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

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Articles

Exploring the Human Nose

(Copyright 2022) by David Rives (Lewisburg, Tennessee)

Has a vague scent in the air ever caught your attention? You know you’ve smelled it somewhere before, but you just don’t know where? Well, our sense of smell is incredible, and many scents are strongly linked with memories. The average adult can distinguish 10,000 different scents from baking bread to a favorite perfume, to apple blossoms, to roadkill skunk. How does our nose do it?

When you breathe in through your nose, air rushes into your nasal cavities. The majority of the space in your nose is dedicated to filtering this air before it heads to your lungs. But a small portion of your nose is the olfactory epithelium, which is filled with 40 million different receptor neurons, all of which are specific to certain odor molecules.

An amazing 3% of all the genes in your DNA codes are for these receptor neurons. And unlike most neurons, these ones are replaced every month or so.

Now, air isn’t just filled with air. It’s full of odorants, molecules that we can smell. These odorants become trapped in a mucus layer covering the olfactory epithelium. They dissolve and trigger different neurons which zip electrical signals right up to the olfactory bulb which is actually part of your brain.

Interestingly enough, the nose is the only one of all five senses directly connected to the brain. Different parts of your brain, including your memory and emotion centers, work to determine what the smell is and how you should feel about it.

Different neurons in the olfactory epithelium respond to pain. When you smell something that can burn or hurt you, like a chemical, these cells trigger a pain response, so you get a sharp warning sting.

You might have noticed that smell is linked closely to taste. That’s why plugging your nose when you chugged down that

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cold remedy made it easier to swallow or why when you're sick you can't taste a thing. As you chew, air is pushed up into your nose and those odorants smack right into that mucus layer. These odorants actually tell your brain more about what you're eating than your taste buds can.

Our sense of smell is a marvelous testimony to the incredible design of the Creator. So next time you breathe in the smell of your favorite dessert cooking in the oven, stop and thank God for His caring and wonderful design.

I'm David Rives... Truly the heavens declare the glory of God.

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What is Grace?

(Copyright 2022) by David Antion (Pasadena, California)

Is there any word more misunderstood and abused and perverted than this word "grace?" Yet it is one of the most important words in the Bible. For this reason, I want to feature this topic in our Search the Scriptures emails.

The English word "grace" is always a translation of the Greek word "charis". However, the Greek word is used over 170 times but not all of those times translated as "grace." It is translated in several other ways that we shall see.

The primary meaning seems to denote a pleasant outer appearance or "gracefulness" or "loveliness." When people heard Jesus talking, they were amazed at the "gracious (charis) words" that came out of his lips (Luke 4:22). Some translations render that as "the charm of his words." But all of us are exhorted to make our speech to be "always full of grace seasoned with salt..."(Colossians 4:6). In other words, our speech should be beautiful and down-to-earth common.

As Jesus matured he increased in "wisdom and stature and in favor (charis) with God and men" (Luke 2:52). People seemed to like Him and favor Him. There was nothing about Jesus' mannerisms, character, facial expressions, or words that was offensive or repulsive to the ordinary person. It was His message against the hypocrisy of the religious leaders and the heavy burdens they put on the people that caused them to hate Him. That and they felt people turning to Him rather than to them.

The Greek word charis is translated as "thanks" in Romans 6:17. It's translated as "thank" in Luke 17:9. Charis can mean an attitude of graciousness and favor but can also refer to the act or thing by which graciousness is expressed. Paul wrote, "When I arrive, whomever you approve, I shall send them with letters to carry your gift (charis) to Jerusalem" (1 Cor. 16:3). This charis was for the poor saints in Jerusalem from the Gentile churches who are showing their grace and favor with this gift (charis).

Paul stated, "...by the grace of God I am what I am" (1 Cor. 15:10) and that grace was not in vain because he worked harder than all of them "but not I but the grace of God that was with me" (v. 10).

When Paul wrote to the Thessalonians, he told them that he hoped that the "name of our Lord Jesus" would be glorified in them and they in Him "according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ" (2 Thessalonians 1:11-12 NIV).

In a parallel passage, Paul wrote, "We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Thessalonians 1:3 NIV). You can see why Paul said, "not I but the grace of God that was with me."

God's graciousness is revealed in the story of Hosea the prophet when he was to act out the situation between God and Israel. In chapter 1 he was to take a wife of whoredom and have children by her and name them "no mercy" and "not my people." But later God's gracious and forgiving attitude is shown when God says they will be shown mercy and

will be His people. In chapter 3, Hosea (means "salvation") was to love a woman who was loved by her husband yet one who committed adultery. This was to show how God loved Israel even though she committed adultery while married to Him.

Jesus embodied the grace of God (John 1:14, 17).

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Who Are the Nephilim

(Copyright 2013) by David Sielaff (Portland, Oregon)



This article presents a new perspective to the question "who are the Nephilim?" This is an intriguing but difficult subject, and I do not claim to present the last word on the matter. However, a unique understanding about the Sons of God presented by Dr. Ernest L. Martin in the late 1980s, combined with a verse that I now read with new discernment, a better understanding of Nephilim can be known. Below is a text version of a PowerPoint presentation I gave on September 29, 2013, jointly hosted by the Strange Events Inquiry and Oregon Mufon (Mutual UFO Network).

I became interested in the Nephilim when I first read the appendices in E. W. Bullinger's *Companion Bible* in the 1970s. I shifted my understanding of this subject through the work of Dr. Ernest Martin. He came up with an extraordinary insight to a clear passage from the Book of Hebrews. You cannot avoid the Bible if you are going to talk about the Nephilim, because the subject begins there. I will cover four topics.

- First, **who are the Sons of God** told about in Genesis chapter 6? They were the fathers of the Nephilim.
- Second, we will talk about **the origin of the Nephilim**.
- Third, we will talk about **what or who are the Nephilim**.
- Fourth, we will talk about **the relationship of the Nephilim to UFOs and to non-physical entities**.

Who Are the Sons of God?

What I am giving is my understanding, my worldview, which I believe comports with the biblical worldview, which is not standard Christian doctrine. It is not standard evangelical teaching. Parts of it you will find with specialists, but you will not find this anywhere as I present it. Go to Genesis 6:4:

"There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown."

• **Genesis 6:4**

Let us analyze this verse.

"There were giants in the earth in those days and also after that, when the sons of God

"giants" in Hebrew is Nephilim, a plural term

"Sons of the Elohim" in the Hebrew, with the definite article

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<p>came in unto the daughters of men,</p>	<p>The word “men” is <i>adam</i>,¹ singular, the superlative Hebrew term indicating a human being. The phrase could be translated “the daughters of the Adam.” The purpose of Genesis 6:4 is to distinguish the Nephilim from the Sons of God and from the daughters of men.</p>
<p>and they bare children to them²</p>	<p>Although the word “children” is in the King James Version, it does not occur in Hebrew. It is implied.</p>
<p>the same</p>	<p>referring to the Nephilim</p>
<p>became mighty men</p>	<p>“mighty men” is the Hebrew word <i>gibbor</i>³ (plural, <i>gibborim</i>) in Hebrew, someone who could fight well and perform great deeds.</p>
<p>which were of old, men of renown.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">• Genesis 6:4</p>	<p>“men of renown” is the Hebrew word <i>enosh</i>, not <i>adam</i>. It relates to fame and mortality</p>

So, in this one verse you have *adam*, *gibbor*, and *enosh*, distinguished from each other. The first usage of “men” is *adam*, a generic term for mankind. It is also the personal name of the first man created earlier in Genesis. The second term for “men,” *gibborim*, means “mighty men.” The third term *enosh* is plural and means mortal men “**of renown,**” or famous men.

What Is Man?

I want to shift quickly to Psalm chapter 8:

“What is man [*enosh*, mortal], that you [YHWH, see Psalm 8:1] are mindful of him? and the son of man [*adam*], that you visit him?”

• **Psalm 8:4, Davidic**

In this case *enosh* and *adam* is a repetition and a description. Next, “**For you [again, YHWH] have made him a little lower than the angels and have crowned him with glory and honor** (Psalm 8:5). This is not “angels” in the Hebrew. It is *elohim*; it is “gods.” It should read “**You [YHWH] have made him a little lower than the gods.**” We are not gods now, but that is our destiny as Christians, through Christ, eventually. Everyone will be saved. Everyone in this room will be saved, and you will be happy for it. But that is not why I am here today.

“You made him [*adam*] to have dominion over the works of your hands [that means everything, including supernatural beings that exist]; you have put all things under his feet [under *adam*, man].”

• **Psalm 8:6**

In the Book of Hebrews chapter 1 in the New Testament this Psalm 8:6 passage focuses to Jesus Christ (Hebrews 1:2 and especially 2:8), but it still applies to the sons of *adam* and to all of us eventually.

So Who Are the Sons of God?

Look at Job chapter 38, talking about the Sons of God:

¹ The word *adam* is singular with a definite article. It means “**the Adam,**” the name of the first man and the designation of human beings descended from Adam.

² Net Bible, note 14, Genesis 6:4: “**The masculine plural suffix ‘them’ refers to the ‘sons of God,’ to whom the ‘daughters of humankind’ bore children.**”

³ The term is plural in the Hebrew, *gibborim*.

**"Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? ...
Who has laid the measures thereof, ...? or who has stretched the line upon it?
Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone
thereof;
When the MORNING STARS sang together, and ALL the SONS OF GOD shouted for
joy?"**

• *Job 38:4–7 (see also 26:7)*

These "**Sons of God**" were present at the time of creation (when YHWH "**laid the foundations of the earth**"). This is not me or you shouting for joy in an earlier or reincarnated life. This refers to a group of beings, in Hebrew the *beni ha-elohim*. We will get into the nature of the Godhead later, yet it all relates to the Nephilim, as we will see. The Sons of God are not human and are not of adam. They existed when the earth was formed.

Job 26:7 says that the earth hangs upon nothing. It is a falsehood that ancient people thought the earth was flat. Job knew it was not. Job was probably one of the first complete books set down to writing. Genesis was a compiled work of shorter, older documents. How did Job know this information? Job 38:4–7 was something God told Job about, face to face from a cloud, or however He did it. You can judge for yourself if this is legitimate. I believe it is. Now, back to Genesis chapter 6.

Now that we have an idea that the Sons of God are not human, look at Genesis 6:1–4. Note the symmetry and how verse 1 relates to verse 3, and verse 2 relates to verse 4:

1 And it came to pass, when men [*adam*] began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them,

2 That the SONS OF GOD [*elohim*] saw the DAUGHTERS OF MEN [*adam*] that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose.

3 And YHWH said, 'My spirit shall not always strive with man [*adam*], for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.'

4 There were giants [*the Nephilim*] in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the SONS OF GOD [*elohim*] came in unto the DAUGHTERS OF MEN [*adam*], and they bore children to them, the same became mighty men [*gibbor*] which were of old, men [*enosh*] of renown.

• *Genesis 6:1–4*

You have a more complete picture if you relate verse 2 and 4 together.

The Origin of the Nephilim

"That the SONS OF GOD [*elohim*] saw the DAUGHTERS OF MEN that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose. ...

There were giants [*the Nephilim*] in the earth in those days; AND ALSO AFTER THAT, when the sons of God [*elohim*] came in unto the daughters of men [*adam*], and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown."

• *Genesis 6:2, 4*

The term "took wives" (or wife) occurs frequently in Hebrew. They married these women. This is what you get in the Greek myths. This is what you get in other pagan myths, which I believe are corruptions of the biblical original. We can argue about that.

Notice something in verse 4, "**and also after that.**" What is the text talking about there? There are the pre-flood Nephilim "**in those days**" and then there were the post-flood Nephilim "**also after that.**" This whole section

of Genesis 6:1–4 is leading up to why the flood was necessary. Verses 1 and 3 (and elsewhere) talk about the evil of humanity, while verses 2 and 4 say there was extra evil committed by the *beni ha-elohim*, the Sons of God.

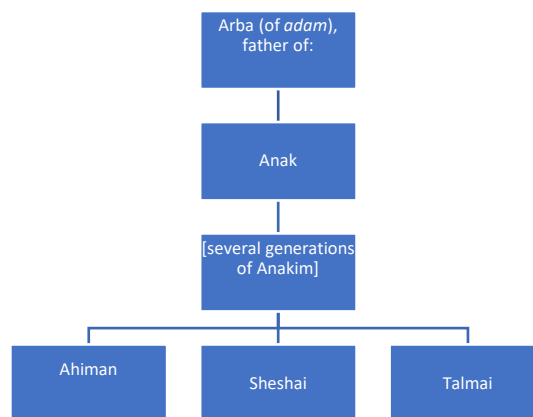
Almost all cultures have a flood tradition. Most of those also have a tradition of giants. Other authors have noted this. All the original Nephilim who were not killed by violence before the flood were killed in the flood. It says, **"All in whose nostrils was the breath of life, of all that was in the dry land, died"** (Genesis 7:22). Could not the Sons of God have taken their children up? Apparently not. Most traditions say only eight were saved (as Genesis 6:18, 7:13 and 1 Peter 3:20 says).

After the flood, the Sons of God again mated with the daughters of men. It says that in verse 4, **"and also after that ..."** This is not difficult linguistic material. This is a straightforward reading of the text. **"There were giants in the earth in those days,"** so why did we get the word "giants" translated from the Hebrew word Nephilim? Nephilim was translated by the Greeks, especially by the Greek Old Testament (the Septuagint or LXX) as *gigantes* in Greek. The Latin Vulgate kept that transliterated Greek word when Jerome translated Genesis into Latin. Hence, we have the word "giants" inserted into the King James Version. In my opinion it would have been better if they had just left the term "Nephilim."

Israelite Spies

Now I want to discuss the spies sent to the Promised Land. Moses sent twelve men to scout the land before Israel entered it. Upon their return ten of the spies said the situation was impossible. We do not want to go there; these people are too many, too dangerous, and too huge. Only two of the spies, Joshua and Caleb said, let us go and seize the land. God said He will drive these people out, we need not worry (Numbers chapter 13).

By the way, Israel did not have to kill all the people, the Canaanites, and all the people in the Promised Land. God said that He would drive them out, but because of their sins, God made Israel do it. I offered, you sinned, therefore as part of the punishment that you agreed to, you must kill the people occupying My land. You have to kill the women and children and the men, and even the animals in many cases. When the spies first went there, it says they **"... came unto Hebron;⁴ where Ahiman, Sheshai, and Talmai, the children of Anak, were"** (Numbers 13:22).⁵ (See the Genealogy Chart.) They were not direct children of Anak. They were several generations down. Continuing with the spies:



Genealogy Chart 1: Anakim at Kirjatharba

were" (Numbers 13:22).⁵ (See the Genealogy Chart.) They were not direct children of Anak. They were several generations down. Continuing with the spies:

"Nevertheless the people be strong that dwell in the land, and the cities are walled, and very great: and moreover we saw the children [sons] of Anak there. ... for they are stronger than we. And they brought up an evil report ... and all the people that we saw in it are men [enosh] of a great stature. And there we saw the giants [Nephilim], THE SONS OF ANAK, which come of the giants [Nephilim]: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight."

• Numbers 13:28, 31–33

⁴ Hebron is 20 miles southwest of Jerusalem.

⁵ Later these three Anakim brothers were driven out of the Hebron area by Caleb and his people (Joshua 15:14). After Joshua died, the three brothers were killed by the men of Judah (Judges 1:10).

This equates Nephilim with the sons of Anak.

Og of Bashan

Now we come to Og of Bashan. Og is of the Rephaim, different but similar to the Anakim and the Nephilim. The Sons of God were the gods of the pagan nations. They produced offspring who were considered (by pagan peoples) as demigods: Hercules, Dionysus, Osiris, Gilgamesh, and all others who became bastardized in the pagan myths — in my understanding.

"For only Og king of Bashan remained of the remnant of giants [rephaim]; behold, his bedstead was a bedstead of IRON; is it not in Rabbath of the children of Ammon? nine cubits was the length thereof, and four cubits the breadth of it, after the cubit of a man."

• Deuteronomy 3:11

Regarding the "**bedstead of iron**," they had iron as early as the Exodus period.⁶ Bronze was still more effective for weapons because they were not able to work iron until later, during the time of judges, to make arrowheads, swords, and spearheads of iron. I have had a historian tell me, yes, you see iron mentioned in the Iliad of Homer traditionally about 1300 BC and later in the time of David. In the time of the Judges, the Philistines took away all the iron-making tools of the Israelites. They invaded and took all their kilns and furnaces so they could not make iron weapons like the Philistines (1 Samuel 13:19–22). The Israelites continued using bronze.

Back to Og. His bedstead was made of iron. It was nine cubits in length and four cubits in width, "**after the cubit of a man**." A cubit of a man was roughly from the tip of your finger to your elbow, about 18 inches, maybe 15 inches, minimum. Therefore, if a cubit is roughly 18 inches, we can estimate that his bedstead was 13½ feet long and about 6 feet wide. Considering that his bed was probably longer than he was, you can figure him to be probably about 12 feet tall.

Goliath and His Relatives

"And there went out a champion out of the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span."

• 1 Samuel 17:4

Six cubits and a span makes him almost 10 feet tall. You only have these two examples, but there is a diminution of the size of giants from Og to Goliath. But ten feet is quite large. It says in 1 Samuel 17:51 that Goliath was "**a champion**," a *gibbor*, a mighty man. He was a bulky man.⁷

It is interesting that in 1 Samuel 17:54 it says David brought Goliath's head to Jerusalem. Why? I do not know. It also says that he possessed his sword (1 Samuel 21:9 and 22:10) and his armor (1 Samuel 17:54).⁸ If David's Tomb would be discovered, and I believe it is in Jerusalem, if Goliath's head is in the tomb (what else would David do with it?) it could be buried in one of the chambers. After all, it was one of his significant accomplishments. DNA could be extracted from tooth enamel of Goliath to see what kind of genetic material he had.

⁶ Iron is first mentioned in Genesis 4:22, before the flood. Either Noah or his sons brought the technique of smelting iron with them after the flood, or it was reinvented. The Hebrew term for iron is used 70 times in the Old Testament, 10 times in Mosaic writings and even in Job, "**He shall flee from the iron weapon, and the bow of steel shall strike him through**" (Job 20:24).

⁷ In the film *Troy*, Achilles killed a giant warrior with his small sword. That is another way than David's method, but Achilles was also a hybrid god-man, but of normal size. For what it is worth, that is what the Greek myths say.

⁸ The Hebrew term translated "armor" in 1 Samuel 17:54 is variously rendered as "armor" or "weapons." It probably indicates general military gear.

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There were other Philistine Rephaim during the time of David who were killed by his men. There were at least four others besides Goliath. 2 Samuel 21:15–22 (Net Bible):

- (vv. 15–17) Ishbi-Benob **“had a spear [actually the spearhead] that weighed three hundred bronze shekels”** [7.5 pounds], He had said that he would kill David.” He failed.
- (v. 18) A Philistine warrior named Saph (also 1 Chronicles 20:4). David’s men killed him.
- (v. 19): **“Elhanan ... killed the brother of Goliath the Gittite, the shaft of whose spear was like a weaver’s beam”** (also 1 Chronicles 20:5).⁹ His spear was so thick and heavy, he probably also used it as a club.
- (vv. 20–21): **“a large man [ish, male] who had six fingers on each hand and six toes on each foot, twenty-four in all.”** David’s brother slew him (also 1 Chronicles 20:6–7).

“These four were born to the giant [*rapha*] in Gath, and fell by the hand of David, and by the hand of his servants.”

• **2 Samuel 21:22 (and 1 Chronicles 20:8)**

Regarding the fellow with six fingers on each hand and six toes on each foot (verses 20–21 above), this is a condition called polydactily. It occurs rarely. If such breeding of Rephaim is still going on, I suppose they have bred this out of their products.¹⁰

Who Are the Nephilim?

The Book of Joshua talks of Caleb, the other faithful spy with Joshua. He was given an inheritance of the children of Judah according to the command of YHWH. Joshua was to give Caleb the territory he requested because Caleb was faithful to God:

“And unto Caleb the son of Jephunneh he gave a part among the children of Judah, according to the commandment of YHWH to Joshua, even the city of Arba the father of Anak, which city is Hebron.”

• **Joshua 15:13**

Notice that Arba was the father of Anak. Previously in Joshua, Arba was discussed:

“And the name of Hebron before was Kirjatharba; which Arba WAS A GREAT MAN [*adam*] AMONG THE ANAKIMS.”

• **Joshua 14:15**

How do we read this? How do we look at this? Does this mean that Arba was an *adam* among the hybrid Anakim? These verses say Arba was not just a great man, but he was the father of Anak. The Anakim were hybrids.¹¹ It does not say in these verses that Arba was a Son of God (a *beni ha-Elohim*), so Arba must have been a Nephilim, because we established earlier from Numbers 13:32–33 that Nephilim are Anakim (and vice versa). Therefore, Arba was an Anakim AND of *adam*. Again to be clear, a son of Anak = a human being. All Anakim are human because Arba was of *adam*. Again,

⁹ The Net Bible translators inserted the phrase “the brother of”. 2 Samuel 21:19 says simply “Goliath,” but 1 Chronicles 20:5 says **“the brother of Goliath.”**

¹⁰ Search the internet for the term “polydactily” and note the photos of both hands and feet with six or more digits. These are not doctored or fake photos. Medical texts have similar photos. The occurrence of polydactily is understood by modern medicine and has no relationship to either gigantism or hybridity. The writers of 2 Samuel and 1 Chronicles were reporting the facts.

¹¹ Some researchers do not like this designation of “hybrid,” but that is what they were, as we shall see.

"Hebron therefore became the inheritance of CALEB the son of Jephunneh the Kenezite unto this day because that he wholly followed YHWH God of Israel. And the name of Hebron before was Kirjatharba; which Arba WAS A GREAT MAN [*adam*] AMONG THE ANAKIMS. And the land had rest from war."

• **Joshua 14:14–15**

Hebron is 20 miles south of Jerusalem. The valley of Hebron was known as the Valley of the Rephaim. The name of Hebron prior to that time was Kirjatharba. Was Arba merely a human being, was he also a hybrid Anakim? We know from Goliath there were multiple generations. These men could successfully breed. They were not like mules. They could breed successive generations, which is what we see here. Once a Nephilim was born, they could further breed with other human beings. This is to be expected because they themselves were classified in Joshua 14:15 as being of *adam*.

Caleb drove the three Anakim brothers from Kirjatharba (Judges 15:14). This happened before Joshua died (Joshua 24:30 and Judges 1:1). They were later killed during the early period of the Judges, but some survived. They escaped to reside in the cities of the Philistines, particularly Gath into the reign of King David of Israel.

There is no mention of Rephaim (giants) from the time of Joshua and Caleb until Goliath, a period of some 400 years. During this time Samson was a judge in Israel who fought the Philistines who oppressed Israel. There is no record in the Bible of Samson encountering any Nephilim, Rephaim, or Anakim.

The entire Book of Deuteronomy is a retrospective by Moses of the entire Exodus and wilderness experiences of the people of Israel, written just before he died. It talks about the various giant peoples:

"The Emims dwelt therein in times past [during the times of Jacob and Esau], a people great, and many, and tall, as the Anakims; Which [the Emims] also were accounted giants [*rephaim*], as the Anakims; but the Moabites call them Emims."

• **Deuteronomy 2:10–11**

Different peoples called them by different names. The Moabites called them Emims. The people from Hebron called them Anakim. Others were calling them Rephaim, which seems to have been a general term for these tall, strong, rough people.

"That also was accounted a land of giants [*rephaim*]: giants [*rephaim*] dwelt therein in old time; and the Ammonites call them Zamzummims; A people great, and many, and tall, as the Anakims; but YHWH destroyed them before them; and they succeeded them and dwelt in their stead."

• **Deuteronomy 2:20–21**

Everyone had their own local name for these big boys, "A people great and many." They were numerous in the time of Moses and Joshua. While God destroyed them by the people of Israel, perhaps the Sons of God continued their post-flood breeding with the daughters of men. Why did not God put a stop to this? He does in a way, as we will see later.

The Land of the Rephaim

"And the rest of Gilead, and all Bashan, being the kingdom of Og, gave I unto the half tribe of Manasseh; all the region of Argob, with all Bashan, which was called the land of giants [*rephaim*]."

• **Deuteronomy 3:13**

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[NOTE: The marriages or matings of the Sons of God and the daughters of *adam* need not have continued. Not all Anakim were killed during Joshua’s time. The Bible shows that several must have fled from the area of Hebron south of Jebus (Jerusalem) to the Mediterranean coastal area of the Philistines near Ashdod, and Gath some 12 miles inland from the coast:

“And at that time came Joshua, and cut off the Anakims from the mountains, from Hebron, from Debir, from Anab, and from all the mountains of Judah, and from all the mountains of Israel: Joshua [and Caleb] destroyed them utterly with their cities.”

There was none of the Anakims left in the land of the children of Israel: only in Gaza, in Gath, and in Ashdod, there remained.”

• **Joshua 11:21–22**

Therefore, the Anakim (who were working and fighting for the Philistines) continued to marry local women for several more generations up to the time of David and Goliath, about 1025 BC. God told Israel He would drive out the inhabitants from the land He promised to Israel, but they provoked God, were stubborn, rebelled, sinned, and broke their covenant with Him. God therefore required Israel to drive out or kill the inhabitants (Deuteronomy 9:1–24). *DWS*

“And the coast of Og king of Bashan, which was of the remnant of the giants [*rephaim*], that dwelt at Ashtaroth and at Edrei,

• **Joshua 12:4, (and Joshua 13:12)**

The northern part of this territory (south of Jerusalem), extends west to the Mediterranean coast. It begins close to the valley of Hinnom, the area also known as Gehenna, near Jerusalem. You have Jerusalem, the valley of Hinnom south of Jerusalem (the City of David), where Gehenna will take place.¹² That is the place of punishment south of Jerusalem, the City of David. Further south is the land of the Rephaim.

The Evidence Thus Far

What can we conclude from what has been presented? We have several groups: [1] the Nephilim, [2] the Anakim, [3] the Rephaim, and [4] the Emims, or Zamzummims who seem to be related to the Anakim.

- **Nephilim = Anakim**

This identification is very powerful (Numbers 13:33), as close to an identity as can be made: **“And there we saw the giants [Nephilim], the sons of Anak, which come of the giants [again, Nephilim¹³]: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.”**

• **Numbers 13:33**

¹² Gehenna will occur in the valley of Hinnom, but there is no eternal hell. Forget about that fallacy.

¹³ Some writers on this subject deny this association in Numbers 13:33 because it was said by the 10 rebellious Israelite spies and not by Joshua and Caleb. However, the factual statement of the reconnaissance of the spies includes their description of the “giants,” the Nephilim, which is not contradicted by Joshua or Caleb, or by God. The slander that God mentions in Numbers 14:36–38 has to do with the land (Numbers 13:32) and not specifically the giants. They said the land itself was evil and would devour the people of Israel. This meant that God brought Israel to the Promised Land to kill them. In response God killed the 10 spies, while Joshua and Caleb lived.

Note how the author of this verse (Moses, or later an authoritative editor such as Joshua or Samuel) surrounds the term Anakim between two uses of Nephilim to reduce ambiguity and make clear that there is a very close association between Nephilim and Anakim, even though they are separated in time.

- **Rephaim ARE LIKE the Anakim.**

This identification is not as powerful, but it is still strong. Terms of close comparison are used.

- **Nephilim ARE LIKE the Rephaim, Emims, or Zamzummims.**

These identifications are the weakest because the association to Nephilim comes through the identification with the Anakim.

We cannot make a precise identification of Nephilim with Rephaim and the others, but it certainly looks close. As we have seen before, the Rephaim are associated with the Anakim, but Anakim = Nephilim.

As you read the texts, it seems the Rephaim were considered Nephilim, although this is not directly stated. Only Moses (of the several writers referring to giant people groups) equated Nephilim with the Anakim. The others used phrasing that pointed out similarities of one group being “like” another. There are gradations of “likeness”:

1. Two things can be like but almost identical.¹⁴
2. Two things can be like but similar.
3. Two things can be like but very different.

Other than the Anakim, the extent of similarity between Nephilim and the other giants cannot be determined from the texts.¹⁵

Dispersion of the Nations at Babel and the Old Gods

After the flood, at the city of Babel languages were confused. God also separated the nations. This event has significance to the Rephaim and the giant peoples that inhabited the Promised Land.

“So, YHWH dispersed them [human beings] from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. ... And from there YHWH dispersed them over the face of all the earth.”

• **Genesis 11:8–9**

Then look at a very interesting passage in Deuteronomy 32:8–9. This is straightforward narrative as Moses understood it. Remember, in Deuteronomy he is looking back, recalling and explaining all the events that happened, in this case from Babel up to the point just before Moses died.

“When the most High

[1] **divided to the nations their inheritance,**

[2] **when he separated the sons of Adam,**

[3] **he set the bounds of the people [peoples, plural]**

according to the number of the CHILDREN OF ISRAEL.

¹⁴ Any time a comparison is made, the things being compared cannot, by definition, be identical.

¹⁵ Numbers 13:33 identifies Nephilim with Anakim. Moses related the term Nephilim specifically to the pre-flood world of Genesis 6:1–4, while the manifestation of the Anakim, who were large according to the observation of all 12 spies, they were the post-flood outbreak of these giants.

For YHWH's portion is his people; Jacob is the lot of his inheritance."

• **Deuteronomy 32:8–9**

"According to the number of the children of Israel" does not make any sense. Now I will explain something which is somewhat technical. It is clear that "children of Israel" is *beni ysrael* in the Hebrew. However, the oldest Hebrew text of the Masoretic text that we have of Deuteronomy chapter 32 was copied in the 5th century AD. The Dead Sea Scrolls have this rendering:

"When the most High

[1] **divided to the nations their inheritance,**

[2] **when he separated the sons of Adam,**

[3] **he set the bounds of the people** [peoples, plural]

according to the number of the SONS OF GOD.

For YHWH's portion is his people; Jacob is the lot of his inheritance."

• **Deuteronomy 32:8–9, DSS (see also Acts 17:26)**

The nations were divided. How many nations were there? Well, Genesis chapter 10 lists the 70 nations.¹⁶ Were there 70 Sons of God? I do not know, but this makes sense. According to the Dead Sea Scrolls, which were written over time in the 4th century BC, many hundreds of years earlier than our oldest Hebrew manuscripts, also in Hebrew, and it uses the phrase *beni ha-Elohim*, just like Genesis 6:2 and 4. The Greek Septuagint has the phrase "**according to the number of the angels of God.**" I cannot explain the discrepancy between the Septuagint and the Dead Sea Scrolls. These Sons of God were created, and they will die. They can die and they will die.

This "**Sons of God**" rendering changes the whole aspect of Deuteronomy chapter 32, and there are other elements of this in Deuteronomy that support this understanding, as well as in other parts of Scriptures. In Acts 17:26 it says God sets the boundaries of nations and determines where peoples will live. And He moves peoples around. That confirms what is being said in Deuteronomy 32:8–9.

"And has made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation."

• **Acts 17:26**

I do not like denying the validity of the Hebrew Masoretic text at all. Yet almost universally, unless you are a "King James Only" person, technical scholars agree with the rendering of "Sons of God." This makes sense in the text and the Dead Sea Scroll rendering is correct. There are some other Hebrew texts that say this *beni ha-Elohim*, but the apocryphal books like Enoch, Jasher, and Jubilees use the angelic rendering. I will show later that the angels were not involved at all, which goes against a great deal of current analysis about the Sons of God in Genesis chapter 6 and the Nephilim, going against Enoch, Jasher, and Jubilees.

The Old Gods and a Davidic Psalm

Most ancient religious traditions have a distinction between the "elder gods" (or "olden gods") and later gods. Here are the older gods:

"For who in the heaven can be compared unto YHWH? who among the sons of the mighty

¹⁶ One could count 72 nations, depending on the names.

can be likened unto YHWH?"

• Psalm 89:6, KJV

YHWH is an El. He is of the Elohim. He is THE God. He is the "El of Elohim." He is even termed as "THE El of Elohim" with the definite article. This usage occurs several times and He said to the Israelites, you must worship me alone. The biblical model in my understanding is not Trinitarianism; it is not Monotheism. It is henotheism.

Henotheism is the belief that there is one God, the Creator, but other gods exist. Only the one God should be worshipped by Israel. The pagan nations could worship whatever they wanted. I mean that seriously. There was no prohibition for Gentiles, non-Israelites, to worship gods other than YHWH. Only Israel was prohibited from worshipping other Gods. Israel could only worship YHWH. This is why you have the Shema in Deuteronomy 6:4, which refers to the one God. It is talking about the one YHWH.

Elohim is a plural term. It means Disposer or powerful one. "Most High God" applies to YHWH. This is why descriptors modifying words are very important. Scripture is very precise, except in Deuteronomy chapter 32:8, unfortunately. Psalm 89:6 asks about "**the sons of the mighty,**" who can be equal to YHWH? The "sons of the mighty" in Hebrew is "sons of Elyon." Elyon is another descriptor of YHWH.

"For who in the heaven can be compared unto YHWH? who among the Sons of God [Elyon] can be likened unto YHWH?"

• Psalm 89:6, Hebrew

Gods Can Die

Look at Psalm 82. It is eight verses long; we will cover only a few verses.

"God [*elohim*] stands in the assembly of El; in the midst of the gods [*elohim*] he renders judgment. **He says,** 'How long will you make unjust legal decisions and show favoritism to the wicked?'"

• Psalm 82:1-2, NET Bible

What does this mean "**in the midst of the *elohim***"? This second use of *elohim* is plural. El is holding what is called a Divine Council. These events occur several times in Scripture. The two heavenly scenes in Job chapters 1 and 2 are two examples. These assemblies of gods before El are very similar to Ugaritic descriptions of the gods holding meetings before their chief god "Il." (Ugarit is an ancient city in Anatolia where a large number of writings were discovered.) I believe one Ugaritic writing in particular is a corrupt quote of Psalm 82. The wording of the Ugaritic is strikingly similar when you see them side by side.

So, "**God stands in the assembly of El, in the midst of the *elohim*.**" I know people who say that every time the Hebrew term *Elohim* is used, it always means the creator God. That is obviously not true and easily demonstrated. He says, "**How long will you [you *Elohim*] make unjust legal decisions and show favoritism to the wicked?**" These *elohim* were being judged and sentenced, but the punishment came later.

Psalm 82 is the judgment portion of what is called a *rīb*, which is a courtroom scene and there were certain steps in the courtroom procedure. This is the punishment phase of the courtroom procedure.¹⁷ This is acknowledged by scholars who recognize ancient law court proceedings.

Now we come to Psalm 82:6-8. It says in the Net Bible:

"I thought, 'You are gods [*elohim*]; all of you are sons of the Most High [*Elyon*, Most High God].' Yet you will die like men [*adam*]; you will fall like all the other rulers. Rise up, O God,

¹⁷ See my article "[Elohim and the Son of God - Part 1.](#)"

and execute judgment on the earth! For you own all the nations.”

• Psalm 82:6–8 NET Bible

The rulers of Israel, the priests and Levites and the king all lived in a blood-cult society. The Levitical priests had to go into the Temple and they were killing sacrificial animals every day. During the feast days hundreds of animals were killed. They knew what death was like. You never find in the Hebrew Scriptures that these people ever thought that they were divine or that they were *elohim*. To say to a human being, “Oh, you will die like a man” makes no sense.

But if you are talking about the *elohim* and “the Sons of Elyon” in verses 1 and 6 respectively, the Sons of Elohim in Deuteronomy 32:8 and in Genesis chapter 6, who were the gods of the nations, dispensing legal decisions and showing favoritism to the wicked — all of this ties together.

Psalm 82 is a Psalm of David. This judgment was given in this Psalm during the days of David. The sentence of judgment was not fulfilled, I believe, until the time of Jeremiah, some 400 years later. There are passages, which I am still researching, where within a few words of each other idols are said to be captured along with “the *elohim*.” Are these verses talking about these entities, these “gods,” actually being captured when they are in some physical state? Well, when they are in the physical, they can be killed. We are told this is possible in Psalm 82:7 where these *elohim* are told they will “die like men.”¹⁸ Men are physical.

Jesus Christ was originally an *elohim* who, by being born of Mary, He became flesh — and He died. Think of this possibility. Elohim can die. Angels can die. The Christian historian Eusebius cites a source who tells about “the Great God Plan” dying during the reign of the Roman Emperor Tiberius. When that occurred, there was a great wailing among the spirits, even in Rome when the announcement was made there. Very strange. You can say, well, that is some fantasy story. But you have the text of Psalm 82.

More on Dying Gods

Below is a passage from an article by Jonathan Smith, “Dying and Rising Gods” from the *Encyclopedia of Religion*, edited by Mircea Eliade (New York: MacMillan Publishing Co., 1987), pp. 521–527. This is a wonderful encyclopedia, but it is not Christian. Smith says:

“Despite the shock this fact may deal to modern Western religious sensibilities, it is a commonplace within the history of religions that immortality is not a prime characteristic of divinity: GODS DIE. Nor is the concomitant of omnipresence a widespread requisite: GODS DISAPPEAR.”

• Smith, “Dying and Rising Gods?” (underlines and caps are mine)

There is a whole fantasy by many writers about dying and rising gods in ancient writings who supposedly are just like Christ. Well, there is a qualitative difference between Christ and the pagan gods, about the gods disappearing. Smith continues:

“Some of these divine figures simply disappear; some disappear only to return again in the near or distant future; some disappear and reappear with monotonous frequency.”

• Smith, “Dying and Rising Gods?”

Later on the Nephilim (which pagan traditions considered to be demi-gods) were thought to be placed in the celestials and they became gods. But during the time of Alexander the Great there is a historical record that

¹⁸ We know angels, who are spirits, can manifest themselves physically and eat like men (Genesis 18:2–10 and 19:1–3). These are probably the incidents the apostle Paul referred to when he said, “some have entertained angels unawares” (Hebrews 13:2). While angels are *elohim*, they are not Sons of God (Elohim) or Sons of Elyon. Nor is Christ an angel (Hebrews 1:5).

he went to one of the major mystery temples in Egypt. Alexander the Great wrote a letter to his mother in Greece. He said the priests told him that all the gods were men.¹⁹ The priests and Alexander were incorrect to an extent, but he was correct about the demi-gods. They were all men, just as Joshua 14:15 tells us the Anakim were all men (of *adam*), and Numbers 13:33 identifies the “**sons of Anak**” with the Nephilim.

Regarding all the deities who have been identified as belonging to the class of dying and rising gods, Smith tells us:

“... some disappear and reappear with monotonous frequency. All the deities that have been identified as belonging to the class of dying and rising deities can be subsumed under the two larger classes [1] of disappearing deities or [2] dying deities.”

• Smith, “Dying and Rising Gods?”

The god Chronos in Greek mythology (Saturn in the Roman pantheon), was killed by Zeus. This is explained in Smith’s article. To summarize what has been presented so far:

- The lesser gods can die:
- Elohim can and do die
- ONLY YHWH and Christ are immortal. Christ has been immortal only since His resurrection.²⁰ If there are exceptions, they are unclear in Scripture.
- Angels are *elohim*. According to the Bible they shall die if they sin.²¹

I have my differences with other researchers. First of all, the Nephilim **ARE HUMAN**. They are of *adam* (Joshua 14:15). Second, the Nephilim will be “saved” (like all mankind), but none will be in the first resurrection. It says this explicitly in Isaiah 26:14 that none of the Rephaim shall rise. There may be a distinction between the Rephaim and Nephilim. The Rephaim may refer to evil spirits that “inhabited” the Nephilim, the Anakim, the Emim, and the Zamzummims, so they were easily possessed and were allowed to be possessed by their fathers the Sons of God. Traditional Jewish scholarship and some Christian scholars believe that the evil spirits were the spirits of the Nephilim when they died. I do not believe that. I believe that the Nephilim (whatever name they have) were human, but they were possessed by the Repha spirits who then prompted them to do even greater evil.

Some believe it possible that hybrids are being produced today “**as in the days of Noah**” (Matthew 24:37 and Luke 17:26), and that hybrids (Nephilim) could pass among us unrecognized. Never underestimate the depravity and extent of evil. However, there is no evidence of this outside of Jesus’ statement in Matthew and Luke, and that is highly debatable.

Differing Worldviews

I want to present three charts on differing worldviews. First, there is the Christian worldview which includes Catholic, Orthodox, Protestant, and Evangelical denominations and groups. There is the Trinity, then there are spirit beings, and there are human beings. This is pretty much their understanding. All beings within this system are immortal, everybody, even human beings have an “immortal soul.”

¹⁹ See Dr. Martin’s article “[Origin and Goal of Western Civilization, Part 2.](#)”

²⁰ Christ, the Son of God, was created. He did not exist “in eternity past” as some traditional Christians beliefs have supposed. The other Sons of God were created. The angels were created. The spirits were created. The cherubim were created. The seraphim were created, and the elementals were created. You are created through birth, through Adam.

²¹ However, regarding immortality of angels, if there are exceptions and some of them are immortal, I need that pointed out to me in Scripture. The word “eternal” does not occur in either the Hebrew or the Greek, but it occurs unfortunately in the King James Version. That can easily be demonstrated.

The Jewish worldview is similar. There is YHWH and then there are human beings. As for the Sons of God, they do not know who they are. Some believe they are humans, others believe they are angelic beings. Then there are immortal beings such as angels, spirits, Satan.

Few people know that there is a Talmudic understanding by several rabbis that there was a subordinate creator in the Old Testament. There is an excellent book by Alan Segal, titled *Two Powers in Heaven: Early Rabbinic Reports about Christianity and Gnosticism* (Baylor University Press, reprint 2012). It was originally published in 1977 and it is a classic book about rabbinic reports about Christianity and Gnosticism. From rabbinic writings Segal shows that the rabbis know there was a subordinate creator, like a prime contractor on a construction site, through which everything was created.

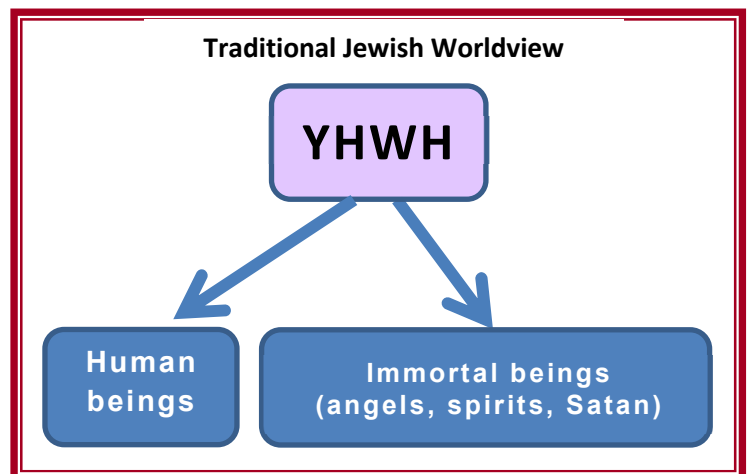
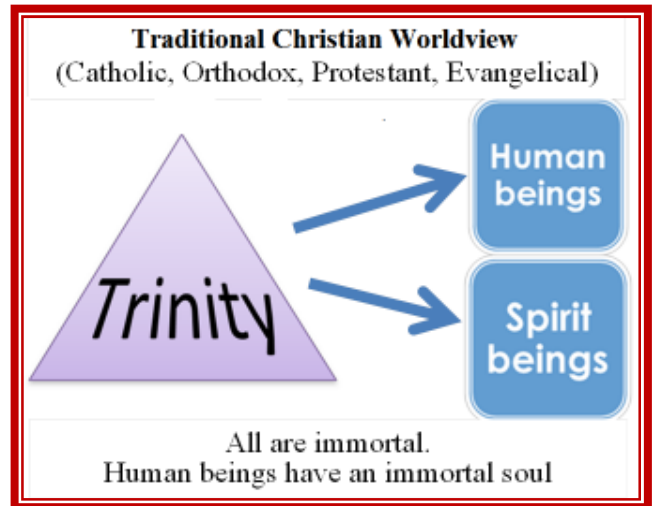
This is exactly what you have in the Gospel of John, chapter 1. This is exactly what you have elsewhere in Scripture. This is why plural verbs are used in Genesis chapter 1 with Elohim in creation. Elohim is used almost exclusively with singular verbs, but you can do the same with English words such as army, navy, family, company. You can use plural verbs or singular verbs with these nouns and you will be grammatically correct. In England plural or singular verbs are used with compound nouns more often than in America. Elohim, even when used with a singular verb, can refer to a group. We saw that in Psalm 82 even though a singular unit, "sons of Elyon" is being discussed.

My understanding of the biblical worldview is this: There was YHWH. He created Christ. The two collaborated and through Christ were created spirit beings. The Sons of God are spirit beings, but they are a different class of beings from angels who were created later. Then human beings were created. That is my take on it.²²

YHWH is the only true creator and everyone and everything else is a creation of His. There is only one God (1 Corinthians 8:6). Right now, just YHWH and Christ (by virtue of His spiritual resurrection) have immortality. The rest are mortal.

Relationships

So, what is the relationship of Nephilim to UFOs and other non-physical entities? One of my favorite authors on this subject was John Keel. He wrote a fascinating book called *Our Haunted Planet*. It was first published in 1971. It is available online as a PDF file. Keel says:



²² This is why YHWH asked in Job 38:4, 7 about the time the earth was created:

"Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if you have understanding. ... When the morning stars [angels] sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?"

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“The mating of ordinary women with supernatural beings is an integral part of all religious lore. It is emphasized in the Bible.”

- John Keel (1930–1999), [Our Haunted Planet](#), 1971.²³

Going on in Keel’s book in a chapter titled “The Demise of the Gods”:

“The startling truth, as carefully recorded by the ancient historians, is that the **ULTRATERRESTRIALS** have always been in direct contact with millions of individuals and that **THEY ACTUALLY RULED DIRECTLY OVER MANKIND FOR MANY YEARS**.²⁴ In recent centuries their influence has become more subtle, but it is always there.”

- Keel, *Haunted Planet*, Chapter 12, “The Demise of the Gods”

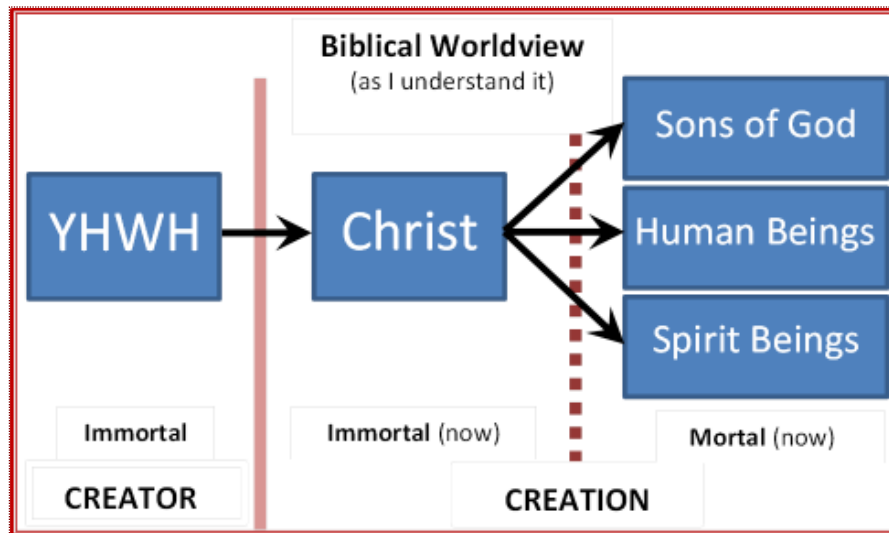
This may be the basis for most conspiracy theories, if these entities have been influencing, ruling, or been closely involved with mankind, or whole nations in post-flood history, mostly through their rulers.

The purpose of man’s religion is to contact God on man’s terms. Do you really think the pagan religions performed their rituals and sacrifices without getting a response from the gods? If “yes” is your answer, then you think ancient people were stupid or deluded. They were neither.

There is a very interesting book by Plutarch,²⁵ a priest of Delphi in Greece, titled *On the Cessation of the Oracles*. He wrote this book after the time of Christ, during the later apostolic period. He noted that the major pagan oracles slowly stopped responding to petitioners. His book attempted to explain why this was happening. Apparently, all the pagan religions had this difficulty. Something was going on, but Plutarch had no real idea what caused the cessation of the oracles.

Later, these same entities became “saints” of the Catholic and Orthodox churches. Keel says:

“The record shows that the ultraterrestrials have a need for physical human beings. Once they were quite open in demanding specimens to serve that need.²⁶ ... They once exploited the human race in the guise of benevolent gods living on hilltops; they now



²³ Keel is a very incisive writer, but I do not endorse everything he writes. Another interesting book by Jacques Vallee, *Messengers of Deception: UFO Contacts and Cults* (Daily Grail Publishing, 2008) analyzes the messages which so-called “aliens” supposedly tell people. These spirit entities are not our friends. See also Vallee’s *Passport to Magonia: on UFOs, Folklores, and Parallel Worlds* which points out similarities of contacts with spirits with supposed UFO alien contacts.

²⁴ This is exactly what Deuteronomy 32:8 and Psalm 82 say, but Keel does not draw his conclusions only from biblical texts.

²⁵ Plutarch, 46–120 AD, was a Greek historian, biographer, and essayist best known for his work *Plutarch’s Lives*.

²⁶ Whether this was physical sacrifice or abduction, or having what is called a “wedding of the gods” in which women within a pagan temple would go and have sex with the “god.” They would be impregnated. In other instances, priestesses would prostitute themselves to men in the temples.

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exploit us through the modern myth of extraterrestrial visitors from distant stars.”

• ***Our Haunted Planet, Chapter 15, “Where Is Everybody Going”***

I have a friend whose mother is 90+ years old. She grew up in what is now the Czech Republic. She told me when she was a girl, every year during a certain saint’s day, in the middle of the night, a supposed female saint visited her town. The “saint” would come down a hillside and move through the town as a bright light. Nothing was guiding the light, no form would appear, just the light would pass through, and then disappear. This is similar to the type of event that Keel describes. Similar things are described during ancient pagan rituals. The gods responded to their worshippers, so did evil spirits. They do so today.

If you do a satanic rite or magic, to be effective you must cooperate with spirits to get results. This is why there is a strong biblical prohibition against such practices. The UFO story is similar. In another book by John Keel, *Operation Trojan Horse*, the UFOs present themselves as something they are not.

“The real UFO story must encompass ALL of the many manifestations being observed. It is a story of ghosts and phantoms and strange mental aberrations; of an invisible world that surrounds us and occasionally engulfs us; of prophets and prophecies, and gods and demons.”

• ***Operation Trojan Horse, John Keel, 1970***²⁷

I agree: All phenomena must fit the worldview that you believe in. Not some of it, all of it. The spirit beings have nothing on you. In fact, they fear you because of what you will become when you enter the Kingdom of God. You shall judge angels (good and bad, 1 Corinthians 6:3). They especially fear you if you have proper knowledge of them. They seem to be superior beings because they are invisible and they can come through walls and appear. Big deal.

The earth is here for a reason. You are here for a reason. One of those reasons is because this is where everything important is happening. Revelation chapter 21 says there will be a new heaven and a new earth and God the Father (YHWH) will come to live here. Once the whole plan of God is done, you will see Christ face to face as an individual, and you will see God the Father as an individual.

Keel is saying there is something going on here, and he does not believe what I believe. Jacque Vallee wrote a wonderful book called *The Messengers of Deception* about UFOs. The title speaks for itself, and that is what the book is about, the UFO phenomena is a deliberate deception. Vallee wrote an earlier book titled *Passport to Magonia: on UFOs, Folklore and Parallel Worlds*. It tells about mass sightings in history, from ancient times up to the 1800s, of things in the sky and strange events going on, like the “saint” coming through the village, except these were things written and reported by multiple witnesses. We live in a very busy universe. God’s creation is very complex.

Some Conclusions about the Sons of God

First, the Sons of God are **NOT** angels:

“For unto which of the angels said he at any time, ‘You are my Son, this day have I begotten you? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son?’”

• ***Hebrews 1:5***

Paul asks two rhetorical questions (using Psalm 2:7 and 2 Samuel 7:14 as sources), both requiring the same answer, that angels are never called sons.

²⁷ This book can be downloaded for free as a PDF or as an e-book.

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Next, the Sons of God are **NOT** human (Job 38:7). The Nephilim are human, but not the Sons of God. The Sons of God can certainly breed. The Sons of God are a class of beings distinct from other spirit entities. The Sons of God are the fathers of the Nephilim, who are their offspring. Finally, the Sons of God can **“die like men”** (Psalm 82:6–7), even though they are spirit beings. The Sons of God have an ability to become physical. They can do it easier than angels and other spirits. They have more power.

We have in Genesis, in the time of Abraham, that YHWH, who was probably the Angel of YHWH, which is another subject, he came with two angels. They subsequently went to Sodom and Gomorrah to destroy those cities. The people of Sodom and Gomorrah wanted to have sex with those entities. They knew they were angels. They knew they could have sex with spiritual beings, albeit homosexual sex. How did they know that? It is not explained in the text, but the time of Abraham comes after the time **“and after that”** (Genesis 6:4). Jesus tells us:

“But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, MARRYING AND GIVING IN MARRIAGE, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.”

• **Matthew 24:37–39 (also Luke 17:26–27, 30)**

This passage shows us several things. First, life will have regularity before Jesus returns. Second, in Genesis, the only reference to marriage before the flood resulted in hybrid offspring, the Nephilim. Will the Sons of God breed again with the daughters of men? Some believe this has been going on for decades. I tend to agree, but the offspring are no longer giants — and the Anakim are of *adam* as Joshua 14:15 tells us.

Points to Consider

The account of Genesis chapter 6 states the “Sons of God” successfully bred with the “daughters of *adam*.” This was because humans were created **“a little lower than Elohim”** (Psalm 8:5). Who are the Nephilim? They are human like you and me, however strange they may be. All human beings (children of *adam*) are destined to have dominion over all creation, to become **“children of God”** (Psalm 8:6). All intelligent beings will be reconciled to God (Colossians 1:20, Ephesians 1:10; Philippians 2:10–11; 1 Corinthians 15:22–28). **“I will remember the works of YHWH: surely I will remember your wonders of old”** (Psalm 77:11).

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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

Holy Day Articles

Bullocks and the Feast of Tabernacles

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

In Numbers 29:12-39 we find that for the seven days of the Feast of Tabernacles there is a daily sacrifice of bulls (the KJV calls them bullocks). Thirteen bullocks are offered on the first day (which is a high sabbath), twelve bullocks on the second day and so on, decreasing daily in number until seven bullocks on the seventh day for a total of seventy. On the eighth day, called the Last Great Day (a high sabbath), only one bullock is offered.

God's plan for mankind is symbolized by the Holy Days. The Feast of Tabernacles represents the thousand-year reign of Christ and the saints on the earth. What do these bullocks symbolize?

Jewish tradition

The seventy bullocks of Tabernacles did not go unnoticed by some Jewish rabbis who had opined that they represent the seventy nations or peoples of Genesis 10 (also known as the table of nations). Under Jewish thinking, Jews will someday rule the world (the gentiles) under the Messiah. Daniel 7:18, 22 shows, however, that the saints - the church (where race does not matter) - shall rule the world under the Messiah.

The bullocks

We know that the Bible almost always interprets its own symbols. Where can we find the symbolism of the thirteen bullocks (bulls or oxes) offered on the Feast of Tabernacles first day? Jeremiah 31:18 shows the half tribe of Ephraim represented as a bullock. In Numbers 7 we find each of the thirteen tribes represented by a bullock (bull or ox) for a burnt offering.

And it came to pass on the day that Moses had made an end of setting up the tabernacle . . . that the princes of Israel, the heads of their fathers' houses, offered. These were the princes of the tribes, these are they that were over them that were numbered: and they brought their oblation before Jehovah, six covered wagons, and twelve oxen; a wagon for every two of the princes, and for each one an ox . . . (Numbers 7:1 - 3, NKJV).

Thirteen bullocks for the thirteen tribes. Levi was special and one bullock was for a burnt offering (Numbers 8:12) like the other tribes. A second bullock was for a sin offering for Levi's cleansing before the tabernacle service. The tribe of Joseph is represented by the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh. This was for the initial setting up of the tabernacle (Numbers 7:1).

The first day of Tabernacles is a Sabbath that pictures Christ and those "born of God" beginning their millennial rule. The day symbolizes the beginning of the kingdom on earth when Christ establishes Jerusalem as his capital and has the saints rule with him. It portrays the beginning of a much needed rest for the earth. But who are the initial nations that are subjects of the kingdom?

The second day

The second day of the Feast of Tabernacles has twelve bullocks offered on it. We have seen that a bullock represents a large tribe or nation. Zechariah 14:18 implies that Egypt as a whole will not immediately want to keep a "Jewish" Feast of Tabernacles.

Egypt today is at least 90% Muslim (CIA Factbook). Muslims (Islam) trace their history back to Abraham through his son Ishmael. Born of Abraham and Sarah's handmaid Hagar, Ishmael had twelve prophesied sons (1Chronicles 1:29-31). The twelve bullocks represent the twelve tribes of Ishmael that will exist during the Millennium.

The third day

During the third day of the feast 11 bullocks were offered. They symbolize, in part, the six sons of Abraham he produced through Keturah after the death of his beloved Sarah (1Chronicles 1:32-33). Esau, a grandson of Abraham, produced five sons (1Chronicles 1:34 - 35). Together, the bullocks on the feast's third day represent additional descendants of Abraham existing during Jesus' millennial reign on earth.

Day four to seven

In days four to seven of the Feast of Tabernacles the number of bullocks goes from 10 to 9 to 8 to 7 for a total of 34 (Numbers 29:23-32). They represent the remaining nations that will exist when Christ brings God's Kingdom to the earth.

The greatest day!

The Last Great Day, a separate Feast Day in its own right, is sometimes referred to as the eighth day of the Feast of Tabernacles. On this day only one bullock is offered (Numbers 29:36).

This high Holy Day represents the period immediately after the millennium known as the Great White Throne Judgment (Revelation 20:11-13). It is a wonderful time when all the humans who lived, before the Second Coming, who never had a full chance to be saved, are resurrected. The bullock offered on this day symbolizes this large mass of people, this single "nation," living in the earth's millennial setting to build the character necessary to live forever.

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Thank You Everyone!

Questionable Article

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

Judaism in Jesus' Day

(Copyright 2022) by Rich Traver (Clifton, Colorado)

The Common Idea is that the Jewish Religion, in the time when Jesus walked the Earth and conducted His ministry, was generally Monocultural. That most if not all Jews believed, taught and practiced the same. Yet, in the New Testament it's evident that there were Significant Differences among the varying Jewish Persuasions!

A significant number of incidents involving Jesus as He interacted with the Jewish leadership – most of the time very negatively – leaves the impression that He spent much time in the Jerusalem area engaging with the religious leaders. In addition to that, there's a consensus that what He taught was derived from the practiced Jewish religion of the day with perhaps nuances of change. In other words, that Christianity was derived out from the Jewish religion of the time. That it had "Jewish Roots".

Ethic Versus Ethnicity

People use the term "Judaeo / Christian Ethic" as though there was a source-connection between the two: presenting the idea that one grew out of the former. Now, when it comes to the so-called "Judaeo / Christian Ethic", the term may be valid as to a common or similar ethic, but when it comes to teachings, and the belief system, that's another matter entirely.

The term "Jewish", usually refers to ethnicity and / or a belief system. This study will focus more on the belief system (the religion itself) more than the ethnic consideration.

The religious world tends to consider the Jewish religion as though it always was and is mono-cultural. In other words that all Jews believe and practice largely the same, with perhaps only minor variations, religious Jews at least. Yet, there exists abundant evidence that there were differing sects and schisms among the Jews, in some cases, they were very

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disdainful of one another!

To better understand the reactions to Jesus’ ministry in His day, we need to be aware of these differing persuasions. The reactions were not universally the same. Some persuasions were receptive, while others were extremely hostile. It was this hostility that was employed to facilitate the slaying of the Lamb of God for us all.

It isn’t all that well pointed out today that different areas of the Holy Land were of differing cultures and exhibited differing responses to new teachings. Even the distinct individual sects had schisms within them, but we’ll come to that.

Three Distinct Regions

Those different areas were Judaea, Samaria and Galilee. Each of these is represented in the Gospel narratives revealing the receptive differences.

Jerusalem was the location of the Temple and the religious headquarters for the nation, and set the tone for that persuasion, or at least they thought they did. Their religious culture dominated Judaea, but not the whole of the Levant. Their religious culture is what we tend to regard as Judaism.

Immediately north of Judaea was Samaria, and we know the extreme prejudice against the Samaritans on the part of the Jews (as though Samaritans weren’t themselves Jewish). In actual fact, the Samaritans were a remnant of the Northern Tribes of the divided Kingdom of Israel, dating back to the reign of Rehoboam, son of Solomon. Israel’s first king, Jereboam, set up a priesthood separate from that in Jerusalem, the religious capitol of the Southern Kingdom of Judah. This will be important later when we discuss the religion of Samaria. The region derived its name from Samaria, the capital of the Northern Israelite Tribes.

North of Samaria was Galilee. Now, Galilee was distinct from Judaea in both culture and approach to religion. Galilee centered around the Sea of Galilee where Jesus chose to reside. We can see from the responses to Jesus’ teachings that they exhibited a very different attitude than the hardline Jews of Judaea. Had Jesus done in Judaea what He seemed free to do in Galilee, He would have been exposed to threats of being killed much sooner than He was!



Regions within the nation with distinct religious cultures

Independent Mindedness

Now, Galilee was relatively distinct from the severe religious culture that created the environment in Judaea. They were more cosmopolitan and more receptive of new teachings, even if they seemed to differ from orthodoxy as defined by the Levitical standards. Perhaps it was for this reason that Jesus chose it as His home. He saw no need or advantage in being near the Temple or those who dominated it. He had gone there since childhood and knew the environment there.

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In fact, when the occasion arose, He “tore up” the Temple scene, castigating its gaggle of irreverent moneychangers.

This map illustrates the regions being discussed. What religions were represented in the Transjordan regions or north in Phoenicia is not pertinent here, just the regions where Jesus taught.

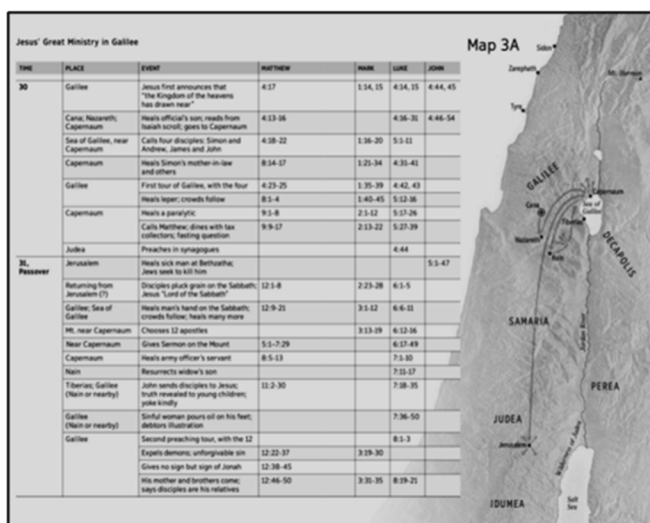
What’s particularly of interest is the religious culture of the other two regions: Samaria and Galilee.

The Galilean Contingent

Now, something else not emphasized is the fact that Jesus’ Disciples were chosen from among Galileans. It was this lack of polarity of Jewish extremism that would have been the risk had He opted for Judean disciples. Two important references point out this unrealized fact: (Acts 2:7 & 1:11) Their cultural orientation played a significant part in their being used of God. We can also see where Jesus was when He did the choosing. (e.g., Mt. 4:18)

Now, another important thing is that much of Jesus’ ministry was conducted in Galilee. The map presented here was compiled from references to His location found in the Gospels. It’s obvious that He spent a lot less time in Judaea than we might expect, because of the religious climate of that region as opposed to what it was in Galilee (or for that matter in Samaria).

As we can see from this map, Galilee was His main area of ministry. (This research was done by others.)



Traceable itineraries of Jesus from the New Testament

Samaria Was “SAFE”!

Regarding Samaria, we might note that Jesus found it to be more accepting of Him and His message than Judaea. It was in Samaria that He first openly admitted that He was the Messiah. (John 4:25-26). That wouldn’t have gone over well in Judaea. In fact, it was to escape hostility there that He was returning north to Galilee. (John 4:1-4).

A further testament to the religious attitudes was the narrative about the “good Samaritan” found in Luke 10. The man who fell among thieves was observed by three types: a priest, a Levite, and a Samaritan. Only the Samaritan was shown in a good light, with the prestigious religious men showing no compassion whatsoever. Obviously, the religious muck-a-mucks passing by were devoid of any concern for the unfortunate fellow.

The reception of the preaching of Philip in Acts 8:4-8 further illustrates the religious climate in Samaria.

The point of this is to show that the people of Samaria and Galilee were less hostile than in Judaea.

It might be relevant to point out the religion of Samaria. We aren’t told much about them or why there was such disdain for them especially by the Judean Jews, just, that there was. While the general perception is that they were irreligious or

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anti-Jewish, that isn't the case at all. Most of the viral invective came from the Jews toward them, not so much back the other way!

Divided Monarchy

The situation goes back to the time of Rehoboam, son of Solomon, when the Kingdom became divided in 922 BC. The Ten Tribes seceded from the southern tribes, establishing their own king and setting up their own religious administration. Their King Jeroboam hired his own priesthood and altered their religious calendar to discourage his citizenry from going to Jerusalem for Holy Days.

The northern tribes were subsequently taken captive by the Assyrians, most of whom were never repatriated.

We usually think of them as gone from the region, but in practical fact, it was the prominent and the intelligentsia that were taken captive. There were what we might consider 'ordinary folk' who were left to maintain the culture and religion with those Assyria was 'transplanting' into the conquered area.

But it was that remnant of the original population that became these Samaritans. Among them was the religious sect: an Ephraimite contingent, who remain a distinct sect to the present day. Ephraim was the leading tribe of the northern kingdom. These perpetuated the religion of Samaria (named for their capitol) centered around Gerizim, maintaining their own Torah and ancient priestly line.

A Fading Religion?

A remnant of these was identified in the early 20th Century, and written about in the National Geographic magazine of January 1920.²⁸ They, at that time, had been known and observed for the previous 300-years. They claimed to have maintained the Old Testament traditions since the days of Eli (a contemporary of Samuel) never having left the land and never having been contaminated by their captors belief systems as were the Jews while being held captives in Babylon,²⁹ and as had occurred with others of their persuasion who had scattered abroad.

The point of their claim is that they were as fully “Jewish” religiously as any peoples in the region, while being less contaminated by foreign concepts than were their counterparts to the south. We aren't all aware of this! This is a fact of history, while the New Testament only alludes to their persuasion.

Irreconcilable Differences

Another interesting observation regarding a disdain between Jew and Samaritan is contained in another statement found in the National Geographic article.³⁰ It was a situation that had some 900 years of longevity by the time of Christ, remaining unresolved for all that time.

It might be of interest to note that the Samaritans, as related in that National Geographic article, observed their Passover more in keeping with Sadduceean Tradition than Phariseean, keeping it in the early hours beginning the fourteenth day of the first month as did Jesus and His disciples! Does this establish a basis for a more amenable regard for the Samaritans on the part of Jesus, and they for Him?

Jesus Was No Pharisee!

Jesus was not of Phariseean persuasion. His family was not. His great uncle and His mother's brother were of Sadduceean persuasion. Joseph of Arimathea was a member of the Sanhedrin and Zacharias, His uncle, was a Priest, of the course of Abijah, officiating at the Temple. (Luke 1:5)

²⁸ A copy of this NatGeo article is available in my “*Passover Observance and the Exodus Experience*” booklet.

²⁹ A statement from the 12/1920 National Geographic article: “*While the Jews have scattered all over the world since the captivities and have absorbed much that is foreign, in many instances adapting their religious practices to their new environment, the Samaritans have during the same lapse of time lived in the land of their forefathers, among Semitic peoples akin to the Hebrews, and because of this fact have handed down to the twentieth century a glimpse of the old (Israelite) Church almost in its purity.*”

³⁰ “*In view of the similarity in their beliefs and practices, it seems strange that there exists and has always existed the fiercest animosity between Jew and Samaritan, but it is the animosity that invariably exists between an original and a schism.*” (A schism being a separate religious entity.)

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So, it wasn't just political power that put Sadducee and Pharisee at odds with one another. They had their doctrinal differences as Acts 23:6-8 explains.

As this article explains, Judaism of the first century was anything but unified in belief and practice. Sadducees, Pharisees, Essenes, Samaritans and “independent” types such as we find in Acts 6:9 were commonplace. The New King James renders verse 9 this way: *“Then there arose some from what is called the Synagogue of the Freedmen (Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and those from Cilicia and Asia), disputing with Stephen.”* So, there are other lesser sects even then having their own views.

The Authenticity Factor

So, to address the underlying question, what Jewish sect do we identify as being the truest representation of the Old Testament religion? This question becomes particularly relevant when those of our peripheral fellowship decide to embrace Jewish customs and practices. Which practices can we say are effective to the intended purpose and which are rather benign?

Now, we know that just within the regional heart-land of the nation, there were differing degrees of fidelity to the religion.³¹ There were also serious differences between the major players just within the Judaic contingent: Sadducees and Pharisees: The matters of any resurrection or the existence of spirits or angels, to name a few. (Acts 23:6-8)

And it's well-known that Judaism of the first century was influenced by Hellenism, Mysticism and elements of Gnosticism. Its purity had been compromised long before the time of Christ.

Paul even warned that there were many fables in that religious culture, even that early. It became seriously worse from then on. No reformation effort excised all the incidental added laws and tales that accumulated over the next several centuries, being compiled into major tomes of the religion.

Compiling the Talmud

While the compilation of what's regarded as the effective Jewish “bible” known as the Talmud is reported to have been created over three centuries, between 200 and 500 AD, it's reasonable to say that a certain amount of what it contains had prior origins. The fables of Paul's day were to him a matter of concern for the Saints. (and he should know of them, having been a Pharisee's Pharisee), He warned against them in places like Titus 1:14; 1st Timothy 1:4 & 2nd Timothy 4:4.

What could sum up Paul's regard for his former affiliation better than what he wrote precautioning Titus? [10] *“For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision:*

[11] *Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake.*

[14] *Not giving heed to Jewish **fables**, and **commandments of men**, that turn from the truth...*”

Is there a better assessment of that belief system? He continues to Titus:

[15] *“Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is **nothing pure**; but even their mind and conscience is defiled.*

[16] *They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every*

³¹ There were TWO persuasions in that day (and there still are!) There was the **Aristocratic** persuasion and **Hasidic** persuasion [Sadducees / Pharisees]. Sadducees were more oriented to the Aristocratic persuasion (conservative) (keeping the early 14th Passover) The Hasidic persuasion was the more commonly practiced observance (aka the late 14th Passover) (Pharisees)

The Sanhedrin and priesthood was predominantly Sadduceean. [Acts 5:17] There is no evidence that He (and they) ever ascribed to the Hasidic practices on Passover OR Pentecost. Jesus' Passover observance bears evidence of His persuasion. The most primitive Christian assemblies followed the **Aristocratic** system for both the Passover (1st Cor.11:23) and Unleavened Bread and for the *Feast of Pentecost*. (Ac.2:1)

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good work reprobate." (Tit. 1:10-16) Strong words, but a fair assessment of that persuasion even as we encounter it in our day! Their belief system was not pure! (And the situation isn't limited to just that persuasion Paul was referring to.)

Appropriate Regard

So, we have many sects and schisms within Judaism, well documented as existing in the first century, and no less so in the modern era. With that awareness, what regard should we have toward people's choices today to embrace certain characteristics and expressions of Jewishness as a perceived enhancement of their worship of God? Many times it involves just certain selected aspects of the religion, not the full requirements of its discipline.

Is there an example of the early New Testament Church having done anything along this line? No Christian should in any way feel inferior to those who choose to emulate and exhibit such expressions. 📖

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Letters

Letter from Curtis Dahlgren (April 15, 2023)

Thanks for publishing. We learned at our own pace. Not held back by slow learners. Thanks for the prayers for Dawn.

Prayer Requests

Prayer Request for Dawn Baney (April 15, 2023)

Please pray for Dawn Baney and her family. Her and her husband and 2 cats are homeless and living in their van. They are looking for an apartment in Rockford Illinois.

Iron Sharpening Iron

(Agree or Disagree with Something Printed)
New American Standard Bible (Proverbs 27:17)
As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.

In regard to: Truth is Truth

Article by Ray Daly
Comments by John Leitch (Canada)

It would appear to me that Mr. Daly in his article "Truth is Truth" does not understand the reason for gathering on the Sabbath (or even at other times) for people that have been called-out of today's world. Mr. Daly writes

The question is, what is "false" about the above truth? Well, it is not in the sabbath itself being observed, but what Scripture shows is false, is the fact that almost all ordained ministers over those churches, teach that there is a command that believers must "assemble" on the Sabbath as well as observe it.

If a person reads about all the gifts poured out on the called-out people (Ephesians chapter four) they will see these gifts are for the whole body of Christ and not just for the person receiving such a gift.

The question arises, if a person refuses to assemble with other believers, how is it possible for an absent person to partake of these gifts that are meant for them, if they do not assemble? On a sadder note, if a part of the body of Christ feels that they have nothing to contribute and they are useless, and this causes them to stay away.

I would like to encourage Mr. Daly to think more positively and gather with other believers at every opportunity.

(farmer logic)

In regard to: Biblical Teaching of Sabbath Keeping

Article by Richard Douglas Mauck and Sandra Faye Mauck (Pulaski County, Kentucky)
Comments by Laura Lee (Bismarck, North Dakota)

Richard & Sandra's Article: **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.**"

Laura Lee writes:

All Romans 2:14 is saying is that those without God's law, the gentiles, sometimes keep the law of God because the law of God many times is just plain common sense, so they keep it without knowing it is part of the law of God..

Rom 3:1 What advantage then hath the Jew? or what profit *is there* of circumcision?

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

Romans 3:1-2 is talking about the oracles (bible and calendar) of God being given to the tribe of Judah. The Hebrews were all of the tribes.

The law of God was from the beginning of creation and is still in effect for all people today.

Richard & Sandra's Article:

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**

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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.

Laura Lee writes:

There is only one law, and that law was given for all men. There is not one law for the Hebrews and another law for the gentiles. The same law applies to all people. And the law of God was from the time of Adam and Eve until now and in the future. The law has not changed no matter how much you believe it has. Scripture says if you love God, you will keep his law and you so obviously believe you do not have to keep the law because what, because God kept it for you. Think about that, can anyone keep any law for you spiritually or manually?

Richard & Sandra's Article:

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.

Laura Lee writes:

Do you even listen to yourself speak. The calendar you made up is not in the Bible. When God said he made the Seventh Day of creation Holy to Him, he said that because it is the Sabbath and the seventh day is not the eighth day as you keep saying. You are the one putting God into a box and insisting that He meant eighth day when He really said seventh day. In your box God is stupid to you because He doesn't seem to know the difference between the seventh day and the eighth day according to you. Trust me, God is way smarter than all of us and He has a punishment for unrepentant law breakers.

Mostly what you are doing here is playing word games with us. To you a perfect week is one that starts on a Sunday and ends on a Saturday. In reality a perfect week is a week of seven days whether you start your count from a Sunday or a Wednesday. A perfect week is also a complete week of seven days, again no matter which day you start your count from. And there was no day before the first day of creation week because the reality is that there was no moon until the fourth day so there is no "new moon" or "new moon day" before the first day of creation.

Richard & Sandra's Article:

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

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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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Laura Lee writes:

Torah =

(in Judaism) the law of God as revealed to Moses and recorded in the first five books of the Hebrew scriptures (the Pentateuch).

The Torah is the Bible (the first five books). If it was only given to the Hebrews, then why do you have a copy of it?

The Bible (which includes the Torah) was given to all people as an instruction book on how to live. If you did not have a Bible, you would not know the law and therefore would not know what sin is so you could stop sinning.

Even those who are granted God's Holy Spirit (and not all people have it) still have to study their bibles in order to know what God wants of them. You can send me as many scriptures as you want in regard to how you believe the Sabbath should not be kept anymore but there are two elements you are missing and that is understanding in regard to how to put scripture together and wisdom. You keep telling me that only the Hebrews kept the Sabbath, but the apostles were keeping it long after Christ died and teaching it to the gentiles. So, keep on explaining scripture away that you don't want to keep, those of us who keep the weekly sabbath know what scripture says and we don't buy any of your excuses not to keep it.

Your double talk throughout is laughable if it weren't for the fact that some people will actually fall for all the lies you are telling here. If there was no law for all men and women from the beginning then Adam and Eve could not have sinned, because sin is the transgression of the law.

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Richard & Sandra's Article:
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?

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!

Laura Lee writes:

All men are required to keep the law of God, it doesn't matter what you call yourself or what you want to identify with. There is only one law for all people.

Richard & Sandra's Article:

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!

Laura Lee writes:

You are again splitting words to come up with false doctrines. The children of promise are the ecclesia, the called out ones, the Israelites. The Israelites are God's people anyone else has to be grafted in.

Where does it say that Christians are descended from Isaac? I don't see that there anymore than you see the Sabbath in Genesis 2:2-3.

Read Romans 11 to learn of the grafting in. God's people are the Israelites so if you believe you are not an Israelite so therefore do not have to keep the law of God then you are a Gentile and have to be grafted into the Israelites in order to be saved. Even if you believe you are a Christian and you are teaching against the law of God you are a gentile. In the end you want to be an Israelite because those are clearly God's people throughout the bible. Where in scripture do you ever see God calling Christians his people. The Israelites of God are all Saturday Sabbath Keepers.

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Richard & Sandra's Article:

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.**"

Laura Lee writes:

Read your own scripture: 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.**" Christ didn't destroy the law it says so right here. The only thing that was nailed to the cross was Christ and the Death Penalty.

The whole point of Christ dying was to destroy death. He didn't keep the sabbath or the law for you. You have to do that yourself. If I were you, I would pray for wisdom and understanding so you get what you read. And you should also pray to be grafted into the body of Christ because trust me, when you teach against God's laws you are not doing anything that God wants from you. You are just putting a curse on yourself.

It sounds like many people have tried to show you in scripture what God wants from you but you just are not hearing any of it because you believe what you believe and God and no one else can tell you anything.

Jesus stated unequivocally in His sermon: "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill," (Matthew 5:17). The Greek word *pleroo*, here translated "fulfill," means "to make full," "to fill to the full," "to make complete in every particular," "to render perfect" or "to carry through to the end" (*Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*, 2005, Strong's number 4137).

Far from destroying or abolishing the law, as some interpret this verse, Jesus said He came to fill the law to the full—to complete and perfect it. This He did by showing the deeper *spiritual intent and application* of the law.

[Did Jesus Do Away With the Law? | United Church of God \(ucg.org\)](https://www.ucg.org/Did-Jesus-Do-Away-With-the-Law?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=Did-Jesus-Do-Away-With-the-Law)

Richard & Sandra's Article:

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.**"

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Laura Lee writes:

You are not justified by the law. You cannot save yourself by keeping the law, you are saved by grace, but that does not mean that you do not keep the law. If you do not keep the law of God you will not be allowed into the Kingdom of God. When you refuse to keep the law of God you are yet in your sin and in that case you will eventually be destroyed forever.

Richard & Sandra's Article:

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.

Laura Lee writes:

You deceive yourself; these things are part of the law. What was being specifically talked about is not requiring new converts to be circumcised. What God wants more is circumcision of the heart rather than physical circumcision. And all of the apostles and Christ himself all kept a Saturday Sabbath.

Richard & Sandra's Article:

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 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!**

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Laura Lee writes:

I hope this helps you understand what Galatians is saying.

Paul indeed speaks of "the curse of the law" (Galatians 3:13), meaning a curse *decreed by* the law. But he does not refer to *the law itself* as a curse.

What Paul actually says is this: "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, 'Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree'" (Galatians 3:13, NRSV).

A few verses earlier he writes: "For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, 'Cursed is everyone who does not observe and obey *all the things* written in the book of the law'" (Galatians 3:10, NRSV).

First, notice that the curse applies to "everyone who does *not* observe and obey all the things written in the book of the law"! No curse is pronounced on those who *obey* "all the things" the law requires.

From: [The 'Curse of the Law' | United Church of God \(ucg.org\)](https://www.ucg.org)

Richard & Sandra's Article:

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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Laura Lee writes:

The law will not save you but neither will grace save you by itself. Christ died to take away the death penalty for sin. The penalty for sin is death. You keep the law of God because you love God. Grace also will not save you unless you keep the law of God. Christ did not die for us so we can continue to sin.

Richard & Sandra's Article:

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.

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.

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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.

Laura Lee writes:

I feel sorry for the both of you. I sincerely hope you get something out of my comments, but I am not expecting that you will because you are filled with so much hatred for the law of God and those who keep it. I have actually not printed this to promote you but so the elect of God can see what it is we are up against and why God got so angry at law breakers such as yourselves. I sincerely hope that you both pray for God to show you His way and not your own way.

The difference between the Old Testament and the New Testament is that they were unable to keep God's Law without His Holy Spirit. Most of them did not have God's Holy Spirit. In the New Testament they were given God's Holy Spirit on Pentecost so they could keep God's Law. The Law was not done away, instead it was magnified. In the OT if you murdered someone it was against the law which is a sin. In the NT if you just think in your mind to murder or hate someone it is against the law which is a sin. See the difference? The weekly Sabbath is part of the law of God and it is a sin not to keep it. The new covenant law is spiritual because the Holy Spirit is what helps you to keep the law and the Holy Spirit is spirit.

So again, I feel sorry for you, it is one thing to not want to keep the sabbath but it is quite another to go out there and teach against it while all the time calling God a liar. You have been given a gift of "Free Will" to continue in this if you choose. We will pray for you that someday you will understand that what you are doing is wrong and not God's will at all but yours only.

In regard to: The Silence That Shouts

Article by Pamela Walford

Comments by Ray Daly (Lincoln, North Dakota)

The following is in regard to the comments made by Pamela Walford, in her article titled "The Silence That Shouts". Which I certainly can agree with her basic assessments. And I would like to make a few comments about them.

First, it has to do with the concubine herself. I ask, was the Levite priest sinning by having a concubine? According to the book of the law, the answer is no. In fact, the act of having concubines was handed down, almost from the beginning of time. How can I say this? Well look it up. Did not Abraham, after Sarah's death, take another wife? Legally, yes. But note that he also, while he was married to his second wife Keturah, also had children with some of his "concubines. Note in the following verse.

Gen. 25:6. "But to the sons of the concubines that Abraham had, Abraham gave gifts [He was a multi-millionaire], and sent them away...eastward, into the east country." Note that one will not find such a law given within the Ten Commandments. Jesus taught the Ten, and taught a man should have only one wife, and a wife only one husband. And they should never marry again, unless one or the other died. But, in the book of the law, having more than one wife was permitted.

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At the same time, note that the book of the law does not allow for women having more than one husband. In fact, it says of women that they should not have relations with "any man", except their husbands. Some that did would be considered as prostitutes.

The above does not take away with the positive comments Pamela makes about women being "for God Almighty". And later, there were many that were loyal to Jesus Christ. Perhaps more women than men. But again, this did not give women any authority over men.

Now to the dividing of the body of the concubine. Whom was dead before said dissembling. I ask a question regarding the priest doing as he did. First, why did he do this? Could he not have taken of the sheep or cattle, and cut one of them up, and sent it to the leaders of all of the tribes? But what if he had sent a cut up animal? How would the other tribes have reacted? Would they have gotten all fired up over this method? But how would they have felt if they saw a human being cut up like the concubine was? Would they not have reacted with much more zeal, when they knew it was those of one of their own tribe that had killed the concubine in the first place.

Two points in concluding.

First: Again, nowhere in the book of the law, nor in the Ten Commandments, is there any word spoken of women having the right to rule over men. Look it up.

Second: There are "two laws" referred to above. The Ten Commandments, and the book of the law. In the Garden of Eden, there were two trees. The Tree of Life, and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. (TKGE) I ask, since it is recorded that both trees were "good for food", then which of the two laws mentioned above would be that of the Ten Commandments, and which of the two laws would be that of the TKGE???

A third, and final point. As it was correctly pointed out regarding the "Godly minded women", I have to ask the following. Read the words of Isa. 3:12 and ask yourself. Of which "children [note, women have children] and women" does it speak. Of the 1% or so of righteous women, or the vast majority of women in general? And keep in mind that nowhere in the book of the law will you find "women police officers, military officers, governmental rulers, etc/etal. Yes, women AND MEN should all follow the examples of the righteous given in Scripture. Not those examples we have today of the unrighteous men and women.

No offenses intended in the above. It is simply a matter of following the examples of doing the right things, as they are defined by The Almighty, and his Son.

Editor's Note:

The book of the law and the ten commandments are the same law. Deborah in the book of Judges was a woman Judge, and she was over men, and she judged men. Apparently, there were at least two women who went to fight a battle that Barak a man did not want to fight alone. He wanted Deborah to go with him. Deborah won the battle and Barak was okay with that.

As far as concubines and such go, why is that okay for men and not for women? If a woman is a prostitute when she does such things why do you think men are not also prostitutes when they do such things? God meant for marriage to be between one man and one woman for life, but unfortunately, we live in a world of sin and satan worship and men abuse their wives and children for no reason. You need to get over it Ray. Whether you are a man or a woman, if you are having sex with someone other than your wife it is a sin.

Men and women are equal under God. My question to you is at what point in time did you decide that women were a lesser species to yourself and why? I actually believe there are many women on this earth that could do a much better job than you do in many areas. So why do you put women down all the time? Laura

In regard to: The Woman Flees

Article by Dwight Fleming
Comments by Ray Daly (Lincoln, North Dakota)

Regarding Dwight Fleming's article, where he uses the words of Luke 21:20.

I find said "surrounding" referring to the time in the not too distant future, that the Gentile armies will be the ones surrounding Jerusalem, and for one specific purpose. Said purpose being found in the meaning of the vision seen in heaven, in Rev. 6:16. Here "all nations on earth" will see the "Face", and the "Lamb". The latter referring to the Son of Man, Jesus Christ. Again, all nations will see this. The question is, how will "all nations, Israelite and Gentiles" react when they do see said sign.

How will the Christian nations react, when they see the sign of "their Messiah"? For that matter, what about the religions of Islam, Buddhism, and Hinduism? Which likely makes up some 90% of all beings on earth. How will all of the rest of said religions react. Well, will they not likely act like the Christians will react? After all, all c.90% of said religions also believe in "their Messiah's coming".

Do you not think that they all will, together, try to gain access to Jerusalem and Judea, in order to prepare for said coming of "their Messiah"? Of course, the Edomite Israeli Jews today (and the majority are not living in the holy land) react, since they expect "their messiah" to return. Look at the c.90%, and then read Lk. 21:20 again. And note also Rev. 12, which seems to picture the events that will take place, when the, mostly gentiles, will take over the holy land.

Editor's Note:

Dwight's article was excellent and biblical, but it is also prophecy which can change over time as we learn new stuff, so I will let Dwight defend this in an upcoming newsletter if he sees a need. Laura

In regard to: Judaism in Jesus' Day

Article by Rich Traver
Comments by Laura Lee (Bismarck, North Dakota)

Rich Traver's Article:

The Common Idea is that the Jewish Religion, in the time when Jesus walked the Earth and conducted His ministry, was generally Monocultural. That most if not all Jews believed, taught and practiced the same. Yet, in the New Testament it's evident that there were Significant Differences among the varying Jewish Persuasions!

Laura writes:

In my experience I believe that most people especially those in the Church of God understand that there were several Jewish sects at the time of Christ and that they did not all believe the same thing.

Rich Traver's Article:

A significant number of incidents involving Jesus as He interacted with the Jewish leadership – most of the time very negatively – leaves the impression that He spent much time in the Jerusalem area engaging with the religious leaders. In addition to that, there's a consensus that what He taught was derived from the practiced Jewish religion of the day with perhaps nuances of change. In other words, that Christianity was derived out from the Jewish religion of the time. That it had "Jewish Roots".

Laura writes:

I don't think most people believe that one either (highlighted in yellow). If people do believe that, it is only because they do not understand there were originally twelve tribes and later thirteen tribes and that these tribes split into two groups, with the tribe of Judah being visible and the other tribes being called the lost ten tribes which became invisible to most people.

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Christianity was derived from the bible which was preserved for us today by the tribe of Judah (modern day orthodox Jews) Christ taught the Law of God as is stated in His inspired word the bible.

Rich Traver’s Article:
Ethic Versus Ethnicity

People use the term “Judaean / Christian Ethic” as though there was a source-connection between the two: presenting the idea that one grew out of the former. Now, when it comes to the so-called “Judaean / Christian Ethic”, the term may be valid as to a common or similar ethic, but when it comes to teachings, and the belief system, that’s another matter entirely.

The term “Jewish”, usually refers to ethnicity and / or a belief system. This study will focus more on the belief system (the religion itself) more than the ethnic consideration.

Laura writes:

The current American use of "Judeo-Christian" — to refer to a value system common to Jews and Christians — first appeared in print in a book review by the English writer [George Orwell](#) in 1939, with the phrase "the Judaean-Christian scheme of morals."^[1]

Promoting the concept of the United States as a Judeo-Christian nation first became a political program in the 1940s, in response to the growth of anti-Semitism in America. The rise of Nazi anti-semitism in the 1930s led concerned Protestants, Catholics, and Jews to take steps to increase understanding and tolerance.^[14]

From: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Judeo-Christian_ethics

The Jews as well as Christians use the Bible as their source for their belief system, which is something they have in common. However, it does not mean that either side understands what scripture says and so put their own meaning to it most of the time. In order to understand what scripture says, you have to have God’s Holy Spirit which was not something that most people had at the time of Christ, nor even today.

Rich Traver’s Article:

The religious world tends to consider the Jewish religion as though it always was and is mono-cultural. In other words that all Jews believe and practice largely the same, with perhaps only minor variations, religious Jews at least. Yet, there exists abundant evidence that there were differing sects and schisms among the Jews, in some cases, they were very disdainful of one another!

To better understand the reactions to Jesus’ ministry in His day, we need to be aware of these differing persuasions. The reactions were not universally the same. Some persuasions were receptive, while others were extremely hostile. It was this hostility that was employed to facilitate the slaying of the Lamb of God for us all.

It isn’t all that well pointed out today that different areas of the Holy Land were of differing cultures and exhibited differing responses to new teachings. Even the distinct individual sects had schisms within them, but we’ll come to that.

Three Distinct Regions

Those different areas were Judaea, Samaria and Galilee. Each of these is represented in the Gospel narratives revealing the receptive differences.

Jerusalem was the location of the Temple and the religious headquarters for the nation, and set the tone for that persuasion, or at least they thought they did. Their religious culture dominated Judaea, but not the whole of the Levant. Their religious culture is what we tend to regard as Judaism.

Immediately north of Judaea was Samaria, and we know the extreme prejudice against the Samaritans on the part of the Jews (as though Samaritans weren’t themselves Jewish). In actual fact, the Samaritans were a remnant of the Northern Tribes of the divided Kingdom of Israel, dating back to the reign of Rehoboam, son of Solomon. Israel’s first king, Jereboam, set up a priesthood separate from that in Jerusalem, the religious capitol of the Southern Kingdom of Judah. This will be important later when we discuss the religion of Samaria. The region derived its name from Samaria, the

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capital of the Northern Israelite Tribes.

North of Samaria was Galilee. Now, Galilee was distinct from Judaea in both culture and approach to religion. Galilee centered around the Sea of Galilee where Jesus chose to reside. We can see from the responses to Jesus’ teachings that they exhibited a very different attitude than the hardline Jews of Judaea. Had Jesus done in Judaea what He seemed free to do in Galilee, He would have been exposed to threats of being killed much sooner than He was!

Independent Mindedness

Now, Galilee was relatively distinct from the severe religious culture that created the environment in Judaea. They were more cosmopolitan and more receptive of new teachings, even if they seemed to differ from orthodoxy as defined by the Levitical standards. Perhaps it was for this reason that Jesus chose it as His home. He saw no need or advantage in being near the Temple or those who dominated it. He had gone there since childhood and knew the environment there. In fact, when the occasion arose, He “tore up” the Temple scene, castigating its gaggle of irreverent moneychangers.

This map illustrates the regions being discussed. What religions were represented in the Transjordan regions or north in Phoenicia is not pertinent here, just the regions where Jesus taught.



Regions within the nation with distinct religious cultures.

What’s particularly of interest is the religious culture of the other two regions: Samaria and Galilee.

The Galilean Contingent

Now, something else not emphasized is the fact that Jesus’ Disciples were chosen from among Galileans. It was this lack of polarity of Jewish extremism that would have been the risk had He opted for Judean disciples. Two important references point out this unrealized fact: (Acts 2:7 & 1:11) Their cultural orientation played a significant part in their being used of God. We can also see where Jesus was when He did the choosing. (e.g., Mt. 4:18)

Now, another important thing is that much of Jesus’ ministry was conducted in Galilee. The map presented here was compiled from references to His location found in the Gospels. It’s obvious that He spent a lot less time in Judaea than we might expect, because of the religious climate of that region as opposed to what it was in Galilee (or for that matter in Samaria).

As we can see from this map, Galilee was His main area of ministry. (This research was done by others.)

Samaria Was “SAFE”!

Regarding Samaria, we might note that Jesus found it to be more accepting of Him and His message than Judaea. It

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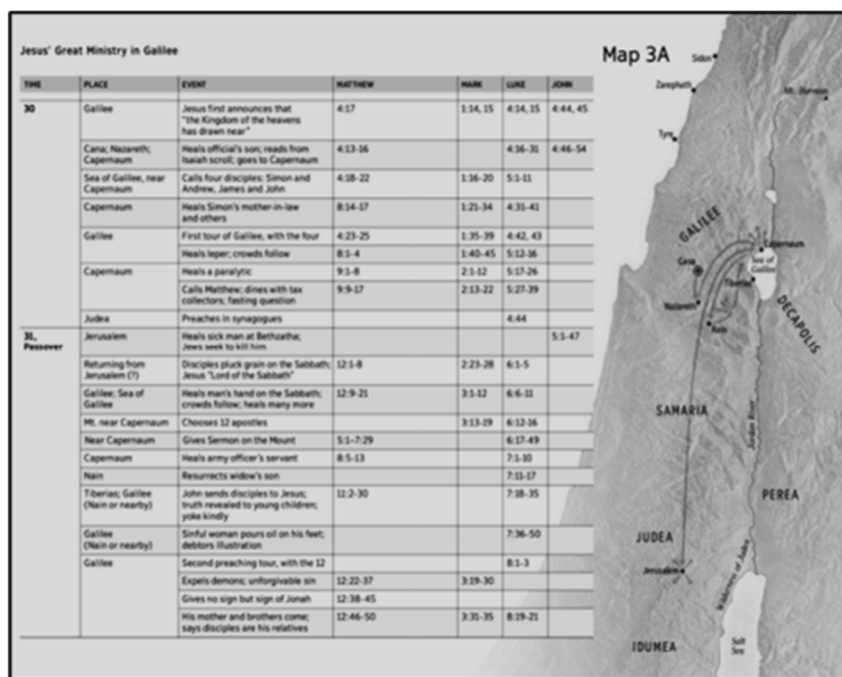
was in Samaria that He first openly admitted that He was the Messiah. (John 4:25-26). That wouldn't have gone over well in Judaea. In fact, it was to escape hostility there that He was returning north to Galilee. (John 4:1-4).

A further testament to the religious attitudes was the narrative about the “good Samaritan” found in Luke 10. The man who fell among thieves was observed by three types: a priest, a Levite, and a Samaritan. Only the Samaritan was shown in a good light, with the prestigious religious men showing no compassion whatsoever. Obviously, the religious muck-a-mucks passing by were devoid of any concern for the unfortunate fellow.

The reception of the preaching of Philip in Acts 8:4-8 further illustrates the religious climate in Samaria.

The point of this is to show that the people of Samaria and Galilee were less hostile than in Judea.

It might be relevant to point out the religion of Samaria. We aren't told much about them or why there was such disdain for them especially by the Judean Jews, just, that there was. While the general perception is that they were irreligious or anti-Jewish, that isn't the case at all. Most of the viral invective came from the Jews toward them, not so much back the other way!



Traceable itineraries of Jesus from the New Testament

Laura writes:

Not too much is known of the Samaritans but one belief that stands out is they believe Mount Gerizim is more important to God than is Jerusalem. To most this should be a red flag.

When you put charts in articles, they should be readable.

Rich Traver's Article:

Divided Monarchy

The situation goes back to the time of Rehoboam, son of Solomon, when the Kingdom became divided in 922 BC. The Ten Tribes seceded from the southern tribes, establishing their own king and setting up their own religious administration. Their King Jeroboam hired his own priesthood and altered their religious calendar to discourage his citizenry from going to Jerusalem for Holy Days.

The northern tribes were subsequently taken captive by the Assyrians, most of whom were never repatriated.

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We usually think of them as gone from the region, but in practical fact, it was the prominent and the intelligentsia that were taken captive. There were what we might consider ‘ordinary folk’ who were left to maintain the culture and religion with those Assyria was ‘transplanting’ into the conquered area.

But it was that remnant of the original population that became these Samaritans. Among them was the religious sect: an Ephraimite contingent, who remain a distinct sect to the present day. Ephraim was the leading tribe of the northern kingdom. These perpetuated the religion of Samaria (named for their capitol) centered around Gerizim, maintaining their own Torah and ancient priestly line.

Laura writes:

Apparently, the Mormons believe they are the tribe of Ephraim:

The Mormons believe that the Mormon Church represents Ephraim which will be rejoined with the Jews. This is why they have established a large center in Jerusalem, on Mount Scopus.

From: [Is the Church Ephraim? \(lehigh.edu\)](http://lehigh.edu)

Rich Traver’s Article:

A Fading Religion?

A remnant of these was identified in the early 20th Century and written about in the National Geographic magazine of January 1920.³² They, at that time, had been known and observed for the previous 300-years. They claimed to have maintained the Old Testament traditions since the days of Eli (a contemporary of Samuel) never having left the land and never having been contaminated by their captor’s belief systems as were the Jews while being held captives in Babylon,³³ and as had occurred with others of their persuasion who had scattered abroad.

The point of their claim is that they were as fully “Jewish” religiously as any peoples in the region, while being less contaminated by foreign concepts than were their counterparts to the south. We aren’t all aware of this! This is a fact of history, while the New Testament only alludes to their persuasion.

Irreconcilable Differences

Another interesting observation regarding a disdain between Jew and Samaritan is contained in another statement found in the National Geographic article.³⁴ It was a situation that had some 900 years of longevity by the time of Christ, remaining unresolved for all that time.

It might be of interest to note that the Samaritans, as related in that National Geographic article, observed their Passover more in keeping with Sadduceean Tradition than Phariseean, keeping it in the early hours beginning the fourteenth day of the first month as did Jesus and His disciples! Does this establish a basis for a more amenable regard for the Samaritans on the part of Jesus, and they for Him?

Laura writes:

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

The year that Christ was crucified he did not eat a Passover Meal. Christ was dead when the Passover meal was eaten in Jerusalem. Christ was killed at the same time as the Passover Lambs. If Christ was keeping Passover according to the Sadducees, then why was he not crucified on the early part to the fourteenth.

³² A copy of this NatGeo article is available in my “*Passover Observance and the Exodus Experience*” booklet.

³³ A statement from the 12/1920 National Geographic article: “*While the Jews have scattered all over the world since the captivities and have absorbed much that is foreign, in many instances adapting their religious practices to their new environment, the Samaritans have during the same lapse of time lived in the land of their forefathers, among Semitic peoples akin to the Hebrews, and because of this fact have handed down to the twentieth century a glimpse of the old (Israelite) Church almost in its purity.*”

³⁴ “*In view of the similarity in their beliefs and practices, it seems strange that there exists and has always existed the fiercest animosity between Jew and Samaritan, but it is the animosity that invariably exists between an original and a schism.*” (A schism being a separate religious entity.)

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Do a study of when the daily sacrifices were done at the Temple. There was always a morning and an evening sacrifice at the Temple. The morning sacrifice was around 9 AM and the Evening sacrifice was around 3 PM. Why would they all of the sudden change the time of the sacrifice to between sunset and dark for your early 14 Passover as you call it? They wouldn't. The Sadducees were not religious people and generally bought their way into the high positions in the Temple.

Paul is telling you that the Pharisees were the better sect of the Jews.

Act 26:5 Which knew me from the beginning, if they would testify, that after the most straitest sect of our religion I lived a Pharisee. (KJV)

And Christ tells us that the Scribes and Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. They read the law to the multitudes from Moses' seat. Christ also says, "All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do, but do not do after their works for they say and do not."

Mat 23:2 Saying, **The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat:** **Mat 23:3** **All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not.**

So, what is it that the Pharisees observe? The Holy Days of God. And you can find everyone of the Holy Days on the Hebrew Calendar in scripture along with the dates they are kept according to the same calendar. What more proof do you want? Christ kept the Holy Days on the same dates as the Pharisees. And the Scribes and Pharisees were meticulous in teaching the Law of God, they just didn't keep the Law of God most of the time.

Rich Traver's Article:

Jesus Was No Pharisee!

Jesus was not of Phariseean persuasion. His family was not. His great uncle and His mother's brother were of Sadduceean persuasion. Joseph of Arimathea was a member of the Sanhedrin and Zacharias, His uncle, was a Priest, of the course of Abijah, officiating at the Temple. (Luke 1:5)

Laura writes:

Luk 1:5 There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judaea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the course of Abia: and his wife *was* of the daughters of Aaron, and her name *was* Elisabeth.

How does Luke 1:5 make all these people of the Sadduceean persuasion? I see nothing in scripture that Jesus, or His family were of Sadduceean persuasion. I don't find any place in scripture where Zacharias is either. These people you list are all upright or religious people, and the Sadducees were not religious people. Just saying they were of Sadduceean persuasion does not make it true. You give no proof for this. Just because someone is a priest or of the course of Abijah in the temple does not mean they are of the Sadduceean persuasion.

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

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

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

Mat 27:57 When the even was come, there came a rich man of **Armathaea, named Joseph**, who also himself **was Jesus' disciple**:

Rich Traver's Article:

So, it wasn't just political power that put Sadducee and Pharisee at odds with one another. They had their doctrinal differences as Acts 23:6-8 explains.

Laura writes:

Act 23:6 But when Paul perceived that the one part were Sadducees, and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council,

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Men *and* brethren, I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee: of the hope and resurrection of the dead I am called in question. [Act 23:7](#) And when he had so said, there arose a dissension between the Pharisees and the Sadducees: and the multitude was divided. [Act 23:8](#) For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, neither angel, nor spirit: but the Pharisees confess both.

You bet; they had doctrinal differences alright but look at what they were. Christ was going to be resurrected but yet He was according to the Sadduceean persuasion as you claim and so did not believe in a resurrection. Does this really make sense to you? A person who is going to be resurrected does not believe in a resurrection? Christ living in heaven with angels does not believe in angels? Christ living in heaven with God and Himself being a Spirit being does not believe in spirits?

If Christ did not believe in a resurrection because of your claim of Him being of the Sadduceean persuasion, then none of us will be resurrected either. We are all doomed. It is the Pharisees that believed in a resurrection just as Christ did. The Pharisees believed in Angels and Spirits just like Christ did. Read your bible.

Rich Traver's Article:

As this article explains, Judaism of the first century was anything but unified in belief and practice. Sadducees, Pharisees, Essenes, Samaritans and “independent” types such as we find in Acts 6:9 were commonplace. The New King James renders verse 9 this way: “*Then there arose some from what is called the Synagogue of the Freedmen (Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and those from Cilicia and Asia), disputing with Stephen.*” So, there are other lesser sects even then having their own views.

The Authenticity Factor

So, to address the underlying question, what Jewish sect do we identify as being the truest representation of the Old Testament religion? This question becomes particularly relevant when those of our peripheral fellowship decide to embrace Jewish customs and practices. Which practices can we say are effective to the intended purpose and which are rather benign?

Now, we know that just within the regional heart-land of the nation, there were differing degrees of fidelity to the religion.
³⁵ There were also serious differences between the major players just within the Judaic contingent: Sadducees and Pharisees: The matters of any resurrection or the existence of spirits or angels, to name a few. (Acts 23:6-8)

And it's well-known that Judaism of the first century was influenced by Hellenism, Mysticism, and elements of Gnosticism. Its purity had been compromised long before the time of Christ.

Laura writes:

The Bible is the authority for our beliefs, and not whether someone was influenced by Hellenism, Mysticism and elements of Gnosticism. You can find everyone of those elements within the Church of God. People are influenced by Satan every day. What people are influenced by is not what your belief system should be about. You should be reading your bible and forming your beliefs from that. What does it say about Sadducees and about Pharisees?

Rich Traver's Article:

Paul even warned that there were many fables in that religious culture, even that early. It became seriously worse from then on. No reformation effort excised all the incidental added laws and tales that accumulated over the next several centuries, being compiled into major tomes of the religion.

³⁵ There were TWO persuasions in that day (and there still are!) There was the **Aristocratic** persuasion and **Hasidic** persuasion [Sadducees / Pharisees]. Sadducees were more oriented to the Aristocratic persuasion (conservative) (keeping the early 14th Passover) The Hasidic persuasion was the more commonly practiced observance (aka the late 14th Passover) (Pharisees)

The Sanhedrin and priesthood was predominantly Sadduceean. [Acts 5:17] There is no evidence that He (and they) ever ascribed to the Hasidic practices on Passover OR Pentecost. Jesus' Passover observance bears evidence of His persuasion. The most primitive Christian assemblies followed the **Aristocratic** system for both the Passover (1st Cor.11:23) and Unleavened Bread and for the *Feast* of Pentecost. (Ac.2:1)

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Compiling the Talmud

While the compilation of what's regarded as the effective Jewish “bible” known as the Talmud is reported to have been created over three centuries, between 200 and 500 AD, it's reasonable to say that a certain amount of what it contains had prior origins. The fables of Paul's day were to him a matter of concern for the Saints. (and he should know of them, having been a Pharisee's Pharisee), He warned against them in places like Titus 1:14; 1st Timothy 1:4 & 2nd Timothy 4:4.

What could sum up Paul's regard for his former affiliation better than what he wrote precautioning Titus? [10] *“For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision:*

[11] *Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake.*

[14] *Not giving heed to Jewish **fables**, and **commandments of men**, that turn from the truth...”*

Is there a better assessment of that belief system? He continues to Titus:

[15] *“Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is **nothing pure**; but even their mind and conscience is defiled.*

[16] *They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.”* (Tit. 1:10-16) Strong words, but a fair assessment of that persuasion even as we encounter it in our day! Their belief system was not pure! (And the situation isn't limited to just that persuasion Paul was referring to.)

Appropriate Regard

So, we have many sects and schisms within Judaism, well documented as existing in the first century, and no less so in the modern era. With that awareness, what regard should we have toward people's choices today to embrace certain characteristics and expressions of Jewishness as a perceived enhancement of their worship of God? Many times it involves just certain selected aspects of the religion, not the full requirements of its discipline.

Is there an example of the early New Testament Church having done anything along this line? No Christian should in any way feel inferior to those who choose to emulate and exhibit such expressions. 📖

Laura writes:

Doctrinal differences are nothing new. This article is one of the worst articles I have ever seen written in regard to the Jews whichever sect you are talking about.

You have an article from the National Geographic magazine of 1920 that is primarily speaking of Samaritans and their practices. Besides, the fact that Samaritans kept an early fourteen Passover and sometimes kept their Passover in May doesn't seem to bother you. [Calendar: How the Samaritan and Jewish Masoretic Calendars Differ \(israelite-samaritans.com\)](http://www.calendar.com)

Christ's beloved city is Jerusalem, and the Samaritans is Mount Gerizim. Does it also not matter that they kneel toward their temple on prayer cloths to pray as the Muslims do when they pray toward Mecca? What is wrong with this picture? As of 1920 the article says there are few Samaritans left.

The Sadducees were not religious people and they disappeared in 70 A.D. along with the temple. The Sadducees did not believe in a resurrection, angels or spirits and yet you want anyone reading this article to believe that Christ and His family were of the Sadduceean persuasion? How does that all work out since Christ was resurrected, lives with angels and is a spirit? Do you think about what you teach?

It seems to me that you will do and say whatever it takes to hold on to an early 14 Passover even when scripture says otherwise. If the Sadducees are of Christ, where are they today? They are nowhere to be found.

The Pharisees descendants the Orthodox Jews are the biggest Jewish sect there is today. They still train Sanhedrin Priests. Their calendar is sanctified, and they preserved the scriptures for us. Yes, they have many bad traits, but then

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so does the Church of God. You can find all the flavors within the Church of God that are also found in the Orthodox Jews. People without God’s Spirit will be people no matter which religion they align themselves with.

If I were you, I would stop teaching that Christ and His family were of the Sadduceean Persuasion and read your bible, several different bible versions if you have to.

Read Revelation Chapters 2 and 3 and then tell me you still believe the Church of God with all its faults is still way better than the tribe of Judah.

In regard to: Who Are the Nephilim
Article by David Sielaff
Comments by Laura Lee (Bismarck, North Dakota)

Laura writes:

First of all, I want to say this is an excellent article and the detail the author put into it is great. I do, however, have a few comments and disagreements with a few things which were in the article.

From David’s Article:

Everyone will be saved. Everyone in this room will be saved, and you will be happy for it. But that is not why I am here today.

Laura writes:

Personally, I hope that David’s above statement is true, however we all have to understand that people just like angels have free will. Because of free will, some people may never want to repent, which is a requirement in order to be saved. Remember, Satan took a third of the angels with him when he rebelled and they all will in the end be destroyed. God will make sure that everyone is given an equal chance, but some may refuse to live God’s way and will have to be destroyed.

From David’s Article:

ONLY YHWH and Christ are immortal. Christ has been immortal only since His resurrection. If there are exceptions, they are unclear in Scripture. Angels are *elohim*. According to the Bible they shall die if they sin.

Laura writes:

Psa 8:5 in the King James Bible, the word “angels” is Strong’s #H430 which is *'ēlôhîym*. This apparently is the only instance where angels are called Elohim. Angels are created beings and are not Gods.

Psa 8:5 For thou hast made him a little lower than the **angels**, and hast crowned him with glory and honour. (KJV)

A better translation of this verse would be:

For thou hast made him a little lower than God and crowned him with glory and worship. (Geneva Bible 1560/1599)

Psa 8:5 You make him a little lower than the gods, || And surround him with glory and majesty. (Literal Standard Bible)

Psa 8:5 For thou hast made him but little lower than God, and crownest him with glory and honour. (Revised Version)

Psa 8:5 For You have made him a little lower than God and have crowned him with glory and honor. (Faithful Version-Fred Coulter)

Psa 8:5 For thou hast made him but little lower than God, And crownest him with glory and honor.

The King James Bible in this case is a poor translation. Other wise I don’t know of any place in the bible where angels are Elohim. If angels were Elohim we would be able to worship them and the bible clearly says not to.

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Col 2:18 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, (KJV)

From David’s Article:

My understanding of the biblical worldview is this: There was YHWH. He created Christ. The two collaborated and through Christ were created spirit beings. The Sons of God are spirit beings, but they are a different class of beings from angels who were created later. Then human beings were created. That is my take on it.

YHWH is the only true creator and everyone and everything else is a creation of His. There is only one God (1 Corinthians 8:6). Right now, just YHWH and Christ (by virtue of His spiritual resurrection) have immortality. The rest are mortal.

Laura writes:

I do agree with the part where the Sons of God are another group of spirit beings. After all there are also elders in heaven besides angels. We clearly do not know how many different types of spirit beings there are all together.

Where I and David part ways is that Christ is not a created being. We went over this subject at length in two articles, “Why Humans” by B. L. Cocherell, Issue #80 and “Was Our Savior Created?” by James Steinle in Issue #82.

Col 1:16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: **all things were created by him, and for him:**

John 1:1-3

Joh 1:1 In **the beginning** was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **Joh 1:2** The same was in the beginning with God. **Joh 1:3** All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. (KJV)

Here’s the biggest problem. Christ created all things; the bible says so. Christ cannot create himself. And yes the Father is over Christ. Christ himself said so.

1Co 8:5 For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many,) **1Co 8:6** But to us *there is but* one God, the Father, of whom *are* all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom *are* all things, and we by him.

From David’s Article:

The purpose of man’s religion is to contact God on man’s terms. Do you really think the pagan religions performed their rituals and sacrifices without getting a response from the gods? If “yes” is your answer, then you think ancient people were stupid or deluded. They were neither.

Laura writes:

I agree with this, as it is obvious that most people today do not want to use the bible as their instruction book, they would rather ignore what it says and do their own thing, most believing they are worshipping the true God when they are not.

As far as the pagan gods go David is right here. People who worship pagan gods do get responses. When I was a kid, I got a Ouija board for Christmas one year. They do move by themselves and answer the questions you ask. I don’t know who threw that thing in the garbage, but it was a gift I didn’t have for very long. These pagan gods do answer. Why do you believe your government officials meet at the Bohemian Grove and worship Satan? Ancient people were not stupid.

From David’s Article:

First, the Sons of God are **NOT** angels: “For unto which of the angels said he **at any time**, ‘You are my Son, this day have I begotten you? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son?’” Hebrews 1:5

Laura writes:

I agree with David on this one. The Sons of God are not angels and I believe that his article is right on here. These are probably some class of spirit beings who did mate with humans and thus created a cross between spirit and human. We

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do know from scripture that angels can manifest themselves as humans. I myself even had an angel help me. I saw the angel and I knew at the time that it was an angel. Not the first second, but a few minutes later when he was gone.

So let me speculate for a minute here. We know that the angels are spirit beings and scripture tells us they can't mate with human kind, because they don't mate and procreate in that manner. We also know that one third of the angels followed lucifer in rebellion to God. We also know that Satan and his minions will be destroyed at the end.

Now lets speculate some more. It appears there could be other gods. Suppose that a third of these gods also rebelled. Just as Christ came to earth as a human, then these other gods could also do the same thing. They could even die and resurect each other however many times they wanted to. Or maybe once they chose to be human they couldn't change back to spirit. So when they were human they mated with human women. The children were human but different.

Here is the crux of the matter, “Sin”. When man sinned he died. When angels rebelled (sinned) they also received the death penalty. When these Gods sinned by mateing with human women they also received the death penalty. Christ only came to earth to die for humans, not for angels and not for other Gods. The only ones who had the death penalty taken away were humans, people. So in the end these other Gods who sinned can now be destroyed. Sin is why people or spirits die.

So why didn't Christ die for spirits or other Gods, again speculation. When someone spirit or human has tasted the righteousness of God and rejected it there is no more chance left for them. Spirit beings tasted the righteousness of God and rejected it. So they have to be destroyed.

2Pe 2:20 For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. **2Pe 2:21** For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known *it*, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.

By the way, speculation is something that sits there until more evidence is received.

Announcements

Announcement from William P. Goff (April 14, 2023)

The Kenya Update for April 2023 is now posted at: <http://www.khofh.org>

Announcement from Zac Poonen (April 18, 2023)

MESSAGES

The Most Important Commandment

<https://rlcf.church/media/sermons/the-most-important-commandment>

Men and Women of the Bible

<https://www.cfcindia.com/series/men-and-women-of-the-bible>

CFC Australia Conference Messages

<https://www.cfcindia.com/series/cfc-australia-conference-2023>

Don't Offer To God What Costs You Nothing

<https://www.cfcindia.com/sermon/don%E2%80%99t-offer-to-god-what-costs-you-nothing>

CFC Bangalore

<https://cfcindia.com>

Announcement from Craig White (April 18, 2023)

1930s Bulletins by Herbert W Armstrong

I decided to create a cover page for the early bulletins and letters of Herbert W Armstrong to members and coworkers.

The link is [here](#)

Many of the bulletins are missing – so if anyone knows where they are and are able to send them to me or to scan and send them, please do. There are too many areas of our Church history that are blanks.

Have a Great Sabbath!

Other Items

(Poems, Jokes, Questions etc.)

A column for the ages (“powerful women”?)

(Copyright) by Curtis Dahlgren (Stephenson, Michigan)

"Never underestimate the power of stupid people in large numbers." – unknown

I KNEW THE VIRGIN MARY. The virgin Mary was a friend of mine. You're no virgin Mary."

I knew William and Mary. William and Mary were friends of mine. You're no Queen Mary.

I knew Queen Elizabeth. She was a friend of mine. You're no Queen Elizabeth."

I knew Betsy Ross. Betsy Ross was a friend of mine. You're no Betsy Ross.

I knew Dolly Madison. Dolly Madison was a friend of mine. You're no Dolly Madison.

I knew Mary Todd Lincoln. She was a friend of mine. You're no Mary Todd Lincoln.

I knew Mother Theresa. Mother Theresa was a friend of mine. You're no Mother Theresa.

I knew Golda Meir. Golda was a friend of mine. You're no Golda Meir.

I knew Indira Gandhi. Indira was a friend of mine. You're no Indira Gandhi.

I knew Lady Margaret Thatcher. She was a friend of mine. You're no Maggie Thatcher.

I knew Nancy Reagan. Nancy was a friend of mine. You're no Nancy Reagan.

I knew Martha Washington. She was a friend of mine. You're no Martha Washington.

I knew Martha Jefferson. Martha was a friend of mine. You're no Martha Jefferson.

I knew Mary and Martha. They were friends of Jeshua. You're no Mary or Martha.

I knew Margaret Sanger. She was no friend of mine. You are a Margaret Sanger!

THIS IS YOUR CONSCIENCE SPEAKING.

Never underestimate the power of stupid people.

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

Elmer Fisher – one of the first members of the Radio/Worldwide Church of God (Copyright) by Craig White (Australia)

I have now included some information on Elmer and Margret Fisher who HWA mentions a number of times in his *Autobiography*:

<https://www.friendsofsabbath.org/iframe/ABC/Pioneers&Researchers/Fishers/Fishers.html>

This link also mentions a Bobby Fisher referred to in a *Good News* magazine - she came to a HWA campaign in 1934 and to a GTA campaign 13-14 Dec 1974 (*Good News*, March 1975, p. 24):

"That evening Mr. Armstrong spoke to another capacity crowd. Among those sitting in the audience was a veteran of many early campaigns, Mrs. Bobby Fisher. Forty years earlier, in December 1934, Mrs. Fisher, then a teenager, sat in a country schoolhouse west of Eugene and heard Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong speak in one of the early evangelistic campaigns of his ministry. Convinced and convicted, she became one of the pioneer members of the Worldwide Church of God."

I assume that this is the same as a Bobbie Fisher referred to in my paper on [the fair chance doctrine paper](#) (page 23).

Here is a link to information about and papers/research by other pioneers:

https://www.friendsofsabbath.org/iframe/ABC/Pioneers&Researchers/WCG_Pioneers_Researchers.html

Should you have any further information on the Fishers and other 1930/40s members, please send my way. Feel free to pass this information on to others.

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Notes

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