

WHO ARE WE?

Group Name: We have no official name--nor do we want one--however we provide the following: INTERDEPENDENT-INTERACTIVE, CHURCH OF GOD, SABBATH SERVICES, BIBLE STUDIES, AND OPEN FELLOWSHIP.

Address: 320 N. Griffin St. City: Bismarck State: ND Zip Code: 58501

Country: USA Phone: (701) 258-7172 FAX: (775) 239-2119

E-Mail: Darwin-Laura@Juno.com

Website: <http://darwinlauralee.150m.com>

Leadership Body: Christ the Head of God's Church, Colossians 1:18, Ephesians 5:23, and I Corinthians 11:3. Local contact persons are Darwin or Laura Lee.

Purpose: To provide Interdependent-Interactive, Church of God, Sabbath Services and Bible Studies to all of God's People, including those who are not welcome to visit or attend other groups due to having been suspended or disfellowshipped, as well as those who want a place to attend weekly, those who are just visiting our area, and anyone else who is interested in God's way of living. We also have open fellowship here, meaning that you are welcome to come visit with us during our open fellowship times even if you are not interested in attending our Sabbath Services or Bible Studies.

History: We held our first Bible Study here on June 30, 2000 and our first Sabbath Service was held on December 16, 2000.

Affiliation/Membership: Our Affiliation is with God our Father and His Son Jesus the Christ. Our membership includes *all* of God's people, no matter where they are.

Distinctive Doctrines: John 13:34-35

Use Sacred Names?: Since salvation is between God and each individual (Philippians 2:12), so the use of sacred names would be between each individual person and God.

Observe Holy Days?: We believe that God commands us to keep the Weekly Sabbath as well as Passover/Days of Unleavened Bread, Pentecost, Feast of Trumpets, Atonement, Feast of Tabernacles, and the Last Great Day, however, we also believe there is much controversy out there in understanding if certain ones should or shouldn't be kept, how to keep them and when to keep them. So with this in mind, we will try to the best of our ability to accommodate these differences, believing and having faith that someday through God's Holy Spirit, we will all be brought into the same understanding on this subject. Until then let's follow John 13:34-35.

Evangelistic Efforts: We provide a service to God's People no matter where they are to the best of our ability. This service includes Interdependent-Interactive, Church of God, Sabbath Services, Bible Studies and Open Fellowship. We also welcome live speakers for interactive, and special music, on a volunteer only basis.

Periodicals: We have a newsletter, which we publish every 2 months.

Literature: We distribute tapes and literature for others and ourselves to the best of our ability.

Parent Group: The greater Church of God--The Ekklesia. Language: English

Other Language: None Country: USA

Name: Contact Persons are Darwin & Laura Lee Address: 320 N. Griffin St.

City: Bismarck State: North Dakota Zip Code: 58501

Phone: (701) 258-7172 E-Mail: Darwin-Laura@Juno.com

Directions To Meeting: 320 N. Griffin St., Bismarck, North Dakota, located at the corner of Rosser Avenue and Griffin Street, with plenty of side street parking.

Time of Meeting: Usually 1:00PM, but may vary.

SABBATH SERVICES--Every Saturday unless stated other wise on page 3. We generally do a phone hookup, video tape, or cassette tape, service with various speakers. If you have a video or audio tape you think we should hear, please send it.

We also welcome live speakers, and special music, by others on a volunteer basis.

Sabbath Schedule is as follows:

12:00 Noon--Open Fellowship
(Door Open, Come In)

1:00 PM----Sabbath Services
3:00 PM----Open Fellowship

BIBLE STUDIES--We have Bible Studies approximately every 6 weeks. We have a Pot Luck Meal before we start our Bible Studies, so please bring food if you would like to participate in the fellowship, which goes with a meal.

Bible Study Schedule is as follows:

6:30 PM----Open Fellowship
(Door Open, Come In)

7:00 PM----Pot Luck Meal
(Bring Food)

8:00 PM----Bible Study
9:00 PM----Open Fellowship

Bible Study Dates are as follows:

Friday, May 16, 2003

Friday, June 27, 2003

Friday, August 8, 2003

GUEST ROOM--If you are from out of town and are here to attend Sabbath Services or one of our Bible Studies, we do have a guest room. Please call ahead so we know when you will be arriving. (701) 258-7172 (Please Leave a message.)

LOCATION--Sabbath Services and Bible Studies are held at the home of Darwin & Laura Lee, located at 320 N. Griffin St., Bismarck, North Dakota. Please use the upper back door by the garage. Phone Number (701) 258-7172 (Please Leave a message.)

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE--The deadline for submitting articles and letters for possible inclusion in our July/August 2003 Newsletter is June 15, 2003. Thank You. Laura Lee (Editor)

E-MAIL & SNAIL MAIL:

Prayer-Requests-Darwin-Laura@juno.com Send your prayer requests here. They will go out via email.

Newsletter-Only-Darwin-Laura@juno.com The deadline for Issue #16--July/August 2003 is June 15, 2003.

Answer-Me-Darwin-Laura@juno.com If you want us to answer your email, send it here.

Darwin-Laura@juno.com If you want us to read it, and delete it, send it here.

FAX--Our Fax number is: (775) 239-2119.

SNAIL MAIL--Our snail mail address is Darwin & Laura Lee, PO Box 2333, Bismarck, ND 58502.

WEB SITE ADDRESS--<http://darwinlauralee.150m.com>

FINANCIAL DISCLOSER:

We do not charge for the services that we provide to the brethren. We also do not take any wages from the gift donations we are sent. The services we provide do however cost us money. In 2001 expenses for services provided were **-\$4537.29**. We received **+\$1368.00** in gift donations for 2001, leaving us with a balance of **-\$3169.29**. In 2002 expenses for services provided were **- \$4066.37**. We received **+\$1737.00** in gift donations for 2002, leaving us with a balance of **-\$2329.37**.

Donations for 2003 total **+\$775.00**. Expenses for 2003 are as follows: Postage **-\$378.60**, Telephone **-\$26,16**, Internet Services **-\$29.95**, Printing Charges **-\$347.07**, and Local Services **-\$3.40**. Total balance for 2003 is: **-\$10.18**.

We truly appreciate the help we receive in helping others. Thank you Darwin & Laura Lee.

AD SECTION--If you have an ad that you would like to have us print, please write it up and send it to: **Newsletter-Only-Darwin-Laura@Juno.com** We may not print all ads, but we will read them for consideration of inclusion in this newsletter and then will let you know one way or the other. Some ads will also be posted on our Web Site.

Prayer-Requests-Darwin-Laura@Juno.com

HOW DO I GET ON THE NEW LIST? (Instructions:)

We cannot go in and put you on the new list. You have to put yourself on the new list, and there are 2 ways you can do that. They are as follows:

#1--Use the invitation we sent you from Coollist. That Web Site link takes you right to the place where you can sign up/join the new list. The link on the invitation can be found under: "If you would like to participate in this mailing list, please visit the following web page on the web:" Then it gives you the link. This is the easiest way for you to sign up, so if you no longer have any of the invitations that we sent to you, let me know and I will send you another one, or if you never got an invitation but would like one, please e-mail us at **Prayer-Requests-Darwin-Laura@Juno.com** and we will send you an invitation. The subject line on the invitation reads "Prayer-Requests-Darwin-Laura Registration". This list is open to the general public.

#2--You can go to our Web Site and go into the Prayer Requests & Updates section. There is a box there where you can subscribe to our new list. You put your e-mail address in the box and click on the subscribe button, which takes you into the Coollist web site, where you would click on the "Join" button and follow the instructions. This is a little harder way of doing it.

If you still have problems getting on the new list, let me know, and I will work with you. Thank You and I am looking forward to seeing you on the new list. Editor Laura Lee

FAMILY OF GOD FELLOWSHIP WEEKEND

OPEN TO ALL OF GOD'S PEOPLE WHO EVER & WHERE EVER THEY ARE

**PLEASE COME AND JOIN US IN: BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA
ON THE WEEKEND OF: AUGUST 8-10, 2003
PLANNED WEEKEND ACTIVITIES:**

BIBLE STUDY

FRIDAY 8-8-2003--AT THE HOME OF DARWIN & LAURA LEE

6:30PM--OPEN FELLOWSHIP (DOOR OPEN, COME IN)

7:00PM--POT LUCK MEAL (BRING FOOD)

8:00PM--BIBLE STUDY

9:00PM--OPEN FELLOWSHIP

SABBATH SERVICES

SATURDAY 8-9-2003--AT THE HOME OF DARWIN & LAURA LEE

12:00 NOON--OPEN FELLOWSHIP (DOOR OPEN, COME IN)

**1:00PM--SABBATH SERVICES (IF SOMEONE WANTS TO VOLUNTEER TO SPEAK-
GREAT. IF NOT WE WILL HAVE A PHONE HOOK UP OR A TAPE.)**

3:00PM--OPEN FELLOWSHIP

SABBATH MEAL & MORE FELLOWSHIP

SATURDAY 8-9-2003--AT THE ROYAL FORK BUFFET RESTAURANT

**5:00PM--ANYONE WHO IS INTERESTED CAN JOIN US FOR A MEAL AND
FELLOWSHIP AT THE "ROYAL FORK BUFFET RESTAURANT" IN BISMARCK**

FAMILY OF GOD PICNIC

JOIN US SUNDAY 8-10-2003--AT THE HOME OF DARWIN & LAURA LEE

**10:00AM TO 6:00PM FOR A FAMILY PICNIC -- EVERYONE SHOULD BRING A
DISH TO PASS FOR A POT LUCK MEAL -- EACH FAMILY SHOULD BRING WHAT
THEY WANT TO DRINK, AS WELL AS THEIR OWN DISHES AND SILVER WARE.**

THERE IS A PUBLIC SWIMMING POOL ABOUT 4 BLOCKS FROM OUR HOME

NEED MORE INFORMATION OR DIRECTIONS:

PHONE (701) 258-7172 OR E-MAIL ANSWER-ME-DARWIN-LAURA@JUNO.COM

PENTECOST--We will observe Pentecost here at 320 N. Griffin St., Bismarck, North Dakota on Friday June 6, 2003, with services at 1:00PM (door open for fellowship at 12:00 noon). At 5:00PM for anyone who would like to join us, we will meet for a meal and fellowship at the "North American Steak Buffet Restaurant" in Bismarck. We realize that not all people will be observing Pentecost on the same day, so with this in mind, if you need a place to observe this day differently than we do, please contact us and if we can help you in anyway, we certainly will try.

INFORMATION SECTION--This section is meant for various items which should be of interest to the general public. Again as a reminder, we are not in agreement with all things we print. If you have an item to be considered for inclusion in this section, please send it to: Newsletter-Only-Darwin-Laura@Juno.com

**TIPS ON STAYING SAFE... FOR
WOMEN (AND MEN TOO)**

sent by Sue Caughfield
Cookville, Texas

Tip from Tae Kwon Do: The elbow is the strongest point on your body. If you are close enough to use it, do!

Learned this from a tourist guide to New Orleans: if a robber asks for your wallet and/or purse, DO NOT HAND IT TO HIM. Toss it away from you... chances are that he is more interested in your wallet and/or purse than you and he will go for the wallet/purse. RUN LIKE MAD IN THE OTHER DIRECTION!

If you are ever thrown into the trunk of a car: Kick out the back tail lights and stick your arm out the hole and start waving like crazy. The driver won't see you but everybody else will. This has saved lives.

Last night I attended a personal safety workshop, and it jolted me. It was given by an amazing man, Pat Malone, who has been a bodyguard for famous figures like Farrah Fawcett and Sylvester Stallone. He now works for the FBI and teaches police officers and Navy SEALs hand-to-hand combat.

This man has seen it all, and knows a lot. He focused his teachings to us on HOW TO AVOID BEING THE VICTIM OF A VIOLENT CRIME. He gave us some statistics about how much the occurrences of random violence have escalated over the recent years, and it's terrible. Something like 99% of us will be exposed to, or become a victim of a violent crime.

Here are some of the most

important points that I got out of his presentation:

The three reasons women are easy targets for random acts of violence are:

- ☛ Lack of Awareness: swing your arms, stand straight up.
- ☛ Wrong Place, Wrong Time: DON'T walk alone in an alley, or drive in a bad neighborhood at night.
- ☛ Women have a tendency to get into their cars after shopping, eating, working, etc., and just sit (doing their checkbook, or making a list, etc. DON'T DO THIS! The predator will be watching you, and this is the perfect opportunity for him to get in on the passenger side, put a gun to your head, and tell you where to go!

LOOK UNDER THE CAR, BEFORE YOU GET CLOSE!!! THERE HAVE BEEN SOME THAT WAIT TILL YOU START TO GET IN, AND CUT YOUR TENDONS AT THE ANKLE!!! THEN YOU ARE DONE FOR!! AS SOON AS YOU GET INTO YOUR CAR, LOCK THE DOORS AND LEAVE.

- ☛ A few notes about getting into your car in a parking lot, or parking garage: be aware: look around you, look into your car, at the passenger side floor, and in the back seat. If you are parked next to a big van, enter your car from the passenger door. Most serial killers attack their victims by pulling them into their vans while the women are attempting to get into their cars. Look at the car parked on the driver's side of your vehicle, and the passenger side. If a male is sitting alone in the seat nearest your car, you may want to walk back into the mall, or work, and get a guard/policeman to walk you back out.

GOD gave us wisdom and this is all a part of it.

IT IS ALWAYS BETTER TO BE SAFE THAN SORRY. (And better paranoid than dead.)

ALWAYS take the elevator instead of the stairs. (Stairwells are horrible places to be alone and the perfect crime spot). If the predator has a gun and you are not under his control, ALWAYS RUN! (The predator will only hit you (a running target) 4 in 100 times; And even then, it most likely WILL NOT be a vital organ. RUN!)

As women, we are always trying to be sympathetic: STOP IT! It may get you raped, or killed. Ted Bundy, the serial killer, was a good-looking, well-educated man, who ALWAYS played on the sympathies of unsuspecting women. He walked with a cane, or a limp, and often asked "for help" into his vehicle or with his vehicle, which is when he abducted his next victim.

Pat Malone told us the story of his daughter, who came out of the mall and was walking to her car when she noticed 2 older ladies in front of her. Then she saw a police car come towards her with cops who said hello. She also noticed that all 8 handicap spots in the area were empty. As she neared her car she saw a man a few rows over calling to her for help. He wanted her to close his passenger side door. He was sitting in the back on the driver's side, and said he was handicapped.

He continued calling, until she turned and headed back to the mall, and then he began cursing at her. In the meantime, she wondered why he didn't ask the 2 older ladies, or the policeman for help, and why he was not parked in any of the empty handicap spots.

As she got back to the mall, two male friends of hers were exiting, and as she told them the story and turned to point at the car, the man was getting out of the back seat into the front and the car sped away. **DON'T GET CAUGHT IN THIS TRAP.**

LETTERS SECTION--This section can contain letters to the editor, to the brethren, or from the editor. Please keep in mind while reading these letters, that just because we print them does not mean that we agree with everything people say in these letters. Letters many times are filled with opinion and emotion and sometimes factual and un-factual information. This section is interactive. If you agree or disagree with a letter or an article in this newsletter and want others to know, this is the section for you. Please, if you want your letter to be printed, clearly say so and send it to: Newsletter-Only-Darwin-Laura@Juno.com We do not print all letters that we receive. If you state you want your letter printed, then we do consider it for inclusion. If we receive a letter that we feel would be of interest to others, generally we ask the writer for permission to print it.

03-02-2003
by P. F. Lazor
Lancaster, California

This letter is referring to the following articles and letters: "The Truth About Chlorine and Fluoride" by Alex Nicholson, letters exchange between "Lee Ann Sanders and Laura Lee", A Study of "The Truth" by Garry D. Pifer, and "Standing Firm" by June Narber. All found in Issue #13.

Dear Darwin & Laura,
What a nice blessing to get your letter and 3 copies of your newsletter.

Just after I wrote you, Alex Nicholson sent me directly a copy of his article, saying I wouldn't need to write you. But I'm so glad I already had, because your newsletter is very valued by me and of much edifying benefit. Thanks for putting me on your list to continue getting it.

I perceive that you are very efficient people and exceptionally ORGANIZED. That is a rare gift from Yahweh. Before the destroyers kidnapped me in here, I had a company called SOLVE-IT which organized people, businesses, and households. I think there were only two like it in the USA. Now I think it is pretty popular.

I think your newsletter is a candidate for "First Place" winner of a very well ORGANIZED layout that truly serves your readers. Thanks also for the extra nice touch of sending a carbon copy of my letter to you--helped re-orient me. Boy, do I ramble terribly. I guess 20 years of nonstop torture in a prison camp will do that. I hope it's curable and not frequent that I do so.

I want you to know that something in your newsletter was particularly beneficial to me. So the terrible abuse you suffered from Lee Ann Sanders, while you were trying lovingly to help her--was not totally in vain. I was very moved by your remaining so almost superhumanly TOLERANT in the face of such degrading and misplaced insults, from someone obviously taking their own mentally unstable rage and hate out on you without cause. If she does not already work for a prison administration, believe me they would love to have her! She "projects" her own accusatory ills out to other kind people, perfectly fitting for the type of people the prison system spends decades training people to become. Anyway my point is that you so utterly practiced your Distinctive Doctrine creed of John 13:34-35, that I've had a change of heart over it. For all my life I was personally that way, even thru most of my prison torture. But lately I've become like a bashed-up, grown up puppy into a snarling dog ready to fight back against the endless abuses of terror (not physically, but attitudinally and verbally, etc.) Seeing your exchange, has moved me to try to regroup internally and attempt that approach and response, despite the pain--or maybe even as a means to ease some of it. Shows the power of EXAMPLE.

Sure wish I had a way to see The

Real Mount Saini video and Red Sea Crossing. I'd be very moved by it. I was moved by an article John Kaiser did on it on Berean Voice. That's all I know about it. Before my captivity, I'd been planning to be involved in such discoveries.

I was also very moved by a few other things in your newsletter. At first I was a bit exasperated with the couple pages of Garry Pifer's "The Truth" article, as I agreed and it seemed like beating a dead horse. But I'm glad I continued on, as his segment about the "truth mall" is priceless, and something I hope I'll always remember.

And June Narber is certainly correct about "If some had their way, we'd be crammed into a box the size of a cigar box labeled, 'obedient, thought controlled, and good financial supporters' in". That's what has been perfected in here for political-financial gain as an industry, against the innocent as well as the guilty--and has nothing to do with "crime". The whole countries mentality has been lured into this satanic disposition as Ms. Narber has come to realize from her experience.

EDITORS NOTE: The rest of the letter was asking for literature and tapes. If there is someone reading this newsletter who is familiar with sending cassette tapes to a prison inmate, could you please email us at Answer-Me-Darwin-Laura@Juno.com or snail mail us at Darwin & Laura Lee, PO Box 2333, Bismarck, ND 58502. We need help with this, as apparently the tapes must carry a label showing it is from a large church or he will not get them. Thank You, Laura Lee.

The price of **eternal** happiness is a *temporary* bucket of tears.

by Alan Ruth
Farmington Hills,
Michigan

ARTICLES SECTION--We are always looking for good articles written by ordinary people, to consider for inclusion in this newsletter. Darwin and I do not always agree with every single thing that we print. Darwin and I also do not know everything. Like most people reading this newsletter, we are still learning. We do strive to bring to you Biblically Based Articles--The problem is that opinion and interpretation of scripture varies from person to person. So with that in mind let's let "iron sharpen iron" Proverbs 27:17--Let's learn from each other. Send articles to: Newsletter-Only-Darwin-Laura@Juno.com

WHAT DOES "BETWEEN THE EVENINGS" MEAN?

by Bryan T. Huie

A lot of disagreement exists in the end-time Church of God regarding the proper time to observe the Passover. Many, if not most, believe that the Passover lambs were originally slain on the 14th of Abib (or Nisan) right after sunset, with the Passover meal being eaten later on the night of Abib 14. They base this belief on Exodus 12:6.

EXODUS 12:6 And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it **in the evening** [*ben ha arbayim*]. (KJV)

Ben ha arbayim is the Hebrew phrase translated as "in the evening" above. However, the literal translation of this expression is "between the evenings," as Jay Green's English translation of the Old Testament shows:

EXODUS 12:6 And it shall be for you to keep until the fourteenth day of this month. And all the assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it **between the evenings** [*ben ha arbayim*]. (A **Literal Translation of the Bible**)

Most modern versions of the Bible render **ben ha arbayim** either as "at

twilight" or "at dusk." This phrase occurs 11 times in the Old Testament (Ex. 12:6; 16:12; 29:39; 29:41; 30:8; Lev. 23:5; Num. 9:3, 5, 11; 28:4, 8). The first occurrence, Exodus 12:6, is in reference to the time God commanded the Passover lambs to be slain. Those who believe that the Passover lambs were killed on Abib 14 between sunset and total darkness reckon the first evening as sunset and the second evening as nightfall.

But is this interpretation correct? Does **ben ha arbayim** refer to this brief period of time? Is there any way to clearly define "between the evenings" from the Bible?

In reality, the debate over the timing of the original Passover sacrifice and meal boils down to one very basic question: What is meant by the Hebrew phrase **ben ha arbayim**? What time period does "between the evenings" cover?

Anciently, the Samaritans believed that "between the evenings" was from sunset to dark. Because of this belief, they sacrificed the Passover just after sunset, as Abib 14 was starting. They then ate the Passover meal later on the night of the 14th. Allegedly, the Sadducees held the same views on Passover as did the Samaritans.

On the other hand, the Jews have always reckoned "between the evenings" as the afternoon, literally the time between the decline of the sun after noon (the first evening) until the setting of the sun to end the day (the second evening). Therefore, until the destruction of the Second Temple, the vast majority of observant Jews killed the Passover on the afternoon of the 14th, and ate the Passover meal that night, on Abib 15.

There is really no need to debate this issue, for the Bible clearly tells us when "between the evenings" is. In Exodus 29:38-41, God gives Israel instructions regarding the daily sacrifice.

EXODUS 29:38 And this is what you shall offer on the altar: two lambs daily, sons of a year; 39 the one lamb you shall offer in the morning, and **the second** [*ha sheniy*] lamb you shall offer **between the evenings**. 40 And a tenth of fine flour anointed with beaten oil, a fourth of a hin, and a drink offering, a fourth of a hin of wine, for the one lamb. 41 And

you shall offer **the second** [*ha sheniy*] lamb **between the evenings**; you shall do it like the morning food offering and its drink offering, for a soothing fragrance, a fire offering to Jehovah. (A **Literal Translation of the Bible**)

Although many translations render the Hebrew phrase **ha sheniy** as "the other" in verses 39 and 41, any good concordance will show you that it literally means "the second." Most Church of God members accept that God reckons days from sunset to sunset. The divine instructions shown above make it clear that the priests were to offer two lambs every day. God told Moses that the first lamb was to be sacrificed in the morning, and the second lamb was to be sacrificed "between the evenings." To be the **second** offering of the day, the lamb sacrificed "between the evenings" had to be slain **before** sunset!

If "between the evenings" occurs anytime **after** sunset, then this command could **not** have been properly carried out by the Israelites. At sunset, the old day has ended and the new day has begun. So under the Samaritan definition of "between the evenings," the evening sacrifice would be **first** and the morning sacrifice **second**!

The Jews, however, correctly understood what God meant by **ben ha arbayim**. According to noted Jewish historian Alfred Edersheim, "Ordinarily it [the evening sacrifice] was slain at 2:30 P.M., and offered at about 3:30" (**The Temple: Its Ministry and Services**, updated ed., p. 174).

The preceding passage of Scripture alone should define "between the evenings" for us. Yet God also inspired another event to be recorded in the eighteenth chapter of I Kings to help His end-time people to correctly understand when "between the evenings" occurs.

To recap the story, the prophet Elijah had King Ahab of Israel assemble the people of Israel on Mount Carmel. He challenged the people, saying, "If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal, then follow him" (I Kings 18:21). Elijah then proposed a test to identify the true God. The prophets of Baal were to sacrifice a bull for a burnt offering and call on their god to consume the offering with fire. Let's pick up the story in I Kings 18:26.

I KINGS 18:26 So they took the bull which was given them, and they prepared it, and called on the name of Baal **from morning even till noon**, saying, "O Baal, hear us!" But there was no voice; no one answered. Then they leaped about the altar which they had made. 27 And so it was, **at noon**, that Elijah mocked them and said, "Cry aloud, for he is a god; either he is meditating, or he is busy, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is sleeping and must be awakened." 28 So they cried aloud, and cut themselves, as was their custom, with knives and lances, until the blood gushed out on them. 29 And **when midday was past**, they prophesied **until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice**. But there was no voice; no one answered, no one paid attention. (NKJV)

EDITORS NOTE: In 1 Kings 18:29, the word midday is Strong's Hebrew-Aramaic #6672

**Romanized tsohar
Pronounced tso'-har**

from HSN6671; a light (i.e. window): dual double light, i.e. noon:

KJV--midday, noon(-day, -tide), window.

This same word "tsohar" is translated as noon--11 times, noontide--8 times, midday--1 time, noon day--1 time, noontide--1 time, and window--1 time. Laura Lee

Notice the time element distinctly laid out in the Scriptures above. The prophets of Baal spent from morning until the time of the evening sacrifice trying to get an answer from their god. From Exodus 29:38-41, as well as Numbers 28:1-8, we know that the evening sacrifice was to be offered "between the evenings." So, at a minimum, this passage shows that "between the evenings" is sometime past noon.

Having given the prophets of Baal plenty of time, Elijah took his turn at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice. He repaired God's altar, cut the bull in pieces, and laid it on the altar. He then had the people pour water in a trench around the altar and drench the sacrifice three times. Let's pick the story up again in verse 36:

I KINGS 18:36 And it came to pass, **at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice**, that Elijah the prophet came near and said, "LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that You are God in Israel and I am Your servant, and that I have done all these things at Your word. 37 Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that You are the LORD God, and that You have turned their hearts back to You again." 38 Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood and the stones and the dust, and it licked up the water that was in the trench. 39 Now when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, "The LORD, He is God! The LORD, He is God!" 40 And Elijah said to them, "Seize the prophets of Baal! Do not let one of them escape!" So they seized them; and Elijah brought them down to the Brook Kishon and executed them there. (NKJV)

The Bible specifies that this mighty miracle occurred "at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice," or "between the evenings." Now let's examine the rest of the story to see if we can determine when this time was.

I KINGS 18:41 Then Elijah said to Ahab, "Go up, eat and drink; for there is the sound of abundance of rain." 42 So Ahab went up to eat and drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; then he bowed down on the ground, and put his face between his knees, 43 and said to his servant, "Go up now, look toward the sea." So he went up and looked, and said, "There is nothing." And seven times he said, "Go again." 44 Then it came to pass the seventh time,

that he said, "There is a cloud, as small as a man's hand, rising out of the sea!" So he said, "Go up, say to Ahab, 'Prepare your chariot, and go down before the rain stops you.'" 45 Now it happened in the meantime that the sky became black with clouds and wind, and there was a heavy rain. So Ahab rode away and went to Jezreel. 46 Then the hand of the LORD came upon Elijah; and he girded up his loins and ran ahead of Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel. (NKJV)

Generally, there is about 45-60 minutes of light from the time the sun goes down until total darkness. If the Samaritan definition of *ben ha arbayim* is correct, all the following events detailed in I Kings 18 had to have occurred "between the evenings" at the time of the evening sacrifice, a period of declining visibility:

- The repair of God's altar by Elijah (I Kings 18:30-32).
- The digging of a trench around the altar which would hold approximately 5 1/2 gallons (2 "seahs") of water (I Kings 18:32).
- The piling of wood on the altar (I Kings 18:33).
- The cutting of the sacrificial bull in pieces and the placement of it upon the altar (I Kings 18:33).
- The pouring of four pots full of water on the sacrifice and wood **three** separate times (I Kings 18:33-35).
- Elijah's prayer to God, resulting in fire which consumed the burnt offering, the wood, the altar, and the water in the trench around the altar (I Kings 18:36-38).
- The capture of the prophets of Baal by the people of Israel (I Kings 18:40).
- The execution of the **450** prophets of Baal by the Brook Kishon (I Kings 18:40).
- Elijah's message to King Ahab to eat and drink because rain was coming (I Kings 18:41).
- Elijah's **climb** to the top of the **1,600+ ft.** Mount Carmel (I Kings 18:42).
- Elijah sending his servant to look toward the sea **seven** different times (I Kings 18:43).
- The **sighting** by his servant on the seventh look of "**a cloud as small as**

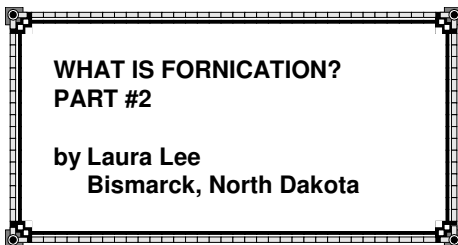
a man's hand rising out of the sea" (I Kings 18:44).

- ☑ The **blackening** of the sky due to **clouds (not nightfall!)** as heavy rains began to fall (I Kings 18:45).

Common sense should tell us that there is no way all these events could have taken place between sunset and total darkness. The facts of the above story just don't support this interpretation of "between the evenings."

CONCLUSION

Clearly, the Samaritan definition of **ben ha arbayim** contradicts the Bible and must be rejected. Christ told the Samaritan woman at the well that the Samaritans did not know what they worshiped (John 4:22). However, in the same verse, he stated that the Jews did know the God they worshiped. Should we follow the Samaritans in this matter, or should we follow the example of the Jews, who were entrusted with the oracles of God (Rom. 3:2)? The answer should be clear to those humble enough to cast aside their preconceived beliefs and take God at His word.



Old Testament (Continued)

**Strong's Hebrew-Aramaic
#8457**

Romanized taznuwth

Pronounced taz-nooth'
or taznuth {taz-nooth'}; from
HSN2181; harlotry, i.e.
(figuratively) idolatry:

KJV--fornication, whoredom.

Translated as:

- ❖ **whoredoms** 14 times (Eze. 16:20, Eze. 16:22, Eze. 16:25, Eze. 16:26, Eze. 16:34, Eze. 16:36, Eze. 23:7, Eze. 23:8, Eze. 23:11, Eze. 23:14, Eze. 23:18, Eze. 23:19, Eze. 23:29, Eze. 23:35)

- ❖ **whoredom** 3 times (Eze. 16:33, Eze. 23:8, Eze. 23:17)
- ❖ **commit whoredoms** (+2181) 1 time (Eze. 23:43)
- ❖ **fornications** 1 time (Eze. 16:15)
- ❖ **fornication** 1 time (Eze. 16:29)

Ezekiel 16

1. Again the word of the Lord came unto me, saying,
2. Son of man, cause Jerusalem to know her abominations,
3. And say, Thus saith the Lord God unto Jerusalem; Thy birth and thy nativity is of the land of Canaan; thy father was an Amorite, and thy mother an Hittite.
4. And as for thy nativity, in the day thou wast born thy navel was not cut, neither wast thou washed in water to supple thee; thou wast not salted at all, nor swaddled at all.
5. None eye pitied thee, to do any of these unto thee, to have compassion upon thee; but thou wast cast out in the open field, to the lothing of thy person, in the day that thou wast born.
6. And when I passed by thee, and saw thee polluted in thine own blood, I said unto thee when thou wast in thy blood, Live; yea, I said unto thee when thou wast in thy blood, Live.
7. I have caused thee to multiply as the bud of the field, and thou hast increased and waxen great, and thou art come to excellent ornaments: thy breasts are fashioned, and thine hair is grown, whereas thou wast naked and bare.
8. Now when I passed by thee, and looked upon thee, behold, thy time was the time of love; and I spread my skirt over thee, and covered thy **nakedness (#6172=shame, uncleanness)**: yea, I swear unto thee, and entered into a covenant with thee, saith the Lord God, and thou becamest mine.
9. Then washed I thee with water; yea, I thoroughly washed away thy blood from thee, and I anointed thee with oil.
10. I clothed thee also with brodered work, and shod thee with badgers' skin, and I girded thee about with fine linen, and I covered thee with silk.
11. I decked thee also with ornaments, and I put bracelets upon thy hands, and a chain on thy neck.
12. And I put a jewel on thy forehead, and earrings in thine ears, and a beautiful crown upon thine head.
13. Thus wast thou decked with gold and

silver; and thy raiment was of fine linen, and silk, and brodered work; thou didst eat fine flour, and honey, and oil: and thou wast exceeding beautiful, and thou didst prosper into a kingdom.

14. And thy renown went forth among the heathen for thy beauty: for it was perfect through my comeliness, which I had put upon thee, saith the Lord God.

15. But thou didst trust in thine own beauty, and **playedst the harlot (#2181)** because of thy renown, and pourest out thy **fornications** on every one that passed by; his it was.

16. And of thy garments thou didst take, and deckedst thy high places with divers colours, and **playedst the harlot (#2181)** thereupon: the like things shall not come, neither shall it be so.

17. Thou hast also taken thy fair jewels of my gold and of my silver, which I had given thee, and madest to thyself images of men, and didst **commit whoredom (#2181)** with them,

18. And tookest thy brodered garments, and coveredst them: and thou hast set mine oil and mine incense before them.

19. My meat also which I gave thee, fine flour, and oil, and honey, wherewith I fed thee, thou hast even set it before them for a sweet savour: and thus it was, saith the Lord God.

20. Moreover thou hast taken thy sons and thy daughters, whom thou hast borne unto me, and these hast thou sacrificed unto them to be devoured. Is this of thy **whoredoms** a small matter,

21. That thou hast slain my children, and delivered them to cause them to pass through the fire for them?

22. And in all thine abominations and thy **whoredoms** thou hast not remembered the days of thy youth, when thou wast naked and bare, and wast polluted in thy blood.

23. And it came to pass after all thy wickedness, (woe, woe unto thee! saith the Lord God;)

24. That thou hast also built unto thee an eminent place, and hast made thee an high place in every street.

25. Thou hast built thy high place at every head of the way, and hast made thy beauty to be abhorred, and hast opened thy feet to every one that passed by, and multiplied thy **whoredoms**.

26. Thou hast also **committed fornication (#2181)** with the Egyptians thy neighbours, great of flesh; and hast

increased thy **whoredoms**, to provoke me to anger.

27. Behold, therefore I have stretched out my hand over thee, and have diminished thine ordinary food, and delivered thee unto the will of them that hate thee, the daughters of the Philistines, which are ashamed of thy lewd way.

28. Thou hast **played the whore (#2181)** also with the Assyrians, because thou wast unsatiable; yea, thou hast **played the harlot (#2181)** with them, and yet couldst not be satisfied.

29. Thou hast moreover multiplied thy **fornication** in the land of Canaan unto Chaldea; and yet thou wast not satisfied herewith.

30. How weak is thine heart, saith the Lord God, seeing thou doest all these things, the work of an imperious **whorish (#2181)** woman;

31. In that thou buildest thine eminent place in the head of every way, and makest thine high place in every street; and hast not been as an **harlot (#2181)**, in that thou scornest hire;

32. But as a wife that committeth adultery, which taketh strangers instead of her husband!

33. They give gifts to all **whores (#2181)**: but thou givest thy gifts to all thy lovers, and hirest them, that they may come unto thee on every side for thy **whoredom**.

34. And the contrary (**#2016=perversion**) is in thee from other women in thy **whoredoms**, whereas none followeth thee to **commit whoredoms (#2181)**: and in that thou givest a reward, and no reward is given unto thee, therefore thou art contrary (**#2016=perversion**).

35. Wherefore, O **harlot (#2181)**, hear the word of the Lord:

36. Thus saith the Lord God; Because thy filthiness was poured out, and thy nakedness (**#6172=shame, uncleanness**) discovered through thy **whoredoms** with thy lovers, and with all the idols of thy abominations, and by the blood of thy children, which thou didst give unto them;

37. Behold, therefore I will gather all thy lovers, with whom thou hast taken pleasure, and all them that thou hast loved, with all them that thou hast hated; I will even gather them round about against thee, and will discover thy nakedness (**#6172=shame, uncleanness**) unto them, that they may see all thy nakedness (**#6172=shame, uncleanness**).

38. And I will judge thee, as women that

break wedlock and shed blood are judged; and I will give thee blood in fury and jealousy.

39. And I will also give thee into their hand, and they shall throw down thine eminent place, and shall break down thy high places: they shall strip thee also of thy clothes, and shall take thy fair jewels, and leave thee naked and bare.

40. They shall also bring up a company against thee, and they shall stone thee with stones, and thrust thee through with their swords.

41. And they shall burn thine houses with fire, and execute judgments upon thee in the sight of many women: and I will cause thee to cease from **playing the harlot (#2181)**, and thou also shalt give no hire any more.

42. So will I make my fury toward thee to rest, and my jealousy shall depart from thee, and I will be quiet, and will be no more angry.

43. Because thou hast not remembered the days of thy youth, but hast fretted me in all these things; behold, therefore I also will recompense thy way upon thine head, saith the Lord God: and thou shalt not commit this lewdness (**#2154=crime, mischief, purpose, thought, wicked [device, mind]**) above all thine abominations.

44. Behold, every one that useth proverbs shall use this proverb against thee, saying, As is the mother, so is her daughter.

45. Thou art thy mother's daughter, that lotheth her husband and her children; and thou art the sister of thy sisters, which lothed their husbands and their children: your mother was an Hittite, and your father an Amorite.

46. And thine elder sister is Samaria, she and her daughters that dwell at thy left hand: and thy younger sister, that dwelleth at thy right hand, is Sodom and her daughters.

47. Yet hast thou not walked after their ways, nor done after their abominations (**#8441=something disgusting, especially idolatry, abominable [custom or thing]**): but, as if that were a very little thing, thou wast corrupted more than they in all thy ways.

48. As I live, saith the Lord God, Sodom thy sister hath not done, she nor her daughters, as thou hast done, thou and thy daughters.

49. Behold, this was the iniquity of thy

sister Sodom, pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy.

50. And they were haughty, and committed abomination before me: therefore I took them away as I saw good.

51. Neither hath Samaria committed half of thy sins; but thou hast multiplied thine abominations more than they, and hast justified thy sisters in all thine abominations which thou hast done.

52. Thou also, which hast judged thy sisters, bear thine own shame for thy sins that thou hast committed more abominable than they: they are more righteous than thou: yea, be thou confounded also, and bear thy shame, in that thou hast justified thy sisters.

53. When I shall bring again their captivity, the captivity of Sodom and her daughters, and the captivity of Samaria and her daughters, then will I bring again the captivity of thy captives in the midst of them:

54. That thou mayest bear thine own shame, and mayest be confounded in all that thou hast done, in that thou art a comfort unto them.

55. When thy sisters, Sodom and her daughters, shall return to their former estate, and Samaria and her daughters shall return to their former estate, then thou and thy daughters shall return to your former estate.

56. For thy sister Sodom was not mentioned by thy mouth in the day of thy pride,

57. Before thy wickedness was discovered, as at the time of thy reproach of the daughters of Syria, and all that are round about her, the daughters of the Philistines, which despise thee round about.

58. Thou hast borne thy lewdness and thine abominations, saith the Lord.

59. For thus saith the Lord God; I will even deal with thee as thou hast done, which hast despised the oath in breaking the covenant.

60. Nevertheless I will remember my covenant with thee in the days of thy youth, and I will establish unto thee an everlasting covenant.

61. Then thou shalt remember thy ways, and be ashamed, when thou shalt receive thy sisters, thine elder and thy younger: and I will give them unto thee for daughters, but not by thy covenant.

62. And I will establish my covenant with

thee; and thou shalt know that I am the Lord:

63. That thou mayest remember, and be confounded, and never open thy mouth any more because of thy shame, when I am pacified toward thee for all that thou hast done, saith the Lord God.

Ezekiel 23

1. The word of the Lord came again unto me, saying,

2. Son of man, there were two women, the daughters of one mother:

3. And they **committed whoredoms (#2181)** in Egypt; they **committed whoredoms (#2181)** in their youth: there were their breasts pressed, and there they bruised the teats of their virginity.

4. And the names of them were Aholah the elder, and Aholibah her sister: and they were mine, and they bare sons and daughters. Thus were their names; Samaria is Aholah, and Jerusalem Aholibah.

5. And Aholah **played the harlot (#2181)** when she was mine; and she doted on her lovers, on the Assyrians her neighbours,

6. Which were clothed with blue, captains and rulers, all of them desirable young men, horsemen riding upon horses.

7. Thus she committed her **whoredoms** with them, with all them that were the chosen men of Assyria, and with all on whom she doted: with all their idols she defiled herself.

8. Neither left she her **whoredoms** brought from Egypt: for in her youth they lay with her, and they bruised the breasts of her virginity, and poured their **whoredom** upon her.

9. Wherefore I have delivered her into the hand of her lovers, into the hand of the Assyrians, upon whom she doted.

10. These discovered her nakedness (**#6172=shame, uncleanness**): they took her sons and her daughters, and slew her with the sword: and she became famous among women; for they had executed judgment upon her.

11. And when her sister Aholibah saw this, she was more corrupt in her inordinate love than she, and in her **whoredoms** more than her sister in her whoredoms.

12. She doted upon the Assyrians her neighbours, captains and rulers clothed most gorgeously, horsemen riding upon horses, all of them desirable young men.

13. Then I saw that she was defiled, that they took both one way,

14. And that she increased her **whoredoms**: for when she saw men portrayed upon the wall, the images of the Chaldeans portrayed with vermillion, 15. Girded with girdles upon their loins, exceeding in dyed attire upon their heads, all of them princes to look to, after the manner of the Babylonians of Chaldea, the land of their nativity:

16. And as soon as she saw them with her eyes, she doted upon them, and sent messengers unto them into Chaldea.

17. And the Babylonians came to her into the bed of love, and they defiled her with their **whoredom**, and she was polluted with them, and her mind was alienated from them.

18. So she discovered her **whoredoms**, and discovered her nakedness (**#6172=shame, uncleanness**): then my mind was alienated from her, like as my mind was alienated from her sister.

19. Yet she multiplied her **whoredoms**, in calling to remembrance the days of her youth, wherein she had **played the harlot (#2181)** in the land of Egypt.

20. For she doted upon their Paramours, whose flesh is as the flesh of asses, and whose issue is like the issue of horses.

21. Thus thou calledst to remembrance the lewdness of thy youth, in bruising thy teats by the Egyptians for the paps of thy youth.

22. Therefore, O Aholibah, thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I will raise up thy lovers against thee, from whom thy mind is alienated, and I will bring them against thee on every side;

23. The Babylonians, and all the Chaldeans, Pekod, and Shoa, and Koa, and all the Assyrians with them: all of them desirable young men, captains and rulers, great lords and renowned, all of them riding upon horses.

24. And they shall come against thee with chariots, wagons, and wheels, and with an assembly of people, which shall set against thee buckler and shield and helmet round about: and I will set judgment before them, and they shall judge thee according to their judgments.

25. And I will set my jealousy against thee, and they shall deal furiously with thee: they shall take away thy nose and thine ears; and thy remnant shall fall by the sword: they shall take thy sons and thy daughters; and thy residue shall be

devoured by the fire.

26. They shall also strip thee out of thy clothes, and take away thy fair jewels.

27. Thus will I make thy lewdness to cease from thee, and thy whoredom brought from the land of Egypt: so that thou shalt not lift up thine eyes unto them, nor remember Egypt any more.

28. For thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I will deliver thee into the hand of them whom thou hatest, into the hand of them from whom thy mind is alienated:

29. And they shall deal with thee hatefully, and shall take away all thy labour, and shall leave thee naked and bare: and the nakedness (**#6172=shame, uncleanness**) of thy whoredoms shall be discovered, both thy lewdness and thy **whoredoms**.

30. I will do these things unto thee, because thou hast **gone a whoring (#2181)** after the heathen, and because thou art polluted with their idols.

31. Thou hast walked in the way of thy sister; therefore will I give her cup into thine hand.

32. Thus saith the Lord God; Thou shalt drink of thy sister's cup deep and large: thou shalt be laughed to scorn and had in derision; it containeth much.

33. Thou shalt be filled with drunkenness and sorrow, with the cup of astonishment and desolation, with the cup of thy sister Samaria.

34. Thou shalt even drink it and suck it out, and thou shalt break the sherds thereof, and pluck off thine own breasts: for I have spoken it, saith the Lord God.

35. Therefore thus saith the Lord God; Because thou hast forgotten me, and cast me behind thy back, therefore bear thou also thy lewdness and thy **whoredoms**.

36. The Lord said moreover unto me; Son of man, wilt thou judge Aholah and Aholibah? yea, declare unto them their abominations;

37. That they have committed adultery (**#5003=to be unfaithful to God, by having illicit relations with other gods**), and blood is in their hands, and with their idols have they committed adultery, and have also caused their sons, whom they bare unto me, to pass for them through the fire, to devour them.

38. Moreover this they have done unto me: they have defiled my sanctuary in the same day, and have profaned my sabbaths.

39. For when they had slain their children

to their idols, then they came the same day into my sanctuary to profane it; and, lo, thus have they done in the midst of mine house.

40. And furthermore, that ye have sent for men to come from far, unto whom a messenger was sent; and, lo, they came: for whom thou didst wash thyself, paintedst thy eyes, and deckedst thyself with ornaments,

41. And satest upon a stately bed, and a table prepared before it, whereupon thou hast set mine incense and mine oil.

42. And a voice of a multitude being at ease was with her: and with the men of the common sort were brought Sabeans from the wilderness, which put Bracelets upon their hands, and beautiful crowns upon their heads.

43. Then said I unto her that was old in adulteries, Will they now **commit whoredoms** with her, and she with them?

44. Yet they went in unto her, as they go in unto a woman that **playeth the harlot (#2181)**: so went they in unto Aholah and unto Aholibah, the lewd women.

45. And the righteous men, they shall judge them after the manner of adulteresses, and after the manner of women that shed blood; because they are adulteresses, and blood is in their hands.

46. For thus saith the Lord God; I will bring up a company upon them, and will give them to be removed and spoiled.

47. And the company shall stone them with stones, and dispatch them with their swords; they shall slay their sons and their daughters, and burn up their houses with fire.

48. Thus will I cause lewdness to cease out of the land, that all women may be taught not to do after your lewdness.

49. And they shall recompense your lewdness upon you, and ye shall bear the sins of your idols: and ye shall know that I am the Lord God.

Fornication is...

After a careful reading of these two chapters, can we not see that fornication is idolatry? Can we not see that idolatry includes many things, those things which God considers to be sin? Can we not see that this is a chosen lifestyle for those who do not want to follow or obey God's commandments? Do we understand that God did not and will not tolerate our sins? If God will not tolerate sin, then why do we continue to tolerate sin? Sin is what

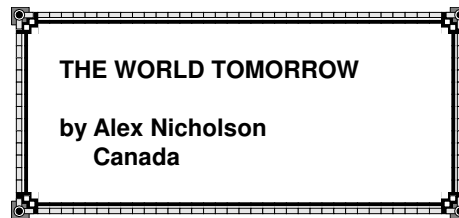
separates us from God.

Fornication in marriage...

Why would we tolerate such sinful lifestyles of our husbands or wives within our own marriages? The word "nakedness" used in these two chapters is the same word "uncleaness" which is used in Deuteronomy 24:1. It is Strong's #6172 and it is in context speaking of unholiness.

In Conclusion

There is a lot to be studied in what has been presented this time and last, and I sincerely hope you will study this and not just take my word for it. Check this out for yourself. In the next issue, I will go into what the New Testament has to say about fornication and we will see if the meaning changes from one to the other or not.



The Plain Truth

What you are about to read is astonishing, yet the most comforting information you could ever want. The plain truth revealed in the Bible is so much more inspirational than the stories and fables most people have heard in religious circles. The traditional view that we have an immortal soul that flits off to heaven or hell when we die is simply not found in the Bible. Instead, God has something far better in store for us. The message of the Bible is the record of God working with man so that he might learn to understand he needs to obey God's laws, and as a result qualify to attain eternal life and enter God's family in the kingdom of God. God's kingdom will be established on this earth at the time of the first resurrection from the dead of all true Christians when Christ returns in the near future in supreme power and glory as King of Kings and Lord of Lords (Rev. 19:16). The Old Testament prophets spoke at great length concerning God's kingdom (Isa. 2:11; Micah 4; Zech. 14). The message of good news or the gospel

which Jesus brought to this world has, as its focal point, the announcement of the coming kingdom of God, the description of how it shall be established on earth, and the explanation of how mankind might enter it as sons of God (Mark 1:14). Christians who follow in the footsteps of Christ will likewise follow in the reality of his resurrection. They shall be raised from death to rule with him in his kingdom. Some resurrected saints will rule over ten cities, some over five (Luke 19:17-19). Scripture reveals that God's kingdom on earth is indeed to be a kingdom in every sense--having territory, laws, subjects and rulers. Upon Christ's return the saints shall be changed from physical bodies or be resurrected from the dead to spirit bodies (1 Cor. 15:50-52; Rev. 2:26; 5:10).

God's Seasonal Plan

There are many beautiful scriptures which portray to us the glorious reign of Christ and the family of God on earth. The incredible human potential is marvelous, wonderful good news to those who understand it. Men and women who overcome and endure to the end of their Christian lives, will be given positions of rulership in the world tomorrow as kings, priests, judges and teachers (Rev. 2:26, 5:10). Our potential is higher than that of angels (1 Cor. 6:23). "For unto the angels hath God not put in subjection the world to come of which we speak" (Heb. 2:5). People will begin to observe all of God's festivals; Passover, Days of Unleavened Bread, Pentecost, Feast of Trumpets, Day of Atonement, Feast of Tabernacles and The Last Great Day (Lev. 23). Each of these "Feasts of the Lord" are positive Christ-centered festivals which contain rich typology and symbolism as well as clearly portray God's seasonal plan of salvation for humanity. Those who are in rebellion against God's annual Holy Days now--who sneer at them in scathing contempt--will observe them when Christ returns. "And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King the Lord of hosts and to keep the feast of tabernacles" (Zech. 14:16). The nations of the earth will send representatives or ambassadors to observe this festival, or else they will have to suffer the consequences (Zech. 14:17-19).

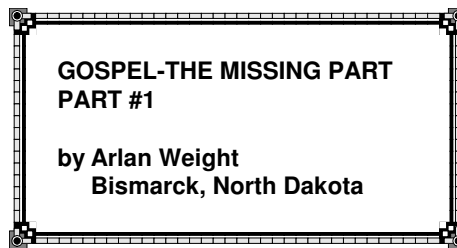
Majestic Splendor and Beauty

The earth will become a virtual global Garden of Eden. Deserts will become green, fertile garden lands with trees, shrubs, bubbling springs and brooks. "The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them: and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose" (Isa. 35:1). Even the nature of wild animals will be changed (Isa. 11:6). This will be a world of peace, prosperity, happiness and joy. There will be no illiteracy, poverty, famine or starvation. Crime, sickness, disease, pain and suffering will not exist. Satan and his demons will be bound for 1000 years and will not be allowed to influence people. There will be a new, pure, universal language (Zeph. 3:9). During the 1000 year reign of Christ there will be physical human beings as well as spirit members of God's family on this earth. Those spirit members are true Christians who are changed from physical to spiritual at the time of the first resurrection from the dead (Rev. 20:4). The kingdom of God shall employ high technology in its most sophisticated expression, in every sphere of that society--including areas of manufacturing, energy, transportation, communication, information processing, architecture and city planning. Yet this technology, under God's direction, will not produce the debilitating by-products characteristic of today's world. Energy will be clean and inexhaustible; waste products will be recycled; cities will be safe and sane; the ecology will be respected and the environment protected. Pesticides, herbicides and chemical fertilizers which deplete the soil of life-giving minerals will no longer be allowed. The true cause and cure for cancer as well as other health problems will be known by everyone. A good percentage of the earth will enjoy an agrarian society and many shall be involved in agriculture.

An Inspiring Future

The millennium will be a time of great advances in the field of human creativity as well as in the arts and sciences. The human mind shall be freed from the inhibitions of evil--no longer wasting time, energy and financial resources making implements of warfare. All efforts will be devoted to the peaceful edification of society. The most artistic and dynamic works of human history, the most magnificent musical compositions and performances, the most beautiful

paintings, the most expressive literature will be created within the parameters of God's laws during the millennial reign of Christ. Although the administration of the kingdom of God shall enforce a uniform law for all nations and peoples, this does not mean that cultural differences between people shall be eliminated. On the contrary, the diverse and unique personality, culture, music, art, dress and habits of each nation shall be preserved and encouraged. God's laws are universal in scope and shall be applied to and shall strengthen all peoples in all cultures in all environments. Education at all levels and in all areas shall be a primary activity for all people. Christ will rule for the highest good of the people. What will happen after the millennium? Every person that has ever lived and died without knowing the truth will come up in the second resurrection. "But the rest of the dead lived not again until the 1000 years were finished" (Rev. 20:5). God is fair and will give these people their first chance for salvation. These physical human beings will be given 100 years to live and will make a decision after having their first opportunity for understanding the truth (Isa. 65:20). Most of these people will want to live by God's perfect law of love and will be granted eternal life as sons and daughters in the family of God (2 Cor. 6:18).



On February 1, 2003, at 9:00 A.M. eastern standard time, the shuttle spacecraft, Columbia, disintegrated as it re-entered earth's atmosphere high over Texas and Louisiana. Aboard that spacecraft were the precious lives of seven young astronauts. These lives were instantly cut short in a violent way. Just like the September 11, 2001 disaster, we again watched in horror as the space shuttle came apart, streaking across the clear blue sky. Again we could not believe our eyes. People are still in shock and

disbelief and are asking some pointed questions.

On the following day, February 2, two ministers were interviewed on the CNN Network program with Larry King. They were asked specific questions like, "Why did God allow this tragic disaster to happen? Why does God allow good people to be cut off in their prime of life? Why didn't He intervene to prevent it? And where are the astronauts now?"

Based on the Bible their answers were only partially correct and for the most part were incorrect. In an effort to console and comfort the grieving families, mis-statements can sometimes be made. However, statements like the ones given usually are not done accidentally. Rather the answers given reflected the typical view of what society holds, concerning death and what happens to us afterward. Where do we go and what's the future? Are the astronaut's lives, like ours, only a short memory and that's it? What's life all about? Is there any hope beyond the grave?

For example one question put to the ministers was, "What do you tell an eight year old boy about death? Paraphrasing the answer, it went something like this. "These were good people. We don't always understand God's purpose or why God allowed this tragedy, but this much we know, God doesn't make mistakes. They are now resting in a safe place, a place we call heaven."

When tragedy strikes questions like this beg an answer to alleviate the mental anguish this young boy is experiencing. One can only imagine yourself explaining it to him. But was the answer Biblically accurate? Because the answers were given by someone whose profession it is to know, the TV audience probably accepted their response. The whole nation, indeed possibly the whole world was listening intently, as if hanging on every word. If they didn't quite agree, they may have at least resolved it in their own minds as, "No one knows for sure", or "It's the best answer anyone could give."

This was the most opportune time to give the families hope and make sense of it all. At this moment in time the audience was a captive one. Indeed it was a most excellent time to explain plainly what the Bible says about death and the hope of all mankind. This is something the world desperately needs,

as problems appear to be mounting steadily. But was it the best answer anyone could give? What would you have told that eight year old boy? Were the families truly comforted?

Over the course of my life, I've attended many funerals and heard many speeches given on the subject and all of them vary, but they all seem to end by leaving the audience in a quandary as to death and the hope for the deceased. People walk away and ponder these serious questions of life and death but never really understand. Why? Why does this happen, especially when the Scriptures seem to be plain?

So where are these seven lives? Are they in heaven as the minister said? If so, what did he mean by resting? Are they sleeping or, are they simply not bothered with the cares of this world and are looking down on us here on this earth? One comment at the funeral service was to one of the astronauts, as if he heard him speak and had knowledge of what was happening. But are they in heaven? Are they conscious? The Bible clearly says this:

13. **"No man** has ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of Man which is in heaven" (John 3:13)

If Jesus said this at the time he was on the earth, that means no one up to that time had gone to heaven... no one, not even any of the prophets or patriarchs of old. So if no one meant no one at that time, what makes us think these astronauts are there now? Can there be any plainer statement than this? But this is only part of the answer. If we just leave it there, it would not be telling the whole story, and it certainly would not give any comfort to the grieving families.

So if the astronauts, along with all people who have ever lived and died, are not in heaven what do you tell an eight year old boy who had just witnessed their father or mother dying in a terrible accident? Again the Bible answers are quite plain. Notice what Jesus told Martha, the sister of Lazarus, who had just died.

23. "Your brother shall rise again" (John 11:23)

Could any words be more comforting than these that Jesus gave? Again, here's another plain statement. Well, we know the story and that shortly after Jesus said these words, he did raise

him from the grave. But was this incident referring only to the immediate time when Jesus raised him, and because Lazarus had the good fortune of knowing Jesus in his lifetime? Furthermore, was the statement he made at the time only to comfort Martha and the immediate family and loved ones, or is there something for all people to understand?

Reading other sections of the Bible we can see Lazarus' resurrection was similar to many other resurrections described in both the New and Old Testaments. The following is a list of some of the resurrections we can read about.

1. Eligah resurrected a poor widow's son. (1 Kings 17)
2. Elisha resurrects a young boy. (2 Kings 4)
3. A nameless person is resurrected when he happens to fall into an open grave, namely that of Elisha. (2 Kings 13:21)
4. Jesus raises Jairus' daughter. (Luke 8)
5. Paul resurrects a young man who dies from a fall. (Acts 20)
6. Peter raises Tabitha. (Acts 9)
7. Many people are resurrected at the time of Jesus' resurrection. (Mat. 27:51-52)

All these people were brought out of their graves and raised physically. They lived out a period of time and died once more and are in their graves to this day. (John 3:13) These examples appear necessary in God's mind to demonstrate His power over death and to give comfort to those who's families are left behind, and for that matter, all mankind.

Resurrecting these people had a greater importance than just for that time and place. These examples should be comforting to all people that it is possible, and all that are in the grave will experience a resurrection. Notice again the plain words of Jesus in John 5:28-29.

28. "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which **all that are in the graves** shall hear his voice
29. And shall come forth: they that have done good unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil unto the **resurrection of damnation.**" (King James Version)

The Living Bible reads this way:

28. "Don't be so surprised! Indeed the time is coming when **all the dead in**

their graves shall hear the voice of God's Son and shall rise again... those who have done good, to **eternal life**; and those who have continued in evil, to **judgment.**"

Think about that! Jesus said all. But is this a 'good news - bad news' statement? No. Indeed there is nothing but good news in it. For if we would understand that the word 'damnation' **does not mean condemnation**, as the King James Version translates it, there is great hope. Furthermore, the Greek word 'krisis' is most often rendered '**judgment**' as the Living Bible has it. Based on the context of other scriptures throughout the Bible, the word 'judgment' designates a time when God gives a chance for all people to hear this astounding good news, be granted repentance, and have the same opportunity to live on.

In all scripture there is no one verse that has had as much misunderstanding as this one. No one single word is more perverted than this one '**judgment**'. Most often people have understood it's meaning as condemnation. It makes God out to be something of a harsh dictator eager to condemn rather than the one Jesus portrayed in his physical life on this earth. Contrary to that notice what Jesus said his whole purpose was in coming to this earth.

10. "I am come that they might have **life**, and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:10)

Again would Jesus make such a statement if only those listed above or people living after Christ came to this earth the first time had the good fortune of 'accepting him as their personal savior', have repented, and are 'saved'? Would not God be showing favoritism? Absolutely! Because think about the vast majority of humanity which have not so much as even heard the name of Jesus, much less accept him as their savior. There is more to the story. There is much, much more and is that **missing part** which ministers today fail to talk about that would indeed give much hope, not only to those of the shuttle disaster, but for all mankind.

But the immediate future for all mankind is that there is a time when all people will die and will be dead for some period of time. (**EDITOR'S NOTE: 16. For the Lord himself shall descend**

from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17. Then **we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.** 18. **Wherefore comfort one another with these words. (1 Thessalonians 4:16-18)**

Laura Lee) Notice another plain statement of scripture in Hebrews 9:27.

27. "And as **it is appointed** unto men once to die, but after this the **judgment.**"

Again it's so very plain to see that all of us must face the fact of death at some future point in time, but that's not the end of the story. Also, there's that word 'judgment' once more, and as stated above it simply means being resurrected and given the opportunity for repentance and to accept the terms of God's gracious gift of life. There is great hope beyond that for all people when this resurrection occurs, but the time when everyone is resurrected is not all the same for everyone. Notice 1 Corinthians 15:22-23.

22. "For as in Adam **all die**, even so in Christ shall **all** be made alive.

23. But **every man in his own order:** Christ the first fruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming."

Did you catch that? Paul is saying there is a time order in which every person who has ever lived and died will be raised to life again. But it is an orderly process and points to the fact of God having a plan. Some will be raised to 'life' (John 5:29) meaning raised from death to a spiritual condition much like Christ is today, but others to a physical life meaning a condition in which they will have their **opportunity for judgment.**

As we've seen, all people who have ever lived and died are still dead to this day, but all people have not yet been judged. Only the few that God calls now and works with, testing and proving and are given his spirit are being judged now. The vast majority have never even had that opportunity. Even those who think they have, may not have been judged. There is much more to be understood about the subject of 'judgment', but suffice it to say here, the vast majority of mankind is not now being judged, at least not in the way we think.

The Dead are Sleeping

As stated above, the minister on the Larry King show indicated the astronauts are resting safely in heaven. And as mentioned before, it was unclear as to just what he meant when he said this. Are they in heaven, conscious of what is happening on earth? Many people believe this is the case. On the other hand did the minister mean the astronauts are literally sleeping when he used the word **resting**?

What is death like? The Bible likens death to a sleep. To this writer death appears to be like having a good night's rest in sleeping. Even though breathing goes on and the heart rate slows, the mind is unconscious and there is no awareness of the passage of time. When you sleep soundly, you may lie down and when you awake it's as if you just fell asleep, even though it may be seven hours later.

This is the way it must be when we die. To us it will seem like the very next moment when we are resurrected, even though much time has elapsed. It may seem to be so quick as to be as if we never died... Some scriptures seem to bear this out. Notice 1 Corinthians 15:51-52.

51. "Behold, I show you a mystery: We shall not all sleep (die), but we shall all be changed,

52. **In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye"**

Paul is explaining the resurrection and how some people will be alive when Christ returns and these people will be changed from mortal to immortal, "In a moment in the twinkling of an eye:." Now here it seems to indicate the "moment in the twinkling of an eye" refers to the living, but it could also refer to those who are dead.

Think about it. What it seems to be saying is this, "look, it doesn't matter whether you're dead or alive, the 'change' (Job 14:14) or the resurrection, whichever it is, is going to seem to be instantly." You may have been dead for 1 year or 5000 years and yet at the moment of your death it will seem as instantly you're alive again.

Another scripture which seems to bear this out is Philippians 1:23-24. Paul is saying if he had his choice he would choose to die and then be with Christ. Notice the words:

23. "For I am in a strait between two, having a desire to depart (die), and to be with Christ; which is far better:

24. Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you"

From all the scriptures we've seen, all who have died are still dead to this day, so it could not mean dying and going to heaven. To this writer, what it seems to be saying is that Paul understood the quickness in which death and the resurrection would be to him. He would die and the next moment **of his consciousness** he would be with Christ.

The Missing Part

So, if the minister on the Larry King show meant sleeping when he said the astronauts are resting, he was correct. But the **missing part left out...** the missing part that would have given this young boy and all the loved ones the most hope and consolation is if they would have heard the same words Jesus told Martha in John 11:23. Jesus said, "**your brother shall rise again.**" This minister could have said to this young boy, "**Your father shall rise again.**"

A simple straightforward answer would have been sufficient. The minister could have said, "Your father died while doing a very brave act. You should be very proud of him, but he, and all (**See Previous Editor's Note**) of us too, must die, but **we will all rise again some day!** Jesus said so. To prove it, God through Jesus, raised Lazarus physically as well as many others in the Old and New Testaments. Here is proof positive that God can and will bring all people from death to be alive again. You can have great comfort in that also, because just as Martha was able to hug her brother being brought back to life, so will you, when you see your dad again."

So why wasn't the resurrection talked about on the Larry King Show? Could it be because it's that **missing dimension** in the gospel not preached by most 'Christian' ministers today? Most preachers today talk about the person of Christ but rarely do they focus in on what He (Jesus) preached. If the opposite were true, the answer would have immediately come that the astronauts shall rise again. The response would have been a ready one. But because the 'Kingdom of God' and a future restoration of this earth is rarely talked about, it was not in their

heart to do so.

As stated above the 'gospel' most 'Christian' ministers talk about is what Jesus did when he walked the earth, how he healed people and paid the price for sin by being sacrificed on the cross. This is part of the gospel, but it **leaves out the goal** of what all people can and should look forward to, that is to one day be **brought back to life** and never to die anymore. This message certainly includes the possibility of seeing those loved ones so suddenly removed from our midst.

Jesus' **message** was the message of the '**Kingdom of God**' (Mark 1:14). The message He talked about focused on people. His message about the kingdom of God showed how people could be **born again**. Not like the present day preachers talk about, but a literal birth, actually born by a resurrection, infused with life once more. As stated before, some people will be raised physically. This will be their first opportunity for judgment. Some, who are being judged now, will be raised with a spiritual body like Christ's and will be alive forevermore. But no matter whether the resurrection is physical or spiritual, it is **being alive** once more! What can be more exciting than that?

Along with the healing's Jesus performed, the message is what stirred people's hearts. Jesus' parables continually focused on that future realm by saying, "The Kingdom of God is likened unto..." In one particular parable he talked about a reward in that future world by being given rulership over five or ten cities. Think of it! What hope... what encouragement that must have had on those who heard it. This was not a vague or nebulous message. This message had substance! This gave hope, especially when they witnessed certain people like Lazarus or Jairus' daughter being raised from death. They saw themselves in that resurrection. It was real!

Shortly after Jairus' daughter was resurrected notice what happened.

26. "And the **fame** hereof went abroad into all that land" (Matthew 9:26)

Can you imagine that? This was no idle tale by someone who talked about being alive again, he demonstrated it so there was no doubt in their minds. They saw it happen! After that event it says, Jesus went all over preaching that same message. Notice Matthew 10:35:

35. "And Jesus went about all the cities

and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the **gospel of the kingdom...**"

Disciples Sent Out

Shortly after this Jesus sent his twelve disciples out to preach the same as he was doing at the time. Notice what he told them to say. (Matthew 10:7)

7. "And as you go, preach, saying, '**The kingdom of heaven is at hand**'"

Throughout Matthew 10 Jesus gives further instructions to those he sends out. He even tells them some will hate them **for their message** and will be persecuted for it. The message he gave to his twelve disciples seems to apply, not only to them but to all those he sends. Notice the wording in Matthew 10:23:

23. "But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another: for verily I say unto you, you shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, **till the Son of Man be come**"

Paul was not one of the original apostles, yet he makes reference to himself as an apostle. Notice 1 Corinthians 1:1:

1. "Paul, called to be an **apostle of Jesus Christ** through the will of God..."

Or how about 1 Timothy 1:1 he says this:

1. "Paul, **an apostle of Jesus Christ** by the **commandment** of God our Savior, and Lord Jesus Christ..."

The word apostle comes from the Greek word 'apostolos' meaning one sent forth. Paul didn't just wake up one day and decide to go into the preaching business. In fact he was one who persecuted the church and quite possibly was responsible for a number of those accused to be put to death. But on the road to Damascus one day he was struck down and told to stop doing what he was doing and do something else.

All of the apostles were sent. None of them sought the job. Like Jonah, all of them would have rather done something else. But God drafted them, so to speak, and he sent them out to preach this **same message** he preached. At the end of Paul's life when he was in his quarters in Rome, notice what it says.

30. "And Paul dwelt two whole years in his own hired house, and received all that came in unto him.

31. Preaching the **kingdom of God** and teaching those things which concern

the Lord Jesus Christ..." (Acts 28:30-31)

Again notice Paul preached a two-fold gospel. There was the message of the **kingdom of God**, but there was also the message "**which concern the Lord Jesus Christ.**" The last one is that which seems to be universally taught today by so called 'Christian' churches. The **message left out** is that of our **goal**, our hope, the **resurrection** and the **kingdom of God**.

Not a New Message

Consider also that this message, the message Jesus preached as well as the apostles, was not new. Think about the prophets and patriarchs of old. Consider the fact that **Abraham, Isaac and Jacob knew**. Notice some proof of this in Hebrews 11:9-10, 13:

9. "By faith he (Abraham) sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the **same promise**:"

10. For **he looked for a city** which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

13. These all **died** in faith, **not having received the promises...**"

These promises were real and tangible and they are yet coming... Notice what Jesus said in Matthew 8:11:

11. "And I say unto you, That **many shall come from the east and west**, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, **in the kingdom of heaven...**"

Who are these many people that will be sitting down with Abraham? Is this just a social call or will there be much more to it than that. What does it take to rebuild waste cities and restore the environment for example. No, there is a lot that isn't said here but there will be lot's of activity, lots of planning. There will be building projects, social events, music, and every other wholesome thing that is good. These are all part of the promises yet unfulfilled. They are part of that '**missing part**' of the gospel not told today!

Daniel knew about the kingdom of God. Notice the dream he had in Daniel 7:13-14:

13. "I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man

came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him.

14. And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a **kingdom**, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his **kingdom** that which shall not be destroyed."

Daniel was a bit troubled by the visions he was having so he enquired about them and:

18. But the **saints of the most High** shall take the **kingdom**, and possess the **kingdom** for ever, even for ever and ever. (Daniel 7:18)

21. I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them;

22. Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the **saints possessed the kingdom**. (Daniel 7:21-22)

27. And the **kingdom** and dominion, and the **greatness** of the **kingdom** under the whole heaven, shall be given to the **people of the saints of the most High**, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him. (Daniel 7:27)

Over and over again Daniel was told there is a kingdom coming that will be a glorious kingdom and one that will not ever end. Daniel knew about this kingdom and that it was yet for a future time. But he was assured of that resurrection for himself as well as others. Notice what it says in Daniel 12:2 & 12:

2. "And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth **shall awake**, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt...

12. But go your way till the end be: for **you shall rest**, and **stand in your lot at the end of the days.**"

Again two categories of people... those that are resurrected to a spiritual condition... never to die anymore, and the other category which places them in the physical group where they will have their chance for **'judgment'** (John 5:28-29), and they too will have the opportunity to live on. Although it doesn't say here but

elsewhere that there is order to all of this. What a **fantastic unbelievable plan!** Not just for the saints now, but for **all people!**

End Time Gospel

So if most churches are not preaching this missing part of the gospel, where is it being preached? Shortly after the apostles died, the missing part of this gospel began to be perverted. Notice what Paul says in Galatians 1:6-7:

6. "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:

7. Which is **not another**; but there be some that trouble you and would **pervert the gospel of Christ.**"

And what was that 'gospel of Christ'? No doubt it was that same gospel Christ preached as well as that which he told his apostles to preach... the **'gospel of the kingdom of God'**. History shows us that the church of the first century soon changed. It didn't die out but it went underground and was, no doubt quite small in impact as to the world at large. Notice what Jesus says of his church that he started to build in Revelation 2:1- 4:

1. Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;
2. I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:
3. And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted.
4. Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because **thou hast left thy first love.**

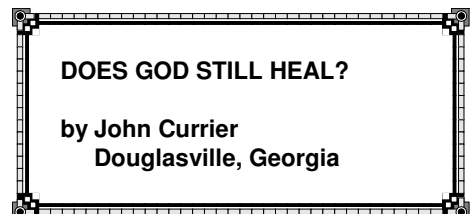
What was that 'first love'? When the church started out they had a burning desire for hearing and promoting that **message** that had been delivered to them. They had great hopes of being resurrected and living on in that kingdom. But the gospel began to lose it's appeal. It no longer contained the substance of that goal. The fervor they once had was no longer there. The reason is most obvious that it was because of what it says in Galatians 1:7. The gospel of what Christ brought to this earth was changing, was

being perverted'.

If one accepts the argument that the seven churches talked about in Revelation 2 & 3 represent the church ages from the time of Christ until the time Christ returns, what happened to Ephesus happened, in part, to all the eras. All of the eras from that time till now had their rise and their fall. (**EDITOR'S NOTE: There is no scripture in the Bible which talks about eras in regard to the churches listed in Revelation 2 & 3. If you can find it, book, chapter and verse. Laura Lee**) There was a time when Christ raised up someone to send out once more and once that person or persons completed their mission and were gone, the gospel message waned and almost seemed to die out. Christ even says that with the Church of Sardis. Notice what he says in Revelation 3:1-2:

1. "And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; these things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou has a name that thou live, and are **dead**."
2. Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are **ready to die**: for I have not found thy works perfect before God."

So did the Church of God die out? Did the gospel of the kingdom of God die? No, because if it had Christ's word would also not be true. For He said, "I will build **my church**, and the gates of hell shall **not prevail against it.**" (Mat. 16:18) So it didn't die, but the strength and power was not evident, even though the words of that message were still there. We still had Bibles, the words were preserved... all these centuries!



I was told recently of a certain minister that had posed this question to his congregation. He lamented the point that so many prayers were being offered, but God seemed unconcerned or at least unwilling to intervene and heal. He

contributed this to a lack of faith.

I was shocked at this! Here is a pastor/minister that is berating his congregation for their lack of faith, rather than building them up. I personally find it difficult in my heart to judge anyone for the amount of faith one has. Jesus said that if we had faith the size of a mustard seed we could move mountains (**Matt. 17:20**). As of yet, I have seen no mountains moved! Does this mean that we have no faith? No, not at all.

In **Mark 9:17-29** we read the account of a man with little faith. His son was possessed by an evil spirit and the father had brought the son to Jesus for healing. Jesus told the man that everything was possible for him who believes. The father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief." After Jesus had healed the boy, the disciples asked why they weren't able to do this and Jesus told them, "This kind can come out only by prayer." (Read the entire account.)

We see here that the man had some belief, but openly admitted that he didn't have it all. Here we need to notice two things:

- 1) It was the father who had the faith and not the son. Can we conclude from this that it's not necessary for the sick, ill, wounded, injured, etc., person to have the faith, but the one who prays over that person? Perhaps. In this case it seems to be.
- 2) Jesus said that it required prayer. Prayer is powerful. It let's the Father know our thoughts and our desires for the ill person. We learn from James 5:16 that "The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective." Perhaps the more righteous people we have praying will make a difference.

But are there other instances of healing in the Bible where there is no indication that the healed person is the one having the faith, but the person who is filled with the Holy Spirit of God and has been given the gift of healing?

In **Acts 3:1-26**, we read the story of Peter and John going to the Temple and finding a crippled man there, they heal him. There is no indication of this man having great faith or any faith for that matter. It was Peter, who was the instrument of God's power.

But one might say that there are

examples when it is the faith of the healed that has healed them--- and this is true. Let's look at just a couple of examples:

20. And, behold, a woman, which was diseased with an issue of blood twelve years, came behind him, and touched the hem of his garment:
21. For she said within herself, If I may but touch his garment, I shall be whole.
22. But Jesus turned him about, and when he saw her, he said, Daughter, be of good comfort; **thy faith hath made thee whole**. And the woman was made whole from that hour. (**Matt. 9:20-22**) KJV

49. So they called to the blind man, "Cheer up! On your feet! He's calling you."
50. Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus.
51. "What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked him. The blind man said, "Rabbi, I want to see."
52. "Go," said Jesus, "**your faith has healed you**." Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road. (**Mark 10:49-52**) NIV

Of course, there are many, many other examples throughout the New Testament that could be quoted. In some cases we see that there seems to be no faith required on the part of the person being healed and on the other hand we see that one may be healed by one's faith.

We understand so little of God. For instance, why does He cure some people and yet, does not cure others? We don't know. But we must remember **Rom 8:28a**, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him..." NIV

In **Dan 3:16-18** we read about the faith of three young Jewish men: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These men had faith that God could deliver them from all harm, BUT were also willing to accept any outcome that God deemed right.

Perhaps, this is the attitude we should have concerning the blessing of healing? Yes, of course, we want ourselves and those we loved to be cured and made well. But can we in all faith hold God's "feet to the fire"? Just because we have prayed does that mean He must give us what we ask? Or, should we

instead ask that "if it be His will" that this person be made well? Again, I reiterate Romans 8:28a. We must trust in the Lord and have the faith that He will do whatever is best for us. We may not understand it at the time, but we must keep the faith that has been delivered to us.

We may say that this is all well and good to read about these great healings of days long ago, but what about today? Are there any healings being done today? And the answer is a resounding... YES!

I've known of many such healings, since I've been in the church, but let me tell you of two that I have been personally involve with. The first one concerns a lady in the Church of God, Dallas-Fort Worth. She was diagnosed from mammograms with three distinct and positive tumor spots in her right breast. The doctor said that it looked cancerous, but he would not know for certain until he was able to biopsy the spots. This occurred on a Monday and the doctor wanted to biopsy the spots on Thursday. On Wednesday, the lady called for the elders of the church to come and anoint and pray for her. Pastor John Currier and deaconess Dianne McDonnell (who later became the pastor of the Church of God, Dallas-Fort Worth after Mr. Currier was transferred) did come and anoint the lady, laid hands on her, and prayed over her.

The following day, Thursday, was the day the doctor intended to biopsy the spots that he had seen on the mammograms. Before he proceeded, he wanted another set of mammograms. The technician took the mammograms from three different angles and took them to the Radiologist. A few minutes later, she came and took three more mammograms and took them to the Radiologist. Finally, the Radiologist came in and took three additional mammograms from three different angles. The lady now becoming quite concerned asked the Radiologist why so many mammograms were being made. He said, "I can't understand it! I know for **certain** that you had three very prominent spots on your right breast, but I can find **no trace** of them now!" He then produced the original x-rays and showed them to the lady (who was also a nurse and understood the mammograms). It wasn't just a shadow or a blur. There it was, as plain as day--- three very distinct spots. Were they cancerous or benign? That couldn't be determined. But were

they really there? Absolutely! And now were they really gone? Absolutely!!! What had happened in the meantime between the first mammograms on Monday and the next mammograms done on Thursday? A great healing! A miracle? I believe so! Did God intervene? Yes!

This next case hits even closer to home for me for it is about me. I have been athletic all my life. This includes everything from football, to camping and hunting, to skydiving, to surfing, to SCUBA diving, to horseback riding, to water skiing, etc. In my latter years, I have concentrated on bodybuilding (not to win trophies, but just to stay in good muscle tone) and aerobics, which included at least three times a week on a treadmill. I was the last person you'd think was going to have anything happen to me. I was, as most everyone thought, "fit as a fiddle".

On the 31st of May this year (2002), I had a massive heart attack that should have killed me. I was admitted to the hospital and was told that I needed a quadruple by-pass! I immediately called for the elders of the church. As I was now in Atlanta, Georgia, Pastor Steve Sanders of the Atlanta Church of God, Independent, and Deacon Robert Quinn came to anoint me. The next day, I was told some "good news". It had now been determined that the heart muscle itself was not hurt, but only the arteries that feed the heart! Praise God! This was good news indeed, but it would still require a quadruple by-pass! The doctors tried to pass off the fact that my heart was not damaged by saying that it was because I was in such otherwise good physical condition. They gave only nodding placating to the idea that God could have intervened.

Although the fact that I needed the by-pass was not good, there was still more bad news to come. They also discovered a bleeding mass the size of a golf ball on my small intestine, including the pancreas, and duodenum. They biopsied the mass, but the results were later lost. It was surmised that this would call for an operation that would require the removal of half the stomach, part of the pancreas, all of the duodenum, and part of the intestine and the life expectancy after that was for about a year! By this time, I had been transferred to the Army Medical Center in Augusta, Georgia. There they did more x-rays and

nuclear medicine scans, as well as, Computer Topography (CT) scans, which all showed positive for a mass in my intestine. Prayer requests went out from near and far! Rosey Halley had my name on the Internet Prayer Requests Line before nightfall. I received phone calls from people all over the country and letters and cards, too. Most importantly--- **prayers!!**

Pastor Dianne McDonnell and her husband, Gary, drove from Arlington, Texas, in order to anoint me! When Mrs. McDonnell arrived I told her the situation and the pain in my stomach, as well as those in my chest. She anointed me, laid hands on me, and prayed over me asking that God heal me and take away the mass and bleeding. It was a very emotional time. When it was all over, I felt at peace. No, I didn't know right at that moment, whether God had healed me or not. But like Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, I had to trust in the Lord to do His will and also keep in mind that He works for the good for those who love Him. So, I kept the faith! On the 14th of June, another CT scan was performed on me and there was no sign of the mass! I had been healed of the mass!! But the only thing the doctors could say is it looked like there was something there at one time, but nothing is there now! However, they were still not convinced that the mass wasn't there someplace and they still wanted to do, at least, some "exploratory surgery."

It was decided, though, that the heart surgery should be done first for I may not make it through the other surgery. On the morning of the 19th of June, the day of the open-heart surgery, Mrs. McDonnell anointed me once again with oil, laying on of hands, and prayers! Later on that day, I did have this major heart surgery and I came through it with no problems! I surprised the doctors by not having any pain after surgery. I have since been recovering well and the prognosis from this surgery is good. However, the other surgery was still pending ---for the doctors still believed that there was a mass in my intestine!

On the eighth of July 2002 I was admitted once again for x-rays of my intestine. I had had no pain in my intestine, since Mrs. McDonnell anointed me, which was before the heart surgery!

I had to swallow a "Barium" solution, which tasted just awful, but was

necessary for good x-rays. This test consisted of drinking the solution and then x-raying my intestine every fifteen minutes for over an hour. At the end of that time the Radiologist (MD) came in and read the x-rays and then fluoroscoped me, while watching everything on a TV monitor. Her conclusion was that there was **"no blockage or mass whatsoever"**! That I was **"perfectly clean."** However, this did not satisfy the general surgeons. They still did not believe that there was no mass!

Once again, on July 22nd, I was admitted for an endoscope of my upper intestine, duodenum, and pancreas. In this procedure, the doctors introduce a long probe down one's mouth and all the way down into the intestine. This probe has a camera on the end and it allows the doctor to actually see everything that's there... or **not there**, as was this case! They also did another nuclear CT scan. After all their testing and re-testing, it was proven that the golf ball size mass just wasn't there!! It was amazing! There was absolutely nothing! God had healed it all and there was no longer any sign of cancer or anything else! God has healed me! Praise God the Father and His glorious Son, Jesus Christ!!

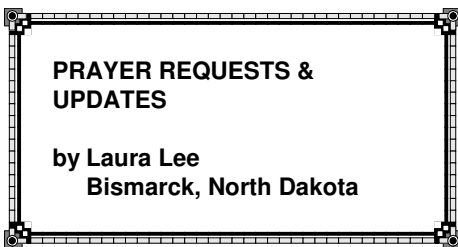
Had God worked with me? Did He intervene? Yes, to both questions! In the initial heart attack my heart was undamaged. In the pain that followed the heart surgery, there was none. In the case of the mass that the doctors were so sure was there and that they had actually seen and biopsied--- was gone! Each and all of these can only be explained as blessings from God.

Unfortunately, there are many people around--- and surprisingly, many Christians--- who think that the days of God's healing are over. They try to explain away the miraculous healings that are taking place. Some imply that the x-rays were not done well. Of course, professionals took the x-rays, CT scans, and nuclear scans in every case and it would be highly unlikely for them to mess up any and all of these. Or, someone may claim that perhaps the "lab work" was mixed up or maybe misread. Or, it was something that just passed on away. Or, maybe it was just a figment of someone's imagination. They don't want to believe that it was actually God who intervened! I

supposed that it just wouldn't be "politically correct". The only thing they will believe must be something that can be explained medically or at least scientifically! How sad!

Does God still heal? I know with all my heart that He does! I have seen His work, not just in my life, but also in many others. There are those who are healed and those who are not. We don't know why this is, but we must trust in our heavenly Father---**always**.

I would like to say "Thank You" to all those around the country that sent the many cards and flowers, and to those who offered prayers and fasting for me during my time of need. And, a very large and special thank you to Pastor Dianne McDonnell who drove across the country to anoint me! Now, I ask your prayers once again--- Please pray that I will return to the work of God and do even more than I had done before. Let us praise God in all things and keep the hope in our hearts that His Kingdom comes soon!



We have been sending prayer requests and updates around the world via email since approximately January of 2001. How we got started and the reason we continue to do this, has to do with an accident that Darwin had in September of 1999, where he fell from an inside roof access ladder while taking window washing equipment to the roof of the Ward County Court House in Minot, North Dakota.

He does not know to this day exactly what happened to cause him to fall from the ladder, and his memory of the event is just not there. I went and looked at that stairwell after the accident and talked to the gentleman who hired Darwin to clean those windows. What we could see from the evidence in the stairwell is that when Darwin fell from that ladder he had to have literally flown over the open spiral like stairwell which goes

straight down 4 floors to a concrete landing. He landed about 2 flights (of 6 stairs each), down from the ladder, onto a steel pipe railing. A piece of equipment he was carrying hit the steel pipe railing so hard that it dented the railing.

The reason we know that he flew over that stairwell opening and landed on the steel pipe railing is because he did not have any other injuries except those which were due to a hard landing. His right leg between the thigh and the knee shattered when it hit the steel pipe railing. The only other injury he had was to the right side of his head and we don't know what specifically caused that.

If they had not been holding court that day on the 3rd floor they might not have found Darwin for hours and he could have bled to death. As it was they did hear the noise when he landed and a lady opened the stairwell door and when she saw what happened she said "Don't move, I will call an ambulance".

Was there an angel involved here or not? We believe it was a miracle of God. The hospital was right across the street from where Darwin fell, so the ambulance came quickly. Once Darwin was in intensive care, he was in so much pain they could not take him off the ambulance gurney that they used to carry him on.

When I was notified that Darwin had an accident on September 14, 1999, the hospital made it sound like he had a hang nail and would be home that night. It is a two hour drive from Bismarck, North Dakota where we live and Minot where he was working, so I was a little surprised when I got there as far as the injuries went.

Darwin and I belonged to the United Church of God AIA at the time, and the first thing Darwin did was tell me to call an elder who worked at Minot Air Force Base and see if he could come and anoint Darwin right away. So I called the elder and he came.

The doctors could not operate on Darwin's leg until his head injury stabilized enough to permit an operation. Since this accident happened early in the morning, around 9:00AM, Darwin had to lay there in intensive care all day with no pain killers for the pain due to the huge gapping hole in his right leg, because they were waiting for his head injury to stabilize. I have no idea how they were keeping all the blood from coming out for

that long.

They could not operate on his leg until 6PM that day, at which time they also wanted permission to use blood if they had to. We had declined the offer for any blood transfusions going in and would make that sort of decision one way or the other if necessary. The doctor of course was not happy that we refused blood, so I was instructed to stay in a certain waiting room near a phone so they could call me if they needed to give Darwin blood to save his life. I wasn't in that waiting room more than 5 or 10 minutes when the phone rang. It was them wanting me to sign a paper for a blood transfusion if needed. I said, "Does Darwin need the blood right now?" They said "No", I said, "Then please call me back when he does need blood and I will decide at that time."

The operation was two hours long and I remember well the look on the doctors face when he came into the waiting room to tell me about Darwin's leg. The doctor didn't feel at that time that Darwin would ever walk again. They had to put a plate in there and a lot of pieces of bone were missing, so they had to fill in a lot of areas with something, which for my lack of medical knowledge seemed like a substance like wood filler which is used to fill in and cover up holes in wood before painting. During the operation they had to cause injury to Darwin's knee on that leg in order to repair all the damage just above it.

To make a long story short, Darwin spent 1 week in the hospital in Minot, North Dakota, and then was transferred to the VA hospital in Fargo, North Dakota, because we did not have any medical insurance. Darwin was in the VA hospital until November 3, 1999. That is a long time.

During Darwin's stay in the hospital we found that putting out prayer requests, for Darwin was not a real priority for the United Church of God AIA. Visitors from the Fargo congregation were even less, even the minister had no more than 30 minutes (total) of time to spare for visiting Darwin in the hospital from September 14, 1999 to November 3, 1999.

Back in Bismarck, where we lived, not one single member from our own UCGAIA congregation came to visit me at home or to even see if I had any food or any money to buy food. We were to say the least witnessing a terrible lack of love

coming from our own church. And to top that all off we got a letter on November 17, 1999, telling us that we were not to come back to services and we were not to discuss our letter with anyone in the UCGAIA. (For more information on this see page 24 under literature--"Why Were We Disfellowshipped by the United Church of God an International Association?")

Since we were now barred from services at UCGAIA, we had to find other ways to fellowship, so we went to Church of God 7th Day in Alfred a couple of times, met with a local couple a few times and also attended as visitors at the Living Church of God. Church of God 7th Day was about 100 miles away and had no holy day services, and the Living Church of God purged us after 9 months because we did not sign on the dotted line to become members.

So, in June 2000 we held our first Bible Study, and in December 2000 we started having services in our home, with a totally open door policy. We started the Newsletter in January of 2001 and then a couple of people sent prayer requests to us, and that was the start of our prayer requests via email. At first we published them in our newsletter, but then we started getting pages of prayer requests so about a year ago we started publishing them on our web site at: <http://darwinlauralee.150m.com> and continued to send them out via email. Now we are in the year 2003 and our email send list has gotten too large for us to handle manually and our internet service provider will not let us send all of our mail any longer. So we find we must make another change.

We started this prayer request line in order to serve both those of the household of God and the general public. This is a public prayer line and we want it that way for two reasons: #1--We should never refuse to pray for those who ask for prayers. #2--We find there is a terrible lack of concern or love for other people all around us and some groups will not pray for people in other groups or even for those within their own groups.

Everyone has a chance to serve in the household of God. We need people who want to pray for other people. If you want to do that, please sign up on our new Prayer Requests & Updates list. You can join two different ways. They are as follows:

#1--E-mail us at: Prayer-Requests-Darwin-Laura@Juno.com and have us send you an invitation. Use the invitation we send you from Coolist. That Web Site link takes you right to the place where you can sign up/join the new list. The link on the invitation can be found under: "If you would like to participate in this mailing list, please visit the following web page on the web:" Then it gives you the link. This is the easiest way for you to sign up.

#2--You can go to our Web Site at: <http://darwinlauralee.150m.com> and go into the Prayer Requests & Updates section. There is a box there where you can subscribe to our new list. You put your e-mail address in the box and click on the subscribe button, which takes you into the Coolist web site, where you would click on the "Join" button and follow the instructions. This is a little harder way of doing it.

If you have problems getting on the new list, let us know, and we will work with you.

We also need people who want to send cards to those who are sick, dying or hurting. We forward cards to people on our prayer list. Do you know how much people need and appreciate these cards even from strangers when they are hurting?

I would have loved it back in 1999, if just one member of the UCGAIA congregation that we attended would have come to see how I was holding up under a tremendously stressful first year of marriage and life in a foreign land (I am from a different state), with no family called Bismarck, North Dakota.

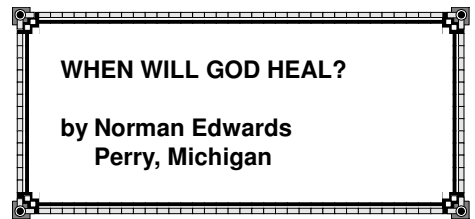
Darwin's story has a happy ending. The doctor at the VA thought he would or should be in a wheelchair. We kept hearing that even if he did walk, he would have to use a cane for the rest of his life. Darwin went from wheelchair, to walker, to crutches and then to a cane. I think the cane thing lasted all of 2 days and that was over.

In April of 2000 Darwin started back to work slowly and part time. By 2001 in April he was back in the swing of work and I mean that literally, as he is a high rise window washer in Bismarck, North Dakota and has been for over 25 years. So if you come to Bismarck and see someone swinging from the airport tower building, that is probably Darwin. Check the scaffolds and the lifts on those

high buildings as you will more than likely find him there.

When Darwin walks now he walks with a limp, due to the doctor having to injure the knee in order to fix the leg. I thought that in telling everyone our story, that perhaps people would understand why it is so important to pray for others and send them cards. I know there are people on our prayer list who feel isolated and unloved. We are in training now for the soon coming kingdom of God, having compassion for others now is part of that and Darwin and I can only do so much, we are only a very small part of the picture.

Start a personal work of sending cards to other people. Start a work of praying for others. Start now.



The Bible contains many stories of miraculous, instant healings. Some of those healed were believers; others were not. Even the last chapter of the book of the Acts of the Apostles records a mass healing:

... "the rest of those on the island who had diseases also came [to Paul] and were **healed**" (Acts 28:9).

Today, Christians from many denominations and congregations report some miraculous healings. But the same groups also report believers suffering with diseases and injuries for years—even though they have prayed for healing. We all probably know Christians who have died from a disease—even some at a very young age.

What should we do about healing?

How can a Christian have the biblical faith to be healed (Matt 9:22; 13:58; 15:28; Acts 14:9), knowing that God apparently does not heal in every case? What are God's promises? Does God always keep His promises? When will God heal? There are good answers to these questions in the Bible!

First let us examine reasons why people **were not healed immediately** in the Bible and why they **were healed immediately**. Then, we will see when healing is “promised”, what we must do today and how doctors fit into biblical healing.

Why Healings Sometimes Not Immediate

1. Our Own Sin. God forgives our sins, but he does not usually undo the physical consequences of them. When a murderer repents, his victims do not come back to life. When an adulterer repents, illegitimate children do not just disappear. Stolen property does not miraculously reappear—though the repentant thief should choose to restore it (Luke 19:8). God wants us to see our sin’s long-term bad effect and to desire His goodness instead.

When King David killed Uriah and took Bathsheba, God forgave David’s sin but their child remained sick and died after a week (2 Sam 12:13-17). David fasted and prayed and was forgiven, but there was no healing. Similarly, when Corinthian brethren were sinning against God, Paul said, “For this reason many *are* weak and sick among you, and many sleep” (1 Cor. 11:30).

2. The Sins of Others. Christ suffered only due to other’s sins. We suffer for both our sins and other’s. From this, we learn firsthand the importance of teaching everyone to obey God. If God miraculously removed the effects of suffering due to the sins of others, the world would be an artificial place with no accurate history of human activity.

Though He was a Son (Christ), *yet* He learned obedience by the things which He suffered (Heb 5:8).

Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted (Heb 2:18).

Christ and the apostles suffered more from physical abuse than disease, but the two are very similar. People are physically injured in obvious visible ways when someone intentionally injures them or acts carelessly (e.g. drives a car too fast) in a way that results in injury. Similarly, many diseases come about because someone deliberately exposes a person to a dangerous germ, or because someone is careless with germs, food,

environmental pollutants, etc. and causes many people to be sick as a result of their sin.

God did not immediately heal Christ from His beating or nail wounds of execution. Paul was not instantly healed of his beating while in jail (Acts 16:33). They suffered for the sins of other people:

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service (Rom 12:1).

And if children, then heirs— heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we **suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together** (Rom 8:17).

3. God’s Special Purpose. Some sickness is not caused by anyone’s sins:

And His disciples asked Him, saying, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him” (John 9:2-3).

This man had been blind from birth to early adulthood (see v 20-21), not due to sin but because God had a plan. This author has read many stories of exceptional and nearly unbelievable human effort to help a sick or handicapped child. Handicapped individuals sometimes accomplish great things. People seem to have a hard time appreciating what they have until something is taken away.

Why Healings Sometimes Are Immediate

1. God Shows His Power. The blind man, above, and many other healings demonstrated that God’s power was in the New Testament Church. If that healing power is not in the Church today, it is probably because we are not doing what the New Testament believers did and God is not quick to put His “stamp of approval” through his healing on our church groups. We need to study, learn and change. Nevertheless, this author has seen God display his healing power to believers—most often to new believers who really need proof of God.

2. God Shows His Compassion. Many times, Christ healed people simply because he had compassion for their

suffering (Matt 14:14). These people were not necessarily “believers”. This author has heard of healings of those in dire need today—of people with a variety of religious backgrounds.

3. People want healing to serve God. When people ask for a healing so they can serve God, He frequently (but not always) answers. David wanted to live so he could keep praising God (Psalm 6:4-5). Childless Hannah wanted a son to dedicate to God (1 Sam. 1:6,11). There are other examples, both in the Bible and among believers today.

4. Sins are Stopped and Forgiven. Jesus sometimes specifically forgave sins when he healed, and warned people that continued sin would bring the sinner more suffering (Luke 5:20-25; John 5:2-14)

God’s Time to Fulfill All His Promises

Some people interpret the Bible to say that God promises to instantly heal every believer. One verse they use to “prove” this is:

Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits—who forgives **all** your sins and heals **all** your diseases (Psalm 103:2-3),

But notice the next three verses of Psalm 103:

[God] who redeems your life from **the pit** and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s. The LORD works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed (Psalm 103:4-6)

“The pit” (Hebrew *shachath*) is an expression used elsewhere in the Bible for “the grave” or the place of death. When David wrote this, were his readers redeemed from death? Were they crowned with love and compassion? Were all their desires satisfied? Was their youth renewed? Was God doing righteousness and justice for all the oppressed?

So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, **it is raised imperishable**; it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power (1 Cor. 15:42-43)

And I [Apostle Paul] have the same hope in God as these men,

that there will be a **resurrection** of both the righteous and the wicked (Acts 24:15).

This will take place on the day when God will judge men's secrets through Jesus Christ, as my gospel declares (Rom 2:16).

God's many great promises are not all given to us right away. Healing is one such promise. Hebrews 11 illustrates this very well. Of the men and women who had great faith in God, some of them received great healings and miracles; others did not. None received all of the promises of God:

These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised. God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect (Heb 11:39-40).

...The dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air... (1 Thes. 4:16-17).

These scriptures show that many of God's important promises will not be fulfilled **until the resurrection—when the righteous of all ages will be raised**. Healing is one of those promises. The Bible mentions the resurrection frequently.

When We Need Healing, Do This:

My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience (Jms. 1:2-3).

Also, we must have faith that Christ can do a mighty work. Christ "could do no mighty work" when people were doubting him (Mark 6:1-6). We need to have faith like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego who realized that they might not be delivered in this life, but were going to obey God anyway (Dan 3:17-18). We can follow God's commands and have confidence and peace with the outcome, whether healing is instant or not:

Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Confess

your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much (James 5:14-16).

We need to do as many of the things in these verses as we can. Many people forget about confessing their sins to others. It is hard to admit to our self, and harder to admit to others, that our suffering might be due to our own sins. But admitting it to oneself and then to others are the first steps toward healing.

Biblical elders are older, mature believers recognized within a congregation—they may or **may not** be "ordained" by a church organization. They should know you well. If, at some emergency, you are without oil, elders, or a "righteous man", do as much of this as you can with whoever is available.

Faith Is In God, Doctors Hired by Choice

Divine healing and doctors are compatible, but completely different in function. Our approach to God should be: "I know You can heal me, but if You do not, please show me what I need to understand. I will accept whatever You do." Our approach to medical professionals should be: "I appreciate your skill and your hard work in acquiring it. However, you do not have all knowledge and I am retaining the right to ask you about the certainty of your opinions or to seek the opinions of other competent individuals. I will make the final decision as to which procedures I will accept and which I will not. God has given me the ultimate responsibility for my body and of those he has placed in my care. I will not give up that responsibility and let a doctor take the place of God in my life. I look for doctors who are honest and respect the bodies God created."

A good doctor will acknowledge that people are different inside—a given treatment may not be effective on every person. He/she will be honest and admit that they are wrong at times. Ask wise friends to help find such doctors.

If we follow what God says in James 5:14-16 (especially examining ourselves and confessing our sin), and also use the best medical help that we can find and afford, God will take care of us. Whether we receive instant healing or not, whatever physical ability He gives us is all

that He expects us to use (Matt 25:22-23; Luke 12:48). We can be content with that, and look forward to a perfect body and our reward at the resurrection!

For true
Christians:
Life is the
greatest **TRIAL**
Death is the
ultimate **TRUST**
Resurrection is
the highest
TRIUMPH.

by Alan Ruth
Farmington Hills,
Michigan

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Laura Lee (Editor)

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 - F. Learning to Wait--Michael Porter
 - G. Who Is, or Is Not Free To Marry?--by Rhoda Foust
- _____ 12. November/December 2002--Issue No. 12
- A. Grace vs. Law--sent by Rusty Ames
 - B. How Do You Identify A 'Laodicean'?--sent by Jeffrey Caldwell
 - C. The Christian Sabbath-Part #6--by Catholic Mirror 1893
 - D. Missing Mercy and Love Ingredients--Part #2--by Ted Saunders
 - E. Christmas Has Pagan Roots--by Wayne Schatzle
 - F. From Trouble to Joy--by Michael Porter
 - G. Addicted to Authority--by June Narber
 - H. Preparation For Righteous Rulership--by Norman Edwards
 - I. Four Letters To Us & Others

NEWSLETTER--BACK ISSUES [Snail Mail Only]

- _____ 13. January/February 2003--Issue No. 13
- A. Is God Pleased with Our Marriages?--by Wayne Speed
 - B. Feast Report From San Antonio, Texas--by Rosy Halley
 - C. News Report--by Chris Abiazem
 - D. "You Don't Know What You're Talking About!"--sent by Name Withheld
 - E. Four Letters by: Lee Ann Sanders, Gary Witte, Fred Brettell Jr., and Tommy West.
 - F. A Study of "The Truth"--by Garry D. Pifer
 - G. Jesus is Our Friend--by Bill Bratt
 - H. The Truth About Chlorine and Fluoride--by Alex Nicholson
 - I. The Day With a Blessing--by Wayne Schatzle
 - J. Seek Shalom and Pursue It!--by Jeffrey A. Caldwell
 - K. Standing Firm--by June Narber
- _____ 14. March/April 2003--Issue No. 14
- A. Bibles For Our Youth--by Yann & Margaret Vidal
 - B. Questions?--by Alan Ruth
 - C. Computer Virus Hoaxes!!!--by Chris Cumming
 - D. Four Letters by: Fred Brettell, Jr., Jeffrey A. Caldwell, Tommy West, and Gary Witte
 - E. What is Fornication? Part #1--by Laura Lee
 - F. Preserving the Sabbath for the Next 100 Years--by June Narber
 - G. Why a Sermon?--by Garry D. Pifer

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| _____ 9. Origins--Arnold Mendez | _____ 10. Evolution: A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups--Arnold Mendez |

LITERATURE [Snail Mail Only]

- _____ 1. Why Were We Disfellowshipped By The United Church of God an International Association? by Darwin & Laura Lee 111 pages
_____ 2. Wiley & Suzanne Black (Another Case of Abuse) by Bernard Kelly (The Bible Expositor--Last Issue) 16 pages
_____ 3. The Garnet Hill Story (Another Case of Abuse) 28 pages