doxology is Jude’s ending to his epistle:

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, to God our Savior, who alone is wise, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen. (Jude 24-25)



The four living creatures, the twenty-four elders, and innumerable angels around God’s throne in heaven declare something similar:

» You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created. (Revelation 4:11)

» Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing! (Revelation 5:12)

» Blessing and honor and glory and power be to Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever! (Revelation 5:13)

» Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, thanksgiving and honor and power and might, be to our God forever and ever. Amen. (Revelation 7:12)

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A careful reader of Scripture will find such passages of praise repeatedly. Discovering a concluding doxology in Matthew 6 is not surprising and is, in fact, expected. We can be confident that “adding” it to the Model Prayer is appropriate and necessary to complete our reverential communication with the Most High God.

2. What is the import of saying, “Yours is the kingdom”? [Luke 1:33](#).

Comment: The English translation of [Matthew 6:13](#) hides what may be the true meaning of this declaration. Underlying “kingdom” is the Greek word *basileia*, which indeed means “kingdom.” However, it also can mean “dominion,” “sovereignty,” “kingly power,” “authority,” “reign,” “rule,” and “royal dignity.” Here, used alongside “power” and “glory,” it most likely suggests the abstract ideas of dominion and sovereignty rather than a tangible kingdom.

As it ends, then, the Model Prayer reminds the praying individual that God rules over everything. It is reminiscent of what Nebuchadnezzar heard from the angel during his second dream: “. . . the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, gives it to whomever He will, and sets over it the lowest of men” ([Daniel 4:17](#)). Nebuchadnezzar himself twice says, “For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, and His kingdom is from generation to generation” ([Daniel 4:3, 34](#)). God controls everything, and nothing happens in heaven or on earth without His oversight. It is a comforting reminder.

3. Why does Jesus want us to acknowledge God’s power? [Revelation 1:8](#); [11:17](#).

Comment: Power is a significant theme throughout the Bible, particularly God’s power compared to the power of [Satan](#), men, kingdoms, etc. Its insertion in the Model Prayer reminds the petitioner not just of mere power but of God’s power, which is omnipotence. He is the Almighty God, the Old Testament’s *El Shaddai* ([Genesis 17:1](#)) and *YHWH Sabaōth* (“Lord of Hosts”; [Psalm 24:10](#); [Isaiah 2:12](#)). He is “the Lord God Omnipotent [*παντοκράτωρ*, “all powerful”],” as the heavenly host names Him in [Revelation 19:6](#).

Because all power resides in Him, He can perform and provide all that is necessary to fulfill His purpose and care for us. Nothing is too difficult for Him to accomplish. The apostle Paul makes God’s almighty power personal to us in [Philippians 4:13](#): “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens [*empowers*] me.” Remembering that the God who lives in us possesses all power and will use it for our benefit as He wills can give us great confidence.

4. What is the significance of “glory forever” in the doxology? [II Corinthians 3:18](#).

Comment: Jesus’ mention of “glory forever” in closing His Model Prayer ends His instruction with a reminder of our goal. Glorification is the final event of the sanctification process (see [Romans 8:28-30](#)) that God puts His elect through as He forms and shapes them for eternal rulership in His Kingdom. It is the completion or full realization of salvation. For His firstfruits, this event occurs at the [return of Christ](#) (see [Matthew 24:29-31](#); [I Corinthians 15:50-54](#); [I Thessalonians 4:15-17](#); [I John 3:1-2](#); [Revelation 11:15-18](#)).

Note, however, Jesus’ wording in [Matthew 6:13](#): “For Yours is . . . the glory forever.” While His thought includes our eventual glorification, He forces us to remember that God is the Source of all glory and that His entire plan and purpose is for His glory, not ours. As Paul writes in [Ephesians 3:21](#), “. . . to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.” As we end our prayers with such words, we praise Him for His awe-inspiring and eternal excellence and splendor while simultaneously humbling ourselves in His august presence.

5. What does “amen” mean? [Psalm 106:48](#); [Revelation 3:14](#).

Comment: The Hebrew term *amen* comes from a verb meaning “to be firm” and is thus understood to mean “truly,” “surely,” or “let it be so.” In its frequent usage across the Bible (30x in the [Old Testament](#) and 129x in the [New](#)), it serves as a declaration of affirmation or agreement, usually to a prayer or doxology. We use it in the same way today.

Jesus regularly employs it to mean “truly” or “assuredly” to stress the authority of a declaration He then makes.

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For instance, He frequently says, “Assuredly [often doubled for added emphasis in John’s gospel—translated as “Most assuredly”], I say to you . . .” (see [Matthew 10:15](#); [Mark 13:30](#); [Luke 12:37](#); [21:3](#); [John 3:3](#); etc.). In these cases, it sometimes marks a surprising statement, reversing what most hearers or readers would expect.

The Bible also uses “Amen” as a name or description of [Jesus Christ](#). In [Revelation 3:14](#), He calls Himself “the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness.” By doing so, He confirms that He and His Word are trustworthy. We can have [faith](#) that His promises, counsel, and judgments are always good and reliable.

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Questionable Article

Tell us why you believe this is a true or false doctrine and why?

Learn to Give an Answer!

Biblical Teaching of Sabbath Keeping

(Copyright) by Richard Douglas Mauck and Sandra Faye Mauck (Pulaski County, Kentucky)

Below, I begin the minimum treatise’s I’ve written to help explain the Sabbath day.

Ten teachings, almost 57,000 words, and over a decade of work. How does one summarize that? Here is what you need to know.

1. Time markers in Scripture.
2. A day start is sunrise.
3. The correct definition of sunrise.
4. The correct definition of sunset.
5. The correct definition of between the evenings.
6. That even/evening is our modern day afternoon.
7. What a perfect week is.
8. How to count 7 perfect weeks to Shavuot.
9. The difference between Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread.
10. Passover is one day.
11. Feast of Unleavened Bread is 7 days.
12. When the word feast is used, you need to know what it means.
13. When the words unleavened feast are used, you need to know what that means.
14. Feast and Unleavened Feast do not always mean the same thing each time they are used.
15. The correct definition of a “high sabbath”.
16. The correct definition of preparation day.
17. Need to know that Rabbinic Judaism does not override Scriptures, it is the other way around.
18. Need to know that the Last Supper cannot be the Passover feast. If it were, then Christ has sinned.

One can only know these 18 things, by using the proper Calendar of Scripture.

Calendar of Scripture Part I - Mechanics of the Calendar

1. I have tried to find a name for the Scriptural Calendar that is not in common usage. There are many people, and I am sure their numbers will grow especially if they borrow from what is written here, that have developed calendars which they name the Bible calendar, Yah's calendar, creation calendar, and more. So, the calendar I have been led to develop

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is named the Calendar of Scripture, also known as the Scriptural Calendar. I believe this to be the most accurate of all calendars in use today no matter the source or name; be it Julian, Gregorian, Rabbinic Jewish, etc. The importance of this Calendar of Scripture is that it reflects the way time was kept from the beginning (Genesis 1:1) until some time after Yahoshua's departure back to the right hand of the Father.

2. The Scriptural Calendar was changed by Gentile and Jew alike. This is by no means an exhaustive look at some calendars. Hillel II, the son and successor of Judah III, was a Hebrew Sanhedrin leader circa 320-385 AD. Traditionally he is regarded as the creator of the modern Jewish calendar. Others ascribe the Jewish calendar to Moses Maimonides, also known as Rabbi Moshe ben Maimon, sometimes contracted to Rambam, who lived circa 1137-1204 AD. The modern civil calendar, widely in use today, was introduced by Pope Gregory XIII; hence its name of Gregorian calendar. The Jewish calendar is normally referred to as a lunar calendar, even though the movement of the sun is involved in its making, and Gregory's calendar is considered a solar based calendar. The Calendar of Scripture is lunar and solar based, because God has created two time pieces for us to use. Genesis 1:14 KJV, "And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years." Genesis 1:16 KJV, "And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also." Genesis 1:18 KJV, "And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that it was good." Psalm 104:19 KJV, "He appointed the moon for seasons: the sun knoweth his going down."

3. Even though Scripture does not teach a calendar, one can reasonably deduce from the information given that a solar year was three hundred sixty days in the beginning, with twelve lunar months of thirty days each. Genesis 7:11 KJV, "In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened." Genesis 8:3-4 KJV, "3 And the waters returned from off the earth continually: and after the end of the hundred and fifty days the waters were abated. 4 And the ark rested in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, upon the mountains of Ararat." It appears that here in Genesis we are shown that a five month period was exactly one hundred fifty days or five thirty-day months.

4. The changes in format of the Calendar of Scripture is the most drastic when placing the days of a month in their proper spots. For those who religiously follow the current modern calendars in use, both the Rabbinic and Gregory's calendar, this placement of the days within a month will disturb your sensibilities the most. I suggest, if you want to make use of this calendar for prophecy, for tracking of events and festivals and sabbaths, and especially for discerning the order of events in the histories written in the Bible, that you should just get over it. Check the calendar out, use it, and learn to think outside the box*.

*NOTE: Interestingly, under the unktion of the Holy Ghost, I started the box thing a couple of decades back, around 1985-6. It was strange to see when it started to make the mainstream circa 2005. It's in commercials, it's on the news, it's in the workplace and marketplace. It was originally employed as a witnessing example. It originally was used to help people be set free to come to know the one true God and His Son that sacrificed His Blood and Life so that man could be reconciled to Him. Now it is used by the secular world to sell tacos.

5. When it comes to keeping track of God's time pieces, we can only make guesses as to how He started it all and what has changed since then. A day is normally considered to be approximately twenty-four hours from one sunrise to the next.

6. The moon goes through phases throughout a month. In the beginning and now, a new moon always started a month. A new moon is the day that the disc of the moon is dark and therefore not visible. In the beginning of time there were two new moon days every month; one at the beginning and one at the end of every month with four seven-day weeks in-between. Now, some months do not end with a new moon day and those months only have twenty-nine days in them. The beauty of this calendar is that if one ever becomes disoriented and loses track of the days or months, all that needs to be done is to wait for the new moon and you can start counting the months again.

7. Please note that there is a difference between a new moon and a new moon day. A new moon is the day that zero percent of the moon's crescent is visible. A new moon is assigned to always be the first of a month, and in a thirty day month the thirtieth is a new moon day. The first of every month is always a new moon as well as a new moon day. The thirtieth of a month is a new moon day, but it is not a new moon. Sometimes the thirtieth of a month new moon day might

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have a one to three percent crescent visible, although with that small a crescent it may not be detectable with the naked eye.

8. In the beginning there were probably 360 days in a year. Now, so we are told, a year is a little over 364 days. There is no longer 12 months of 30 days each in the Calendar of Scripture. Instead, six of the months have only 29 days in them. Every several years a leap month must be added to the calendar. The modern Rabbinic calendar also does this same thing.

9. The leap months can occur every two or three years and roughly even themselves out in a nineteen year cycle. This is what the current Rabbinic calendar does and today's Scriptural Calendar follows the same pattern. But outside of the occasional insertion of a leap month between the eleventh and twelfth months and the counting of years the similarity between the two calendars differs greatly.

10. In Gregory's calendar there is only one type of day in a week, month, or year, and that is a weekday; in other words, a day that is part of a seven day week. A day must be a Sunday, or Monday, or Tuesday, or Wednesday, or Thursday, or Friday, or Saturday. There are no other choices in Gregory's calendar. The modern Rabbinic calendar does not have only one type of day in a week, month, or year, as Gregory's has, but there are two types of days. There are the work days in a week, six of them, followed by a sabbath day of rest. If one overlays the modern Rabbinic calendar with Gregory's calendar then the seven days of a modern Hebrew week, for convenience sake only, can be called a Sunday, or Monday, or Tuesday, or Wednesday, or Thursday, or Friday, and Saturday is unique because it is called the weekly sabbath day. The sabbath is different than the other days because the first six days are work days and the sabbath is a rest day. Both the modern Rabbinic calendar and Gregory's calendar are inferior calendars. One cannot hope to keep track of prophecy, or festival times, or a sabbath day, or even a month, with these calendars.

11. The Scriptural Calendar can easily keep track of the weekly sabbaths, the other annual sabbaths, a month, and it can assist one in calculating prophecy dates more accurately. The Scriptural Calendar does not only have one type of day as Gregory's calendar, or only two types of days as the Rabbinic Judaism calendar, but it has three types of days. The make-up of a month with a balance of new moon days and perfect weeks is where the strangeness comes in to the current mindset as I wrote in paragraph four above. The three types of days are new moon days, work days, and weekly sabbath days. Work days cover Sundays, Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. Work days are never new moon days and they are never a weekly sabbath day or Saturday. Weekly sabbaths are always Saturdays. Special sabbath days and festivals can land on any day from Sunday through Saturday and they can even overlap with a new moon day as it does on the first day of the seventh month of Ethanim (aka Tishrei). Numbers 29:1 KJV, "**And in the seventh month, on the first day of the month, ye shall have an holy convocation; ye shall do no servile work: it is a day of blowing the trumpets unto you.**" New moon days are unique to most people's idea of a type of day and will be discussed in its own paragraph. 2 Kings 4:23 KJV, "**And he said, Wherefore wilt thou go to him to day? it is neither new moon, nor sabbath. And she said, It shall be well.**" Colossians 2:16 KJV, "**Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days.**"

12. A new moon always begins each of the twelve months and the thirteenth month in a leap month year. If there are two new moon days in a row, the first new moon day is the thirtieth day of a month and the second new moon day is the first day of the next month. It is speculated that in the beginning that there were always two new moon days in a month, therefore, every month had thirty days. In modern times, there are some months with only twenty-nine days because there is only one new moon day in that month. New moon days only fall on the first or the thirtieth of a month. Work days never land on the first or thirtieth of a month. The first and the thirtieth of a month are never part of a week; in other words, new moon days are never a Sunday, or Monday, or Tuesday, or Wednesday, or Thursday, or Friday, or Saturday. New moon days are an entity of their own, they are not part of a week, ever. But new moon days are part of a month. Remember, you must think outside of the box, because new moon days are outside the weekly box. The lack of understanding of this Scriptural Calendar is why the modern Rabbinic calendar is so complicated and messed up. Gregory's calendar cannot compete either.

13. Please think about this. Since the first of a month is always a new moon day which is not part of a week, then the second of every month is always a Sunday. And this is true all the way back to creation week. Therefore, the weekly sabbath always lands on the eighth of every month, all the way back to creation week. It never changes. Add seven days to the eighth of a month and you have the fifteenth, and that is always a sabbath too - in every month, every where, all

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the time, in history. Add another seven days and the twenty-second is always a weekly sabbath and so is the twenty-ninth. These dates and their assigned slots within a week never change. As the first of a month hangs by itself outside of a week, but within a month, so does the thirtieth of a month.

14. New moon days are non-work days, but there is no Scriptural prohibition from performing work on a new moon day, unless it is an annual sabbath day. New moon days, traditionally, were used as non-work days. But, under the Torah, no laws or rules were broken if someone chose to work on a new moon day. New moon days are not weekly sabbath days either. A new moon day can be an annual sabbath day if God has designated it as such as He did for the first of Ethanim (the seventh month).

15. Sample Calendar month follows:

1
2 3 4 5 6 7 8
9 10 11 12 13 14 15
16 17 18 19 20 21 22
23 24 25 26 27 28 29

(30)

Every month follows this pattern.

16. With the knowledge of this calendar one can always know when a weekly sabbath is; however, that is not important anymore. One can always know that Passover is the fourteenth and it is always a Friday, every year, and never changes. And so it is with every holiday or festival day. It is the same day of the month, every year, never a change. For those ministries, and I have not found one that is correct yet (but I have not seen all of them), that mistakenly dream up the events of crucifixion week, one can now determine, from Scripture, the true sequence of events. The Last Supper was on Wednesday, the crucifixion took place on Thursday, Passover was Friday.

17. I have not found anyone who makes a calendar like this. I make one for myself. Then I overlay Gregory's calendar so that I can keep proper track of all days and events. The only calendars I see in the marketplace, take Gregory's calendar and overlay the modern Rabbinic calendar on top of it. No where to be seen is the Calendar of Creation. There are a few people who have constructed a nearly correct calendar from Scripture. But some fail to begin the day at the correct time, and some fail to begin the month on the correct day due to a mistaken understanding of what constitutes a new moon. Sometimes these calendars, as well as the Rabbinic calendars, are up to two and three days off in the beginning of a month.

18. With this calendar other mysteries clear up as well. We can know that the seven days of creation did not end with the seventh day landing on a sabbath. That is why it is not called a sabbath, it is only called the seventh day on which God ceased from His work of creating. He ceased from His work on a Friday. But one must also know when a day begins, or one cannot properly know how to calculate this calendar. One must know where to place the International Dateline on its proper meridian (Deuteronomy 11:12 KJV, "A land which [Yahowah] thy God careth for: the eyes of [Yahowah] thy God are always upon it, from the beginning of the year even unto the end of the year."). Then one can determine what is meant in Scripture about the countdown to Shavuot which includes the counting of perfect weeks. One must know what a perfect week means. One can learn the proper meaning of "between the evenings". One can learn the true significance of "after the sabbaths" when the Marys arrived at Yahoshua's tomb after the crucifixion. **Basically, a whole wealth of misinterpreted terms and sequences suddenly blossom to life from the pages of Scripture when one knows how to properly construct and use the Calendar of Scripture.**

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Calendar of Scripture

Part I - Mechanics of the Calendar

NOTES

17.a. I have not found anyone who makes a calendar like this. I make one for myself. Then I overlay Gregory's calendar so that I can keep proper track of all days and events. The only calendars I see in the marketplace, take Gregory's calendar and overlay the modern Hebrew calendar on top of it. No where to be seen is the Calendar of Creation. There are a few people who have constructed a nearly correct calendar from Scripture. But some fail to begin the day at the correct time, and some fail to begin the month on the correct day due to a mistaken understanding of what constitutes a new moon. Sometimes these calendars, as well as the Jewish calendars, are up to two and three days off in the beginning of a month.

17.b. Why is this calendar correct and all the others in error? The answer to this will take a couple of minutes of your time. You may get bored before this paragraph seventeen is finished. It is not necessary to read it at all in order to understand this calendar. But if you want the answer to the question as to why this is a better calendar that the Holy Spirit led me to construct from Scripture, you might have your answer. However, it is imperative, for one who would construct such a calendar (using it is not a problem), that time keeping is thoroughly ingrained into their brain and second nature to them. This is the case with me. Yahowah has been teaching me to keep time for about forty-five years. I keep time in many different ways. The examples follow.

17.c. When I showed up to work for my federal government job I would sign into work on the time sheet in local time. Local time would change depending on the facility I worked at and the time zone that it was in. It would change depending upon whether or not it was the standard time of the year or the daylight savings time (DST) of the year. When I managed a facility, as a manager, I was required to begin my work day so that it matched the start of the work day of my headquarter office, even if we were both in different time zones. If headquarters began their workday at 8 AM, I might have to begin at 7 AM, or 8 AM, or 9 AM. Signing on in local time required that I use the twelve hour clock and the designation of AM or PM. One needs to know that 12:00 AM is midnight and 12:00 PM is noontime. One needs to know how to designate time in hours, minutes, and seconds. For example, 11:59:59 PM is one second prior to midnight. At the end of the 59th second, it then becomes 12:00:00 AM.

17.d. Once signed on in local time I would then proceed to the designated work space; in Air Traffic, we called these positions, or positions of assignment. There was a sign in sheet for each position and we would sign on in local time with the twenty-four clock, not the twelve hour clock. We would not use AM or PM. If I began my work day at 1 PM and began my first position five minutes later, I would sign onto the position at 1305 local time. In local time on the twenty-four hour clock, there is no 24th hour. At 23:59:59 you are one second away from completing the twenty-four hour cycle and one second away from midnight. One second later the time is now 00:00:00. But, of course, you need to know the difference in days at this point. If it was the 14th of the month one second prior to midnight, then it would be the 15th of the month, beginning at midnight - on the Gregorian calendar that is. So this could be designated as 14:23:59:59 and one second later it is 15:00:00:00. However, this would really be written as 14235959 and 15000000. If one desires, you could add two more digits to the front for the month of the year, and four more digits to the front of that for the year and century. I started doing this in my job, when a supervisor with the Federal Aviation Administration about 1987 or 1988. The people working with me were perplexed at first, "What does this mean Rick?" When I explained, they understood because they used many different times as I did, but I received no accolades nor indication that they liked it or thought it necessary. But it caught on. Ten to fifteen years later, when the people I had been working with had been promoted and moved up into national headquarters, they implemented this system. As time went on, more detailed and sophisticated ways of describing time became necessary in our jobs due to technological advances, these time groups I initiated had been initiated prophetically. Although, at that time I did not know that. Only in hindsight do I realize it.

17.e. If the position I signed onto was the Weather Observation position things suddenly become even more complicated. Remember, just to get this far I have already used two time systems: regular time like all of us use and local time on the twenty-four hour clock. Weather observations are always taken in standard time. That means the observations are taken in standard local time (LCL) and are never taken in daylight savings time (DST). The twenty-four hour clock is used when

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taking a weather observation. So, I might clock in at work at 1 PM, sign onto the Weather Observation position at 1305, and take a weather observation within the next five minutes and record the time of this observation as 1210. This may occur if 1305 is daylight savings time (DST), but in standard time it is 1205. Pacific Standard Time (PST) never changes all year around. At noontime it is always 1200. During the summer Pacific Daylight Savings Time (PDT) might be 1300 at noontime, but it will always be 1200 Pacific Standard Time (PST). Confused? Most are, or do not even care. But if you are going to be a calendar keeper like me, then you must also be a time keeper and know the difference. Have you ever called a business in another time zone and listened to their recording? Here is a sample phone call: Almost without exception they will say, we are closed and will open again at 9 AM Mountain Standard Time (MST). But that is not what they mean at all. If it is May, most states and places are on Mountain Daylight Time (MDT), not Mountain Standard Time (MST). So, you have to second guess them. If I am in Washington DC, 9 AM Mountain Standard Time (MST) is 12 PM (or noontime) Eastern Daylight Time (EDT). So, if I call them at 11 AM EST chances are they will not be open for another hour. Why is that? Because they are really on Mountain Daylight Time (MDT) and not on Mountain Standard Time (MST) as their recording said. Nine AM Mountain Standard Time (MST) is the same as 10 AM Mountain Daylight Time (MDT). It can get very confusing, even for people used to working with these many different time references. If the business you called is in Arizona they may have had it right, because most of Arizona never goes on daylight savings time, except for some large Indian reservations in the northeast corner of the state. Therefore, during daylight savings time (DST) some of Arizona goes to daylight time and some of Arizona stays on standard time.

17.f. Next, I might work what is called the Inflight Position at this air traffic facility and I will be talking to pilots over the radio. When we talk to these pilots we must talk using Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), also frequently referred to as the Universal Time Clock (UTC). So, I sign into work at 1 PM, five minutes later I sign onto the Weather Observation position at 1305, five minutes later I take a weather observation at 1210, five minutes later I sign onto the Inflight Position at 1315 and the first pilot asks me for a time check and I tell him that it is 2016 Zulu. Why Zulu? Because that is the standard time zone and time for the entire world in aviation and it is equal to Coordinated Universal Time (UTC). When it is 2016Z in England it is also 2016Z in America, and it is also 2016Z in China, and it is also 2016Z everywhere on the entire planet. But the guy sitting next to me asks me what time it is and I glance at my wristwatch and tell him that it is 1:16 PM. And it gets worse. I might pull out an aviation publication and look up some important airport information. Depending on the information given, I may have to instantly convert it in my mind into local time, or standard time, or daylight time, or zulu time, sometimes using the twenty-four clock and sometimes the twelve hour clock. Such is the life of one who works in the field of aviation and weather reports. This is a part of their everyday world that most of us are totally unaware of.

17.g. Currently the prime meridian runs through Greenwich, England, from the north pole to the south pole. Do you think God cares about this? Do you think this is where He has placed the prime meridian for His calendar? I do not. Do you think He starts a day for planet Earth in Greenwich, England, at midnight? I do not. Perhaps a good place to put the prime meridian is in Jerusalem, after all, God said He would put His name there forever, 2 Kings 21:7. There are many other similar references in Scripture regarding Jerusalem. And Yahoshua is prophesied to return to Earth at Jerusalem, Zechariah 14:4. So why not reasonably begin a new day on Earth in Jerusalem at sunrise?

17.h. There are a few other minute details needed to construct this Scriptural Calendar. I will not address those at this time. However, when this teaching is finished, if anyone wishes these additional details I will discuss it with you.

Calendar of Scripture
Part II - Scriptures That Support This Calendar

1.a. Genesis 1:1 KJV, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." We must assume that when God started creating the Earth, that He began the Scriptural Calendar of time. There are arguments that could be proposed to select a different starting place, but none of these arguments can deny that this is the starting point that the Holy Ghost wrote into the pages of the Bible when He said, "In the beginning". Therefore, this is the beginning of the Calendar of Scripture; this is day one of month one of year one. Please notice that I did not say this was the first day of the first week. The reason for this is because the first day of the first week did not begin until the second day of creation. As was explained in the Calendar of Scripture, Part I - Mechanics of the Calendar the first day of a month is not part of a week. This day is the New Moon day and it stands alone in the calendar month outside of the four weeks within that month. Therefore, the first day of a month is not a Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, or Saturday/sabbath. It is the

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New Moon day. Therefore, the second day of creation is a Sunday and continuing the count, the seventh day is a Friday. This is why the seventh day of creation is not called a sabbath, because it was not; instead, it is called the seventh day.

1.b. Genesis 2:2-3 KJV, "**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. 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.**" Genesis 2:2-3 is the first proof that the first day of a month is not part of a week. If it were, then the seventh day of creation might have been called a sabbath, yet it was not a sabbath. No where in Scripture is the seventh day of creation week called a sabbath. The seventh day of creation was the sixth day of the first week of the first month of the first year. In Genesis 2:2-3 Yahowah has introduced us, for the first time but not the last, to the rest He has prepared for us to enter.

2.a. Leviticus 23:5 KJV, "**In the fourteenth day of the first month at even is [Yahowah's] passover.**" This Scripture proves beyond a doubt that the Passover is always on the fourteenth of the first month of Abib (aka Nisan). This is true on the very first Passover and will continue to be true for every Passover throughout the history of man, until the end of time. This verse does not identify the day of the week, which is Friday, on which it lands. This is not necessary because those to whom this verse was written already knew that the 14th of every month is in the Friday slot.

2.b. Leviticus 23:6 KJV, "**And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the feast of unleavened bread unto [Yahowah]: seven days ye must eat unleavened bread.**" This Scripture proves beyond a doubt that the first day of the seven days of the Feast of Unleavened Bread is always on the fifteenth of the first month of Abib. This is true on the very first Feast of Unleavened Bread and will continue to be true for every Feast of Unleavened Bread throughout the history of man, until the end of time. This verse does not identify the day of the week, which is Saturday/sabbath, on which it lands. This is not necessary because those to whom this verse was written already knew that the 15th of every month was in the Saturday/sabbath slot.

2.c. Leviticus 23:11 KJV, "**And he shall wave the sheaf before [Yahowah], to be accepted for you: on the morrow after the sabbath the priest shall wave it.**" The sabbath being spoken of in this Scripture is both the weekly sabbath and the annual sabbath of the first day of the seven days of the Feast of Unleavened Bread from verse 6. Since we know that the first day of the seven days of the Feast of Unleavened Bread began on the 15th, then we know that "**the morrow after the sabbath**" is the 16th. This Scripture shows that Sheaf Wave Day is the 16th of the first month of Abib. This is true on the very first Sheaf Wave Day and will continue to be true for every Sheaf Wave Day throughout the history of man, until the end of time. This verse does not identify the day of the week, which is Sunday, on which it lands. This is not necessary because those to whom this verse was written already knew that the 16th of every month is in the Sunday slot. Not only that, they also knew that 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Sunday of every month always follow a weekly sabbath. The 1st Sunday of every month follows the New Moon Day.

2.d. From the preceding three verses in Leviticus 23:5-6,11, we can see that Friday the 14th is Passover, Saturday the 15th is both the weekly sabbath and the first day of the seven days of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and Sunday the 16th is Sheaf Wave Day. However, some might say, they agree that the annual sabbath of the Feast of Unleavened Bread begins on the 15th, but the Scriptures, thus far, do not support the notion that it was also a weekly sabbath. In fact, they might point out, only the calendar that I claim to be the Calendar of Scripture supports the idea of a weekly sabbath on Abib 15. They are correct, until we read Leviticus 23:15.

2.e. It is verse 15 that supports the Calendar of Scripture more than any other. Leviticus 23:15 KJV, "**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.**" This Scripture shows that the annual sabbath of the first day of the seven days of the Feast of Unleavened Bread is also a weekly sabbath. How does this Scripture prove that this annual sabbath is also an end of the week sabbath? The instructions in this Scripture require that the counting of the seven complete sabbaths to Shavuot begin on Sheaf Wave Day. It is impossible to count seven complete sabbaths (or even one complete sabbath for that matter) from this day unless you begin your count on a Sunday and end the count of each week on a sabbath/Saturday. This method of counting sabbaths requires that six days of Sunday through Friday must first be counted in order to have completed seven days when you reach the sabbath day. Therefore, when verse 15 states, "**from the morrow after the sabbath**", this sabbath must also be a weekly sabbath/Saturday, because "**the morrow**" must be a Sunday in order to begin the count of the seven sabbaths. This fact that the first day of the seven days of the Feast of Unleavened Bread is both an annual sabbath and an end of the week sabbath will continue to be true for every year throughout the history of

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man, until the end of time. This verse does identify the day of the week, which is Sunday Abib 16, on which the count to Shavuot begins.

2.f. It is impossible for this arrangement of days around the Passover, the Feast of Unleavened Bread, Sheaf Wave Day, and the beginning of the count of seven perfect weeks to occur except that the Calendar of Scripture is true. The Scriptural Calendar must have every month formatted as explained in The Calendar of Scripture, Part I - Mechanics of the Calendar, paragraph fifteen. This pattern is supplied again here for your convenience.

1
2 3 4 5 6 7 8
9 10 11 12 13 14 15
16 17 18 19 20 21 22
23 24 25 26 27 28 29
(30)

3.a. Exodus 16:1 KJV, "And they took their journey from Elim, and all the congregation of the children of Israel came unto the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after their departing out of the land of Egypt." Following the Scriptural Calendar we know that the fifteenth of any month is a sabbath/Saturday. Now, does this hold true for the second month after their departing out of the land of Egypt? You will see that the answer is yes, as we continue.

3.b. Exodus 16:4-5 KJV, "4 Then said [Yahowah] unto Moses, Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or no. 5 And it shall come to pass, that on the sixth day they shall prepare that which they bring in; and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily." Please notice that the instructions included "that on the sixth day", meaning Friday, after days one through five had passed. Also, please notice that Yahowah wanted to test His people "whether they will walk in my law, or no." This law is referring to the future, it must be, the Law or Torah or Ten Commandments had not been given to them yet. The Law will be given to them in the next month, the third month.

3.c. Exodus 16:7-8 KJV, "7 And in the morning, then ye shall see the glory of [Yahowah]; for that he heareth your murmurings against [Yahowah]: and what are we, that ye murmur against us? 8 And Moses said, This shall be, when [Yahowah] shall give you in the evening (this evening means afternoon - from noon until sundown) flesh to eat, and in the morning bread to the full; for that [Yahowah] heareth your murmurings which ye murmur against him: and what are we? your murmurings are not against us, but against [Yahowah]." These two verses show that God was going to provide manna beginning on the day after the fifteenth (Exodus 16:1). Is this day after the fifteenth a Sunday, making the fifteenth a Saturday? We will see that the answer is yes by continuing to read the story.

3.d. Exodus 16:12-15 KJV, "12 I have heard the murmurings of the children of Israel: speak unto them, saying, [Between the evenings] ye shall eat flesh, and in the morning ye shall be filled with bread; and ye shall know that I am [Yahowah] your God. 13 And it came to pass, that at even (in context, this even means the high noon even when the sun first starts going down) the quails came up and covered the camp: and in the morning the dew lay round about the host. 14 And when the dew that lay was gone up, behold, upon the face of the wilderness there lay a small round thing, as small as the hoar frost on the ground. 15 And when the children of Israel saw it, they said one to another, It is manna: for they wist not what it was. And Moses said unto them, This is the bread which [Yahowah] hath given you to eat." This was the first day that manna was given to the children of Israel. Was this day, already shown to be the day after the fifteenth of the month from verse one, a Sunday? Let us continue with the story to see that the answer is yes.

3.e. Exodus 16:21-22 KJV, "21 And they gathered it every morning, every man according to his eating: and when the sun waxed hot, it melted. 22 And it came to pass, that on the sixth day they gathered twice as much bread, two omers for one man: and all the rulers of the congregation came and told Moses." These verses show that they had gathered manna

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every day for six days and now were gathering twice as much manna because it was the sixth day and that which is gathered on the sixth day must feed them also on day seven, a day in which they will not gather any manna. Does this show that the seventh day is a sabbath? Let me summarize from where we began in verse one to where we are now on the calendar of time. From paragraph 3a above (Exodus 16:1) we know that this story started on the fifteenth day of the second month. From paragraph 3c above (Exodus 16:7-8) we know that the manna was promised on the sixteenth of the month. From paragraph 3d above (Exodus 16:13-15) we know that the manna has now been given on the sixteenth of the month as promised. And now in this paragraph we are told that they have gathered manna for six days which brings us to Zif 21. Is the 21st day a Friday? Let us continue with the story to see that the answer is yes.

3.f. Exodus 16:23 KJV, "And he said unto them, **This is that which [Yahowah] hath said, To morrow is the rest of the holy sabbath unto [Yahowah]: bake that which ye will bake to day, and seethe that ye will seethe; and that which remaineth over lay up for you to be kept until the morning.**" This verse explains that the following day, the day after gathering manna for six days, was the sabbath/Saturday again. This weekly sabbath day will be the twenty-second of the month and that means the fifteenth of the month, which is where we started, is also a weekly sabbath. So the Calendar of Scripture has passed yet another test. How could the previous month have a sabbath/Saturday on the fifteenth and now the very next month has a sabbath/Saturday on the fifteenth again? It is not a problem if one uses the Calendar of Scripture. It will work every time.

3.g. Exodus 19:1 KJV, "**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.**" They left Egypt on Abib 15. "The same day" means that they arrived in the wilderness of Sinai on the 15th. In this case it is Sivan 15. This does not prove that the 15th of the third month was a Saturday/Sabbath. But that does not negate the fact that we have already proven that the 15th of every month is a Saturday/Sabbath.

4.a. The book of Joshua is the next time calendar date given for Passover. Joshua 5:10-11 KJV, "**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. 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.**" Once again, the fourteenth of the first month is identified as the Passover. On the morrow after the Passover is, of course, a weekly sabbath/Saturday. The fifteenth of the first month is also an annual sabbath. It is the first day of the seven days of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. As an additional note, one of the items eaten "on the morrow after the Passover", provides more evidence as to the day of the week of this Passover. Since the day after Passover is the first day of the seven days of Unleavened Bread, the only bread that could be eaten is unleavened bread.

4.b. Joshua 5:12 KJV, "**And the manna ceased on the morrow after they had eaten of the old corn of the land; neither had the children of Israel manna any more; but they did eat of the fruit of the land of Canaan that year.**" The manna had not stopped yet on Friday Passover. The following day no mention is made that the manna had stopped, but they did eat of the fruit of Gilgal. The Passover was the sixth day of the week, on the morrow was the seventh day of the week and no manna is provided on the sabbath. The morrow after that they ate of the land. They would have expected to gather manna, but it is stated that the manna stopped. There was no need to state that the manna stopped the day before, because they never gathered manna on the sabbath. Once again, this Scripture and the dates around Passover and the gathering of manna all support that Passover always occurs on Friday Abib 14.

5. Even though there is mention several more times in the rest of the Old Testament when Passovers were celebrated with the Feast of Unleavened Bread being celebrated immediately afterwards only the day of the month is given as the date, which is the fourteenth. But the day of the week is not repeated. But there is no need, because that has been forever established.

6.a. The Feast of Tabernacles, also known as the Feast of Ingathering, as explained in Leviticus 23 also proves the Calendar of Scripture to be true.

6.b. Leviticus 23:34-36 KJV, "**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 [Yahowah]. 35 On the first day shall be an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein. 36 Seven days ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto [Yahowah]: on the eighth day shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto [Yahowah]: it is a solemn assembly; and ye shall do no servile work therein.**" Verse 34 proves that the Feast of Tabernacles begins on Ethanim 15 and continues

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for seven days. This was true on the very first Feast of Tabernacles and will continue to be true for every Feast of Tabernacles throughout the history of man, until our God and Father brings it to an end. Please notice that the first of these seven days is a holy convocation. This is not unusual for annual sabbaths. But you are also told that the eighth day is also a holy convocation. Since this Feast is only seven days long, why is an eighth day mentioned? It is not only mentioned, but it is identified as an holy convocation. In other words, the eighth day must be a weekly sabbath. This would also mean that the first day of this Feast was also not only an annual sabbath but a weekly sabbath as well.

6.c. Leviticus 23:39 KJV, "**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 [Yahowah] seven days: on the first day shall be a sabbath, and on the eighth day shall be a sabbath.**" Verse 39 confirms that which was taught in Scripture in verses 35 and 36; that the eighth day is a weekly sabbath. Otherwise, there would be no need for Scripture to mention the eighth day, since the Feast is only seven days long. This was true on the very first Feast of Tabernacles and will continue to be true for every Feast of Tabernacles throughout the history of man, until our God and Father brings it to an end.

7. As you can see, God frequently extends the periods of rest He provides for His people. Both the Feast of Unleavened Bread and the Feast of Tabernacles begin on a weekly sabbath and end the following Friday, only to be extended for an extra day because the next day is another weekly sabbath. The fourth weekly sabbath of every month is followed by at least one new moon day and sometimes two. This provides an extra long weekend and break from servile work every month.

8.a. During the reign of Solomon, a feast was celebrated that aligns perfectly with this calendar. 2 Chronicles 7:8-10 KJV, "**8 Also at the same time Solomon kept the feast seven days, and all Israel with him, a very great congregation, from the entering in of Hamath unto the river of Egypt. 9 And in the eighth day they made a solemn assembly: for they kept the dedication of the altar seven days, and the feast seven days. 10 And on the three and twentieth day of the seventh month he sent the people away into their tents, glad and merry in heart for the goodness that [Yahowah] had shewed unto David, and to Solomon, and to Israel his people.**"

8.b. In verses 8 and 10 a seven day feast in the seventh month is identified. This can be none other than the Feast of Trumpets.

8.c. In verse 9 the feast was kept for seven days. This Feast begins on the Sabbath Ethanim 15 and ends on Friday Ethanim 21. After the Feast on the eighth day, which is another Sabbath day Ethanim 22, they had a solemn assembly.

8.d. In verse 10 on Sunday Ethanim 23 the celebration was over and a new work week of six days began.

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Sabbath Keeping

Part I - Why It Was Established

On Wednesday June 6, 2018, my Father told me men changed the calendar that was from the beginning, and He allowed it to happen. He allowed it to happen so that all but a few would forever be mistaken when calculating Holy Convocation Days. The Sabbath would be sought after, but almost never found. Fallen men would attempt to worship this idol - the Sabbath Day - but never succeed. I took from them Moses' snake on a pole, and I took from them Gideon's Breastplate because men began to worship them. So too, I took the Sabbath from them because they were worshipping it.

1. Deuteronomy 5:13-15 KJV, "**13 Six days thou shalt labour, and do all thy work: 14 But the seventh day is the sabbath of [Yahowah] thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, nor thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thine ox, nor thine ass, nor any of thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates; that thy manservant and thy maidservant may rest as well as thou. 15 And remember that thou wast a servant in the land of Egypt, and that [Yahowah] thy God brought thee out thence through a mighty hand and by a stretched out arm: therefore [Yahowah] thy God commanded thee to keep the sabbath day.**" Mark 2:27 KJV, "**And he said unto them, The sabbath was made for**

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man, and not man for the sabbath." These Scriptures identify why sabbath keeping was established by Yahowah. He gave it so that man, the servants of men, and the beasts of burden would have a period of rest each week. It was given, by a loving God, to increase their quality of life.

2. The sabbath was also given by Yahowah as a precursor, as a type, to His rest that is yet to come for all His children who become born again. This rest, that is to come, is discussed in Hebrews 3:7-19 continuing through 4:1-11 KJV, "**7 Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice, 8 Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness: 9 When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years. 10 Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do alway err in their heart; and they have not known my ways. 11 So I sware in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.)**" Here the word rest is first spoken in this group of Scriptures. This is the teaching on which we are focusing. "**12 Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. 13 But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. 14 For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end; 15 While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation. 16 For some, when they had heard, did provoke: howbeit not all that came out of Egypt by Moses. 17 But with whom was he grieved forty years? was it not with them that had sinned, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness? 18 And to whom sware he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not?**" Rest is written here again. This is the true sabbath rest that God has been teaching throughout the Bible. Not a weekly rest, but a spiritual rest now in the present, and an eternal rest forever. "**19 So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.**" and in Hebrews 4:1-5 KJV, "**1 Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. 2 For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it. 3 For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.**" God has prepared a rest for us, but we must have the faith to enter into this rest. Beginning in Exodus 16 the Hebrews were taught to observe this rest by a weekly sabbath. However, they did not exercise and apply their faith. Therefore, God did not allow most of them to enter into His rest. "**4 For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works. 5 And in this place again, If they shall enter into my rest.**" Here God shows the pattern and teaching He prepared for us even from the beginning, even from the seventh day of creation. He did not introduce the sabbath at this time however. But He did introduce the rest that He had prepared for us. It is the rest that God focuses on in Genesis 2:2-3 and here in Hebrews chapters three and four. In fact, the seventh day of creation week is a Friday, not a Saturday or Sabbath: see our treatise on the "Calendar of Scripture" parts I and II. His focus is not on the physical requirements of a sabbath rest day, instead His focus is on the **spiritual rest** from all our labors. His focus is on the **spiritual rest** that is ours when we rest in the finished work of Yahoshua on the tree of Calvary. We cannot strive to reach God and strive to maintain our salvation. We can only rest in the power and sovereignty of Yahowah. He did not need our help in creating the heavens and the Earth, He did not need our help in paying for our sins by Yahoshua's death on the tree, and He does not need our help in preparing an **eternal rest** for us. But He does want our faith and belief that He created the heavens and the Earth. And He wants our faith and belief that He did atone for our sins on the execution stake at Calvary. And He wants our faith and belief that we can enter into His rest. Without this faith we cannot please God, Hebrews 11:6. "Hebrews 4:6-11 KJV, "**6 Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief: 7 Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, To day, after so long a time; as it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts. 8 For if [Yahoshua] had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day. 9 There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. 10 For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his. 11 Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.**" This is what God was teaching in Genesis 2:2-3; this is what God was teaching in Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5; and this is what God is teaching here in Hebrews 3 and 4. He is teaching of His rest, prepared for His people. The purpose of the old requirements to keep the weekly sabbath was not the beginning point nor the end point of His teachings and requirements; it was not the culminating point; it was not the ordinance above all ordinances to be observed by all for all time. No, not at all. Weekly sabbath keeping was only another tool along the way, used by God, to teach us the importance of entering into His spiritual and permanent rest.

3. In the Old Testament, in the physical, under the Law of Moses, the sabbath of rest was to be observed under the penalty of death. In the New Testament, in the spiritual, under grace, the rest that God's people would enjoy comes not from a physical observance of the sabbath day; instead, it comes from the faith God places in your heart. You must hear Yahoshua, you must believe in the sacrifice He has made for you, and then you will be born again and you will enter into

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His rest permanently. Once you have entered into His rest, there is no need for a weekly observance. It has been done, once for all. Not only that, but Yahoshua, at the execution stake, kept the sabbath for all for all time.

4. The concept of a day of rest was introduced by Yahowah in Genesis 2:2-3 KJV, "**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. 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.**" This moment in history did not establish the ordinance of sabbath keeping. But it did introduce the idea of a day of rest. It also introduces the idea of a time of rest for all of God's people. For those who insist on keeping the Torah, and thereby alienating themselves from the Messiah, they will stop at nothing to convince others and themselves that sabbath keeping was instituted in Genesis chapter two. These same people have failed to comprehend the teachings of the Bible as shown in the first three paragraphs above. They insist that God must come into their box and observe the weekly sabbath too. They preach the gospel of man, not the gospel of God. Be warned. Stay away from them and their gangrene. They have taken the way of Cain, instead of God's way (Jude 11).

5. These teachers want to pull you back into observing the Torah. When the Torah was clearly against you and your salvation. Colossians 2:14 KJV, "**Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his [stake].**" Colossian 2:18 KJV, "**Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind.**" Strive to enter God's rest. Trust in the Scriptures. Do not listen to the Judaizers who frequently come under the label of Seventh Day Adventists and Hebrew Roots. They have replaced the one true God with a god of their own making. Sabbath keeping is their god. It is easy to test. Denigrate their god, talk and teach against their god, and their hackles and offenses quickly rise. They must defend their god because this god cannot defend itself.

6.a. Let me rephrase the bottom line of this theology of sabbath keeping. The act, the performance of weekly sabbath keeping is no more important than the performance of physical circumcision. The important thing to remember is what the no-longer-required ordinance of sabbath keeping points to. It points to the sabbath rest of Almighty Yahowah. The rest He has prepared for His children. If God gives you a gift and chooses to deliver it to you in a UPS delivery truck and that truck arrives at your house on a Saturday, are you going to revere and even worship UPS delivery trucks on Saturday for the rest of your life? Of course not. That is a ridiculous notion and even a sick notion. Instead, you are going to praise, thank, and revere the God of all creation, the Almighty, Yahowah is His name, for the gift He gave you. UPS did not give you the gift, God did. The very same is true of the ritual of sabbath keeping. Keeping a weekly sabbath did not give you the gift of the rest of God. Stop making weekly sabbath keeping your golden calf (Exodus 32:8). Stop making weekly sabbath keeping your Gideon's ephod (Judges 8:27). Stop making weekly sabbath keeping your brazen snake (2 Kings 18:4). God is God and He will not share His glory with another (Isaiah 42:8). The gift is God's rest for man. The weekly sabbath was the UPS delivery truck. Foolish men, stop worshipping brazen serpents and UPS delivery trucks. Worship God!

6.b. Here is another story to help explain this concept.

I hire a man to dig a ditch for me. While he is digging Christ shows up. Christ says to the man, I'll finish this job for you. When Christ finished digging the ditch he dismisses the man and tells him he is no longer needed, the job is done. So, the man goes away. Work is honorable and there is glory in it, but a completed job has greater glory. The whole purpose of the hired man was to complete a job. But the job was too big, he never would have completed it if Christ hadn't come along and done it for him.

Then my foreman shows up and is very upset. He says to Christ, "Where is the man hired to dig the ditch?" Christ said, I fulfilled his requirements, I finished the ditch, the job is done, he was no longer needed, and I dismissed him. The foreman was wroth. He sought out the man and brought him back and told him to get back to work. But he had no work to get back to. So, he just started digging useless ditches all over the place. The foreman, having no understanding, was very happy. The foreman looked at Christ and said, "See, now we don't need You! You can go away, I have my workman back."

7. Now that it has been explained and shown in the Scriptures why the sabbath of rest was established, let us move onto "Part II - When It Was Established"

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Sabbath Keeping

Part II - When It Was Established

1. Before proceeding with this treatise, it is very important that one first read "Sabbath Keeping, Part I - Why It Was Established". If you are one who worships the idol of sabbath keeping or are confused by those who teach the heresy of current day sabbath keeping, then you need to know that sabbath keeping was only a temporary tool God used to bring His children into His rest.

2. End of the week sabbath keeping was first brought to the attention of man, and only the Hebrews, circa two and one-half thousand years after the creation of man in the Garden of Eden. This brings us to circa 1,500 BC, and Exodus 16:22-23 KJV, "**22 And it came to pass, that on the sixth day they gathered twice as much bread, two omers for one man: and all the rulers of the congregation came and told Moses. 23 And he said unto them, This is that which [Yahowah] hath said, To morrow is the rest of the holy sabbath unto [Yahowah]: bake that which ye will bake to day, and seethe that ye will seethe; and that which remaineth over lay up for you to be kept until the morning.**" Prior to this, the sabbath was unknown to man and not in the Scriptures of the Holy Bible. How do we know that the sabbath was unknown to man prior to Exodus 16:23? Look at Deuteronomy 5:15 KJV, "**And remember that thou wast a servant in the land of Egypt, and that [Yahowah] thy God brought thee out thence through a mighty hand and by a stretched out arm: therefore [Yahowah] thy God commanded thee to keep the sabbath day.**" See also Exodus 31:13. As you can read in verse fifteen, God gave the command to the Hebrews to keep the sabbath day of rest after He brought them out of the land of Egypt 430 years after He brought them into Egypt. This was circa 1,500 BC. If anyone can find an earlier date that God told anyone to keep the sabbath, or even told anyone that there was such a thing as the sabbath then please share this Scripture with us. We need to know.

3.a. There are some who mistakenly believe that the sabbath was instituted by God in Genesis 2:2-3 KJV, "**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. 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.**" You will notice that the word sabbath is not in these two verses, nor in the book of Genesis at all. God did not call the seventh day of creation, the day on which He ceased from His creation activities, a sabbath day. Nor can it be shown in Scripture that the seventh day of creation falls into the Saturday slot. When God introduced the seventh day of creation as a day of rest, He was introducing His rest which He had prepared and desired for man to enter into, He was not introducing weekly sabbath keeping. In fact, the seventh day of creation week is a Friday, not a Saturday or Sabbath: see our treatise on the "Calendar of Scripture" parts I and II.

3.b. Furthermore, if God was introducing weekly sabbath keeping in Genesis 2, then why did He not do it on a sabbath day? There is no Biblical evidence to confirm that the seventh day of creation was a sabbath day. In fact, since Genesis 2 does not call the seventh day a sabbath, that would strongly suggest that it was not. If the doctrine of sabbath keeping was being introduced in Genesis 2, it would have benefited our tiny minds if our Creator had told us so, by at least telling us that He was talking about the sabbath. But He did not. He did not, because He was not introducing the doctrine of weekly sabbath keeping, instead He was introducing the doctrine of spiritual rest from our labors. See "Sabbath Keeping, Part I - Why It Was Established". There is more Biblical evidence to show that the seventh day of creation was not a sabbath. However, to explain this, one must have knowledge of the Calendar of Scripture and one must assume that God began creation on the first day of the first month of the first year of creation. Why would He not?

3.c. God further supports the doctrine of entering into His rest with sabbath days that are not the seventh day of a perfect week. Days such as the feast days of Scripture and those days that specify that no work is to be done. The weekly sabbath was only one of several tools God used to teach us the doctrine of entering into His rest.

3.d. But for those that mistakenly believe that sabbath keeping is a doctrine in and of itself, for those who preach and teach the gospel of man, it is very important to them to establish its beginning in Genesis 2, a place where it simply is not found no matter how much bantering they do about it. Because sabbath keeping is not an end to itself, sabbath keeping is merely a temporary tool used by our Creator to teach us about His sabbath rest. Sabbath keeping was given only to

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the Hebrews and only after they departed Egypt. Ezekiel 20:12 KJV, "Moreover also I gave them my sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am [Yahowah] that sanctify them." See also Nehemiah 9:13-14 (Part III).

4.a. Subsequently, God furthered the doctrine of entering into His rest by introducing the weekly sabbath rest in Exodus 16:23, and three weeks later making it part of the Torah and the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20:8-11 KJV, "**8 Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9 Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: 10 But the seventh day is the sabbath of [Yahowah] thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: 11 For in six days [Yahowah] made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore [Yahowah] blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.**"

4.b. Once again, for those who erroneously teach that these verses confirm that weekly sabbath keeping was taught in Genesis 2, we will take a closer look at these verses. First, I will point out the obvious. It is highly doubtful that God would start a teaching in Genesis 2:2-3 (wherein the sabbath was never mentioned) and then totally drop the subject for two and one-half thousand years; then continue with the teaching in Exodus 20:10-11. In Exodus 20:10a the word sabbath is written again, but it is not referring back to Genesis 2 and calling the seventh day of creation the sabbath. Instead, it is referring to the seventh day of a complete week and drawing a comparison, a type, with the six days of work performed in Genesis chapter one followed by a day of rest. Why is there a difference between the seventh day of creation and an end of the week sabbath? As discussed in paragraph 3a above, there is no Biblical proof that the seventh day of creation was the end of a complete week; in other words, there is no proof that it was in the Saturday slot. It should be no surprise that the Scriptural Calendar does not look like Gregory's calendar. After all, Pope Gregory was part of the antichrist system and it was prophesied that this antichrist would think to change the times. Daniel 7:25 KJV, "**And he shall speak great words against the most High and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.**" The changing of times has occurred from the Scriptural Calendar, with its Lunar and Sun time pieces, to a Sun only based calendar.

4.c. In Exodus 20:11 the sabbath is written again. It says that "Yahowah blessed the sabbath day". The sabbath day which Yahowah blessed is the sabbath day mentioned in verse 8; and the seventh day and the sabbath day written in verse 10a; but it is not calling the seventh day of creation in verse 11 a sabbath day. Instead, it is merely using, once again, the pattern of the seventh day of creation as a type. It is saying that the pattern is that the seventh day following six days of work, is a sabbath. God even blessed and sanctified the seventh day of creation week, but He never called it a sabbath. Why is this distinction so important? It is important because those who want weekly sabbath observing to be a physical requirement for resting will never understand and strive for the spiritual rest - that God is teaching - that God has prepared for us and desires for us to enter. The Law is contrary to us and prevents us from entering into His rest. We will never obtain His rest, our salvation, by our own physical exertion and mental resolve to do so. It can only be obtained by trusting, believing, and having faith in the Almighty God, Yahowah is His name.

4.d. Besides, the sabbath rest was only given to the Hebrews in the Desert of Sin. Does that mean the rest of mankind is left out in the cold? Not at all. We all can enter into His rest, not by observing the Law or a weekly Sabbath, but by placing our faith and hope in the finished work of Yahoshua the Messiah upon the execution stake of Calvary.

5. Do not let this next point escape your notice, you may miss your salvation and end up on the road to hell. Even though the Hebrews fleeing Egypt to the Promise Land observed the weekly sabbath as required by the Torah, they did not enter into His rest. But those who believed the gospel entered into His rest. Hebrews 4:2-3,6 KJV, "**2 For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it. 3 For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world. 6 Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief.**"

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Sabbath Keeping

Part III - Who It Was Given To

1.a. The sons of Jacob became a nation when they were taken out of Egypt. Deuteronomy 4:34 KJV, "Or hath God assayed to go *and* take him a nation from the midst of *another* nation, by temptations, by signs, and by wonders, and by war, and by a mighty hand, and by a stretched out arm, and by great terrors, according to all that [Yahowah] your God did for you in Egypt before your eyes?" After God had led the nation of Israel out of Egypt and into the Desert of Sin, the sabbath - for the first time - made its splash on the pages of Scripture. Exodus 16:22-23 KJV 22, "**22** And it came to pass, *that on the sixth day they gathered twice as much bread, two omers for one man: and all the rulers of the congregation came and told Moses. 23 And he said unto them, This *is that* which [Yahowah] hath said, To morrow *is* the rest of the holy sabbath unto [Yahowah]: bake *that* which ye will bake *to day*, and seethe that ye will seethe; and that which remaineth over lay up for you to be kept until the morning." It is important to know that no one, including the Hebrews, had been given the sabbath prior to this time. This is shown in Nehemiah 9:14 KJV, "And madest known unto them thy holy sabbath, and commandedst them precepts, statutes, and laws, by the hand of Moses thy servant." See also Ezekiel 20:12 (Part II). God is being praised here for making known His holy sabbath to the Hebrews. In other words, His holy sabbath was not known prior to this time, the time of Moses. If you read Parts I and II of this Sabbath Keeping treatise you will find more Scriptures that verify this teaching.*

1.b. The weekly sabbath was given to the Hebrews as part of the Torah and it was not given to anyone else. Even the New Testament testifies to this. Romans 2:14 and Romans 3:2 are two more examples of this.

Romans 2:14 KJV, "For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves:".

Romans 3:2 KJV, "Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God."

2. The sabbath was not given to mankind, but to Israel only. And in Exodus 16, the sabbath was not given to Israel as part of their Law (the Torah), i.e., the Jewish legal system. The Law was yet to come at Mount Sinai. The sabbath was given to them as a rest and as a holy day unto Yahowah. No penalty was assessed to those who broke this sabbath, penalties were to come later, with the Law. No time limit was imposed in the Desert of Sin regarding the sabbath. God said He was testing their obedience. Exodus 16:4-5,27 KJV, "**4** Then said [Yahowah] unto Moses, Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or no. **5** And it shall come to pass, that on the sixth day they shall prepare *that* which they bring in; and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily. **27** And it came to pass, *that* there went out *some* of the people on the seventh day for to gather, and they found none." When God said, "*that* I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or no," this does not mean that the Law had now come. To properly understand this phrase, it needs to be understood as "I will test them now to see, when my law comes, whether they will obey it or not." God was preparing His people for the introduction of the Torah. From Adam until Moses, God had introduced various laws that He expected men to obey. But it was not until Mount Sinai in Exodus 20 that God gave the Torah, and He gave it to His chosen people, the Hebrews, the descendants of Jacob and Jacob's twelve sons.

3. With the introduction of the Torah came the requirement to keep the sabbath as part of a closed legal system. Exodus 20:8-11 KJV, "**8** Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. **9** Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: **10** But the seventh day *is* the sabbath of [Yahowah] thy God: *in it* thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that *is* within thy gates: **11** For *in* six days [Yahowah] made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them *is*, and rested the seventh day: wherefore [Yahowah] blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it." Just because God has used the seven days of creation as a pattern for giving the sabbath day of rest to the Hebrews does not make creation week a perfect week (a week that begins on Sunday and ends on Saturday) and it does not make the seventh day of creation a sabbath. When verse eleven says that Yahowah blessed the sabbath day, this Scripture is referring only to the seventh day of a perfect week that He has just given to the Hebrews. And He is using the seven days of creation only as a pattern of six days of work followed by one day of rest. He is not establishing, after the fact (three millennium later), that creation week had a sabbath at the end of it. There are some who are desperate to place God in a box. Their imaginations never rest inventing interpretations to Scriptures to ensure that at the end of the discussion that a sabbath has been established during creation week, even though the Scriptures do not teach it. In fact, the seventh day of creation week is a Friday, not a Saturday or Sabbath: see our treatise on the "Calendar of Scripture" parts I and II.

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4. What is the Torah, or the Law (meaning the Law of Moses)? Deuteronomy 31:24-26 KJV, "**24** And it came to pass, when Moses had made an end of writing the words of this law in a book, until they were finished, **25** That Moses commanded the Levites, which bare the ark of the covenant of [Yahowah] saying **26** Take this book of the law, and put it in the side of the ark of the covenant of [Yahowah] your God, that it may be there for a witness against thee." The Law (the Ten Commandments plus more) which was given at Mount Sinai, was first written in Scripture in **Exodus 20:1** and continued to be written well into Exodus 23 and beyond. The Law is confirmed in **Exodus 24:3** with oaths from the Hebrews; with the preparation of altars in **Exodus 24:4**; with offerings by the people in **Exodus 24:5**; with the sanctification of the people in **Exodus 24:8**; and God giving a written copy in stone of those laws (the Torah) in **Exodus 24:12**. Exodus 20:1 KJV, "**And God spoke all these words, saying,**" Exodus 24:3 KJV, "**And Moses came and told the people all the words of [Yahowah], and all the judgments: and all the people answered with one voice, and said, All the words which [Yahowah] hath said will we do.**" Exodus 24:4 KJV, "**And Moses wrote all the words of [Yahowah], and rose up early in the morning, and builded an altar under the hill, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel.**" Exodus 24:5 KJV, "**And he sent young men of the children of Israel, which offered burnt offerings, and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen unto [Yahowah].**" Exodus 24:8 KJV, "**And Moses took the blood, and sprinkled it on the people, and said, Behold the blood of the covenant, which [Yahowah] hath made with you concerning all these words.**" Exodus 24:12 KJV, "**And [Yahowah] said unto Moses, Come up to me into the mount, and be there: and I will give thee tables of stone, and a law, and commandments which I have written; that thou mayest teach them.**"

5. We can now see that Yahowah's seventh day of a perfect week sabbath had a place in history (for only three weeks) with only the Israelites before the Torah (or Law) and it has had a separate history within the Torah and the Israelite nation that the Torah was given to. So, when the Torah is taken away, we can more clearly see how this affects the keeping of the sabbath. Since the Torah was given to the Israelites, when the Torah is taken away, it can only be taken from the Israelites, because no one else had it. Since the Torah was the only legal system that required the keeping of the sabbath, then sabbath keeping outside of the Torah is not required by God. But one might say, wait a minute, the keeping of the sabbath was required before the Torah in the Desert of Sin as spoken of in Exodus 16:23. That is true. But it seems clear to me that Yahowah, in His graciousness and wisdom gave the sabbath to the Israelites just prior to the Torah, because He was breaking them in slowly and methodically to their new requirements that were yet to come. Many times when driving on the road, prior to a stop sign or a change in speed limit, a warning sign appears: "Stop Ahead" or "Reduce Speed Ahead". The Desert of Sin story in Exodus 16 is a warning sign from our God: "Change In Rules Ahead" or "Heads Up, Something New Is Happening". After all, He did not establish penalties for sabbath breaking in the Desert of Sin. Those penalties came with the Torah.

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Sabbath Keeping
Part IV - Is It For Today?

1. A valid question about the longevity of sabbath keeping should be asked. If, as I have written in "Sabbath Keeping, Part III - Who It Was Given To", that sabbath keeping can be taken away, then how does that reconcile with the following statements: in **Exodus 31:13** it says, the sabbath should be kept "throughout your generations"; in **Exodus 31:16** it says the sabbath should be kept "throughout their generations for a perpetual covenant"; in **Leviticus 16:31** it says, the sabbath would be "a statute for ever"; and in **Leviticus 24:8** it says, the sabbath would be an "an everlasting covenant"? Exodus 31:13 KJV, "**Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily my sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am [Yahowah] that doth sanctify you.**" Exodus 31:16 KJV, "**Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the sabbath, to observe the sabbath throughout their generations, for a perpetual covenant.**" Leviticus 16:31 KJV, "**It shall be a sabbath of rest unto you, and ye shall afflict your souls, by a statute for ever.**" Leviticus 24:8 KJV, "**Every sabbath he shall set it in order before [Yahowah] continually, being taken from the children of Israel by an everlasting covenant.**" What does it mean to say throughout your/their generations, and perpetual, and forever, and an everlasting covenant? It means exactly what it says - forever, or continuously, or everlasting, in other words, for eternity. So, why do I contend with those who insist that sabbath keeping is a perpetual requirement?

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2. As mentioned in Part III, sabbath keeping was given to the Israelites and not to men everywhere. The sabbath was never given to Christians in the New Testament. I can find a lot of Scriptures in the New Testament that give commands to Christians regarding their behavior and requirements expected of them, and many of these commands are identical to those given in the Torah, or before the Torah was ever given. But, if you can find a single New Testament Scripture that requires Christians to keep the sabbath, please share it with us. We need to know!

3. Some Messianic Jewish organizations contend that New Testament Christians have now become Jews by conversion. Look at Deuteronomy 4:34 KJV, "**Or hath God assayed to go and take him a nation from the midst of another nation, by temptations, by signs, and by wonders, and by war, and by a mighty hand, and by a stretched out arm, and by great terrors, according to all that [Yahowah] your God did for you in Egypt before your eyes?**" Israelites come from Jacob and his twelve sons, therefore a Christian is not an Israelite, or Jewish. Romans 9:6-8 KJV, "**6 For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel: 7 Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called. 8 That is They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed.**" Galatians 4:28 KJV, "**Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise.**" In other words, Christians are reckoned through Isaac, not his son Israel. Once again, if you can find a Scripture(s) that states that Christians have become Jewish, please share it with us. We need to know!

4. So what has become of sabbath keeping? In paragraph one above it is pointed out that the Scriptures teach that the sabbath is to be kept by the Israelites, Jews, forever. Yahoshua has done just that, He has kept not only the sabbath, but the whole Torah, forever; so that the Jews, nor anyone else, ever has to keep it again. Matthew 5:17 KJV, "**Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.**" (See also Luke 24:44.) And fulfill He did. Christ Yahoshua kept the requirements, not only of the Torah, not only of the prophets, but also all of God's laws for men. If you think not, then what about Christ's sacrifice upon the Roman execution stake at Calvary at the hands of the Jewish leaders of that day and at the hands of Pontius Pilate? Christ provided for the payment of our sins once for all for all time. Christians have no problem in believing this, so why is it so difficult to believe that He has kept the whole law for all time? Romans 6:23 KJV, "**For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through [Yahoshua the] Christ our Lord.**" Do Christians have to die for their sins, or did Christ pay for those sins in our stead? John 3:16 KJV, "**For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.**" Understand this, we no longer need to sacrifice lambs, or bulls, or red heifers, Christ was our sacrificial lamb, once for all for all time. And He could do this because He was God and because He was the only one who could keep the Torah for all time. It is done, it is finished, the veil has been rent from top to bottom and Christians have access to the holy of holies. Matthew 27:51 KJV, "**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;**". Christ said it on the stake just before He expired - "it is finished." John 19:30 KJV, "**When [Yahoshua] therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.**"

5. If you are keeping the sabbath because you are Jewish, then stop. Believe on the Lord Yahoshua the Messiah and be set free from the requirements of the law and be free from the penalty of your sins. If you are keeping the sabbath because it is part of the Mosaic Law or the Ten Commandments, then stop. If you are not a Christian, then keeping the law will not save you from your sins to the attainment of eternal life. If you are a Christian, then keeping the law will not save you from your sins to the attainment of eternal life. Romans 3:20 KJV, "**Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.**" Galatians 5:4 KJV, "**Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.**"

6. Even the Holy Spirit and the apostles teach against any requirement for men to be keeping the sabbath. During a council or meeting in Jerusalem, in the first century, only limited requirements were put upon Christians as they came to the faith. Acts 15:10-11 KJV, "**10 Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? 11 But we believe that through the grace of the Lord [Yahoshua the] Christ we shall be saved, even as they.**" Acts 15:28-29 KJV, "**28 For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things; 29 That ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well. Fare ye well.**" There are no sabbath keeping requirements here.

7. While doing this study, I became thoroughly convinced that sabbath keeping was not a requirement of the law anymore, nor a requirement for any man to keep ever again. I have been saved by the shed Blood of Christ Yahoshua. Believing

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this is an act of faith. Faith that has been imparted to me from God the Father by His grace. Ephesians 2:8-9 KJV, "**8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.**" Colossians 2:16-17 KJV, "**16 Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: 17 Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.**" Galatians 4:9-10 KJV, "**9 But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage? 10 Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years.**" I would pray that those Christians who have stuck with me this far, would now open the Scriptures to Colossians, chapter two. Please read this chapter keeping in mind the whole time that it is describing your freedom from being taken captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy and freedom from sabbath keeping. May Yahowah richly bless you in your love of our Lord Yahoshua the Christ.

8. Now that it has been shown in paragraph four above that Yahoshua has met the requirements of the Torah for all time and in paragraph six above that the Holy Ghost does not require believers to keep the weekly sabbath any more, there should be no doubt in anyone's mind that weekly sabbath keeping is not required. God does not require anyone to keep the sabbath any longer. You need to understand that not only are you not saved by the Torah, no one ever was and no one ever could be; but **you need to further understand that weekly sabbath keeping is putting oneself under the Torah and therefore becomes a dividing wall between you and the Messiah.** It is a sin that leads to the broad path of destruction if you persist and do not repent. If a Christian brother observes a special day because it is part of the Torah or any legal system and thereby hopes to save his soul; or teaches others to observe a weekly sabbath because of the Torah; then rebuke him. Galatians 5:4 KJV, "**Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.**" 2 Peter 1:9 KJV, "**But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.**" And Galatians 3:10-14 KJV, "**10 For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them. 11 But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith. 12 And the law is not of faith: but, The man that doeth them shall live in them. 13 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: 14 That the blessing of Abraham might come on the [nations] through [Yahoshua the] Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.**" For the man who claims that he is already saved by grace and not the Torah, but then goes back to observing the Torah anyway, please reread Galatians 3:12 in this paragraph. It states very plainly that you have gone back under the Law. And reread Galatians 5:4 in this paragraph, it cannot be made more clear - **YOU HAVE FALLEN FROM GRACE!**

9. Once again, Yahoshua said, John 14:15,21 KJV, "**15 If ye love me, keep my commandments. 21 He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.**" Yahoshua the Messiah is not saying for us to obey the Torah - that has already been covered in this treatise - He is saying that you are to obey Him out of love, not out of legal obligation; you are to obey Him because you believe in Him and trust that what He says is best for your life now and for all eternity. John 10:10b KJV, "**I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.**"

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Sabbath Keeping
Part V - Fleshly Legalism Brings Death, The Spirit Brings Life
by Sandy Mauck

Everything that Yahoshua would try to teach, the Pharisees wanted to take into the realm of the flesh. They were supposed to be spiritual but they were really flesh.

Our precious Lord taught us over and over to stop looking at the fleshly aspects of things; instead, look at the spiritual. The spiritual man is that which is important. He called them on it concerning everything they said to him. Over and over He purposely healed on the sabbath so they could see that their hearts were flesh and not spirit.

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When the man at the pool of Bethesda was healed, He told him to pick up his bed. This of course freaked the Pharisees out as they were making their sabbath keeping rounds. When they got after the guy, he told it like it was. (In my words) The guy that healed me told me to do it - why should I NOT do what He says!

That is the message. We can tithe and do all the stuff according to the law but God is a heart changer. When people want to bring you under legalism, one legalistic thing becomes another, and so on. Why? Because it is a trap. Religion is a trap. Many of us grew up in very religious churches and they had all their traditions that they did. Did it bring forth life? No, of course not, it brought death.

It was in the heart of our God to send His Son to show the world the heart of the matter. If you look back to the reasoning of the beginning of the sabbath, it wasn't so much for the rest of the Hebrews but that those people would NOT put others under slavery as they had been. He knew them. He knew they were hard hearted even before they manifested it in the wilderness.

And we are all the same. Not one of us is pure in ourselves. We are all flesh. Our only righteousness is in our Savior who paid the price for our sins. Don't tempt God with legalism - HE HATES IT!

Does He want us to rest physically? Of course, but He wants us to be led by His Holy Spirit in all things. The Holy Spirit might tell you to rest for a week or a month or a year! But the bottom line is that HE IS OUR REST. An all encompassing precious concept of the Spirit of the Living God! He paid for it. We can now rest in that!

This is the conclusion of the Calendar of Scripture and Sabbath Keeping which is fleshly legalism not Spirit led faith in God.

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<https://www.bibletimemarkers.com/>

Announcements

Announcement from Zac Poonen (March 20, 2023)
Messages

Jesus Came to save Us from the Love of Money - Zac Poonen
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6DudBWpLpK0>

Receive Christ as Your Personal Saviour - Zac Poonen
<https://youtu.be/oERiLVx22g>

CFC Bangalore
<https://cfcindia.com>

Announcement from David Rives (March 24, 2023)
Special announcement from David:

Dear friends,

The Wonders Center & Science Museum is almost ready to open. While several months of final preparation are still necessary for the completion of the exhibit halls, we will be opening our theater, rotunda, and dinner theater early for a special event!

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On May 18th, we are so excited to be hosting 2x GRAMMY Winner Jason Crabb as our very FIRST concert performance here in the Wonders Theater, our beautiful 450-seat Performing Arts venue inside the Museum.

A limited number of VIP tickets are also available with a chef-prepared meal and meet-and-greet, held in the intimate Dinner Theater downstairs.

Tickets were just released hours ago, so if you're in the Tennessee area, grab yours right away. I look forward to showing you the new Center and am so excited about how the Lord is using this ministry for His glory.

Get your tickets [HERE](#).

Prophecy

America's Divine Destiny (Copyright 2023) by Dwight Fleming (Oroville, California)

America has been blessed by the hand of God for a divine purpose. In the video linked below, you will discover just how greatly America was blessed by our geographical position on this earth. America is a fulfillment of God's promises to Abraham and his progeny through Isaac.

God promised to Abraham and Isaac and Jacob the land of Canaan where they could prosper and multiply and fulfill their purpose of being witnesses of God's grace to those who worship Him, the only true God. Yet Abraham's progeny would become as the sand of the sea in numbers (Genesis 32:12). This meant that they would eventually migrate to other lands since the land of Canaan would not be able to contain such a vast number of people.

Before the Israelites took possession of the land of Canaan, God told them through Moses: "The LORD will make you to prosper abundantly--in the fruit of your womb, the offspring of your livestock, and the produce of your land—in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers to give to you. The LORD will open the heavens, His abundant storehouse, to send rain on your land in season and to bless all the work of your hands. You will lend to many nations but borrow from none. The LORD will make you the head and not the tail" (Deuteronomy 28:11-13).

Why would God do all of this and more?

"Then all the nations of the world will see that you are a people claimed by the LORD, and they will stand in awe of you" (Deuteronomy 28:10 NLT).

That was the potential blessing, but Moses also gave a dire warning once the people had become prosperous:

"Be careful not to forget the LORD your God by failing to keep His commandments and ordinances and statutes, which I am giving you this day. Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses in which to dwell, and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all that you have is multiplied, then your **heart** will become **proud**, and you will forget the LORD your God ... You might say in your heart, 'The power and strength of my hands have made this wealth for me.' But remember that it is the LORD your God who gives you the **power** to gain wealth, [Why?] in order to **confirm His covenant** that He swore to your fathers even to this day" (Deuteronomy 8:11-14, 17-18).

Despite the many blessings that God has bestowed upon America making it one the greatest nations of all time, the curses for disobedience are afflicting our country to an ever-increasing degree. Will America wake-up and repent of its rebellion against God and His laws of righteousness?

Ancient Israel and Judah failed to do so and suffered the consequences of their arrogance and disobedience. Time will tell if America will do more than give lip service to the faith that our founding fathers had in Almighty God who guided their worthy causes.

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This amazing video on America's unique geographical position in the world will astound you, giving testimony of God's gracious plan for His people:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BubAF7KSs64> America's Unique Geography

Other Items
(Poems, Jokes, Questions etc.)

Can Pain Be Eliminated?
(Copyright 2023) by James Steinle (Swanville, Minnesota)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L2vT-_GE0BA 1 hour 24 min. Yes, its long, but you are going to REALLY learn about health and how to improve it (5-10 minutes for arthritis for one lady). This is an interview of Clint Ober who founded the research on the health effects of 'grounding' and why it works to eliminate the source of ailments not just the effects. He tells of his experience helping himself with troubles caused from an active sports life when younger (he is 78 now), and others with arthritis, MS, PMS, stress, sleeplessness, autism, etc. (It's hard to remember all he talked about).

I do believe it will NOT be a waste of your time; either for yourself or someone you know. All I can say is watch it! It will change your life.

Disease-Free Society
(Copyright 2023) by Rich Traver (Clifton, Colorado)

Something like this can go a long way to facilitate control over buying and selling that the Beast System WILL Implement!

The reference to health issues - a disease-free society - is reminiscent of a recent agenda expose.

We sheeple are so unaware.... Rats in a cage - and we'll be expected to be happy!! (For the good of all, they claim.)

https://youtu.be/8NnPC_5cXzw

Reprinted with permission from: Golden Sheaves
<https://www.goldensheaves.org/>

Kenya Update March 18, 2023
(Copyright 2023) by William P. Goff (Myrtle Beach, South Carolina)

Greetings Brethren,

I just wanted to send out a short letter, as we approach the Spring Holy Days. First let me thank you for your continued financial support of the orphanage and our remote widows and orphans. Your donations continue to be such a blessing to them in these very trying times of drought and famine.

(The following report is form IFRC (International Federation of Red Cross.)

"Kenya is one of many countries in Sub-Saharan Africa currently experiencing one of the most alarming food crises in decades. Severe drought, due to the failure of four consecutive rainy seasons, means millions of people

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in the country are facing hunger and thirst. The drought has also killed hundreds of elephants, zebras, and wildebeests over the past nine Months”.

We continue to assist our impoverished brethren (with our focus on the widows and orphans) the best we can with the support received. We also want to thank you for your prayers because your prayers are Sooooo important. 3rd world countries are difficult to work in, and also quite dangerous. And we are living at the time when good is called bad and bad good. But soon everyone will be rewarded for their actions, both good and bad. Revelation 22:12 Isaiah 5:20

On Wednesday the police came to the orphanage, trying to find something wrong so they could arrest Haron. (They like to make arrests so they can look for bribes to release) They inspected the orphanage and stayed until 1am (yes, one o'clock in the morning) but were unsuccessful at finding anything wrong, so they didn't arrest him. On Thursday they went to the child's welfare office and tried to get them to issue a warrant for Haron's arrest, but again they were unsuccessful, the office "denied" their request because we are in compliance with all of the requirements. This harassment is not unique to our orphanage, but quite common in these 3rd world countries where there is so much corruption. Your prayers have continually protected us, and we thank our Heavenly Father for that. We all need to be praying for one another as this untoward world and its increasing troubles are upon us.

The schools are now at half term and closing for a short break. So, our High School students who are boarding returned home on Friday. They are all in good health and high spirits as they were preparing for Sabbath.

We are also preparing for the upcoming Passover & Feast of Unleavened Bread. Our Kenyan brethren will be in need of some supplies for the Holy Days, including wheat flour to make unleavened bread (chapattis) and most importantly wine to keep the Passover.

We wish all of you a very uplifting and Spiritual Passover and seven-day Feast of Unleavened Bread. I know it will be uplifting and Spiritual for our Kenyan brethren. Ever since I first traveled to Africa back in 2005, I found our impoverished brethren keeping the spring Feast for the entire seven days (like we all do for Tabernacles.) They gather in small groups, make their unleavened chapatti bread on a wood fire. Sometimes the unleavened bread and tea is all they had to sustain them physically for the entire seven days, but spiritually they have an abundance of food as they converse with one another *"in His name, with our Lord in the midst of them"*. Matthew 18:20.

Keeping the Spring Feast for the entire seven days is not foreign to the church. The following is a quote from an article posted in the "7th Day Churches of God News."

"Very few are aware that the Church, under its former name, the Radio Church of God, also celebrated the Festival of Unleavened Bread for the full seven days – not just the two annual high days as now. Many Church of God members remember the marvelous spiritual sermons and exciting fellowship that went along with this festival. But sometime during the mid-sixties, the practice was discontinued."

The Forgotten Seven Day Feast

Some smaller churches will be observing the [Festival of Unleavened Bread in 2023](#) for the full seven days – but for most people, particularly those who were in the Worldwide Church of God, going to "The Feast" means Tabernacles. Very few are aware that the Church, under its former name, the Radio Church of God, also celebrated the Festival of Unleavened Bread for the full seven days – not just the two annual high days as now.

In 1952 Herbert and Loma Armstrong travelled to Gladewater, Texas, for Passover and the 1st holy day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread. They were overwhelmed by the large numbers who came, not only from Texas, but as far afield as Wisconsin and Michigan.

As they were returning home to Pasadena, [Herbert Armstrong wrote](#): "We know now – God has shown us plainly and unmistakably – that we must have an adequate place of our own in this central location for the Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread EVERY YEAR.

The proper place for meetings of this kind is not an expensive brick or stone or concrete church building on a main corner of a city in all the traffic and noise of the world – but to get CLEAR AWAY FROM THE WORLD –

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out into God’s own open beautiful nature, utterly secluded from the world!

Next Spring, we shall plan a full eight-day festival, to last thru the entire seven days of unleavened bread following the Passover, and all who plan to come are urged now, with a year ahead to plan, to start laying plans to come for the entire eight days ...

Yes, this opens up AN ENTIRE NEW PHASE of God’s great work. This will provide a place for annual great conclaves of God’s people, where many who cannot come as far as Pasadena can meet together at God’s great festivals.

Roderick Meredith reported in the [May, 1962, issue of The Good News magazine](#) that, “In SEVEN major Festivals here in America, plus others in England, Australia and around the world – a glorious season was observed this year! “THEREFORE, let us KEEP THE FEAST ...” (I Cor. 5:8).

In obeying this inspired New Testament COMMAND to Christians, over TEN THOUSAND brethren of God’s Church assembled this spring to observe the Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread. All reports indicate that there was GREAT JOY in this observance.”

Why then in 1968 (the year the church was renamed Worldwide) were all the festival sites discontinued? According to the article [Days of Unleavened Bread – How Should They Be Observed?](#) [p.4] by the Church of God the Eternal (supporting the change to observing the 2 high days only):

“... the receipt of income for “the Gospel” was appreciably reduced each Spring, because most of the members did not receive any salary or wages during the week they attended the seven Days of Unleavened Bread. Consequently, tithes and offerings dropped off alarmingly in the Spring ...

It was felt by Mr. Armstrong that if the Gospel were to continue to go forth with growth and power, the membership would have to be in a financial position to contribute heavily. The observance of the Days of Unleavened Bread for the full seven days was thwarting this effort.”

From: [Church of God News – 7th Day Churches of God \(7th-day.info\)](#)

Thank you again for your continued financial support and your prayers. Our brethren also continue to pray for you during these troublesome times in which we are now living.

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<https://khofh.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