

## U. S. Citizens Beware

(Copyright 05-01-2024)  
by Dwight Fleming  
(Oroville, California)

PAGE 3 2024

## Donor Letter May 3, 2024

(Copyright 05-03-2024)  
by William P. Goff  
(Myrtle Beach, South Carolina)

PAGE 4 2024

## Let's Talk Dutch!

(Copyright 05-03-2024)  
by Dwight Fleming  
(Oroville, California)

PAGE 7 2024

## "Are The Ten Commandments Obsolete?"

(Copyright 2013) by Terry Bruns  
(Oregon, Wisconsin)

PAGE 8 Long Article

## A funny thing happened on the way to Damascus

(Copyright 2023) by Curtis Dahlgren  
(Stephenson, Michigan)

PAGE 13 Mid-Size Article

## Double Trouble

(Copyright 2023) by Dwight Fleming  
(Oroville, California)

PAGE 16 Mid-Size Article

## A Question for Christians About the Sabbath

(Copyright) by Jeffrey Caldwell  
(Arkansas)

PAGE 18 Short Article

## Haron Has Fallen Asleep

(Copyright 2024) by William P. Goff  
(Myrtle Beach, South Carolina)

PAGE 19 Short Article

**In regard to: The Spices and  
the Visits to Christ's Tomb**

Article by B. L. Cocherell  
Comments by Laura Lee  
(Bismarck, North Dakota)

PAGE 20 **Iron Sharpening Iron**

**In regard to:  
Double Trouble**

Article by Dwight Fleming  
Comments by Laura Lee  
(Bismarck, North Dakota)

PAGE 21 **Iron Sharpening Iron**

**Letters**

21 --- Elijah M. Osiemo  
21 --- Kasuba Manad  
22 --- William P. Goff

**Announcements**

22 --- William P. Goff

**"In Defense of Bathsheba" (Part 1)**

(Copyright 2023) by David Antion  
(Pasadena, California)

PAGE 23 **Special Edition "Article"**

**To Unsubscribe from this newsletter:**

Send a blank email to [church-of-god-bismarck@hotmail.com](mailto:church-of-god-bismarck@hotmail.com) with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line.

**To Subscribe to this newsletter, Go to:**

[Newcogmessenger Info Page \(church-of-god-messenger.org\)](http://church-of-god-messenger.org)

**To Submit Items for Print, Send to:**

[the-church-of-god-messenger@hotmail.com](mailto:the-church-of-god-messenger@hotmail.com)

[church-of-god-bismarck@hotmail.com](mailto:church-of-god-bismarck@hotmail.com)

Mail to Darwin & Laura Lee, 320 N. Griffin St., Bismarck, ND 58501

The "New" Church of God Messenger is an independent publication. All newsletters may be copied and given to others if they are copied and sent in their entirety.

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

**Contributors:** David Antion, Terry Bruns, Jeffrey Caldwell, Curtis Dahlgren, Dwight Fleming, William P. Goff, Laura Lee, Kasuba Manad, Elijah M. Osiemo

**The "New" Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**May 11, 2024 --- Issue No. 171**

**Websites:**

<https://darwin-laura.com/> **Links**

<https://www.church-of-god-bismarck.org> **Current Newsletters**

<https://shopping-mall-online.biz/> **Church Books and Free Classified Ads**

**1Co 14:26** How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying.

**U. S. Citizens Beware**  
**(Copyright 05-01-2024) by Dwight Fleming (Oroville, California)**

I just finished watching a new documentary detailing the life of General Michael Flynn and the false charges brought against him to undermine the Trump Administration. The film is now available on Amazon to buy or rent.

It happened to Jesus of Nazareth nearly two thousand years ago with His trial before Pilate. Nothing has changed since then. Those in power will stoop to any means to destroy anyone whom they deem as a political threat. It happened to General Flynn in the last ten years and is ongoing today with Donald Trump.

Personally, I've had police officers lie against me in court. Despite the odds against me, God gave me victory over my adversaries. There is more that I could say but must wait until the latest matter is settled. [But note this: The judge's name is Jesus and my attorney's name is Christ. The prefix of my attorney's phone number is "777."] I certainly can relate to what Jesus experienced and what Donald Trump is having to endure for wanting to save this country from destruction. May God bless them for their heroic efforts!

I found the General Flynn film inspiring and encouraging. We must continue to fight the good fight of faith as admonished by the apostle Paul (I Timothy 6:12). If you are interested in watching a trailer, then this link will take you to the film website: [Flynn Movie: Deliver the Truth. Whatever the Cost.](#)

On the website, I noticed that Live Oak, CA was one of the stops of the live tour (see video clip). And I missed it. Live Oak, CA is just 15 minutes from me. My grandparents and other relatives are buried in the Live Oak Cemetery. In fact, have you ever seen the movie, "Mermaid," a 2000 film?

It was based on a true story of a little girl who had lost her father but couldn't accept his death. Her mother would take her often to the cemetery just outside of Live Oak. The mother had the little girl write a letter to her father. They went to the cemetery and released a "Little Mermaid" balloon with the letter attached. Time went by with no response. Finally, they received a response from a town in Canada called, "Mermaid." A co-incidence or the hand of God?

Before the movie was made, I first learned about the story in the 90s when I stopped by my parents' place to watch some news with my dad. They showed scenes of this cemetery and how this little girl had released a balloon from there to contact her dad. The scenes of the cemetery started to look familiar especially with prune trees in the background. Sure enough, they finally mentioned Live Oak, California. So, this cemetery has special meaning to me. Here is the link: [Mermaid \(2000 film\) - Wikipedia](#)

-----  
**See Dwight Fleming's other articles at:**

[Fleming, Dwight – Church of God, Bismarck \(church-of-god-bismarck.org\)](https://www.church-of-god-bismarck.org)  
-----

## Donor Letter May 3, 2024

(Copyright 05-03-2024) by William P. Goff (Myrtle Beach, South Carolina)

We want to thank all of you who so quickly assisted in our time of need. We were able to bury Haron. His funeral was attended by his family, the local congregation, and by hundreds of his friends. He was then buried at the orphanage. We also had a sobering (but inspiring) Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread.

The children at Sengera House were all home during the entire Month of April. It was their one Month break between semesters. There were also many brethren who came to Sengera House and kept the Feast together for the entire seven days. And at the same time, many mourners came, giving their condolences, as the family prepared for the funeral of Haron. And all this transpired during the unusual (if not unprecedented) heavy rains that Kenya has been experiencing. Flash floods, roads and bridges washed away, and even a dam burst. (Weather related catastrophes continue to escalate all around the globe --- "Signs of the times").

Haron's funeral was a real challenge due to the heavy rains. The roads to the orphanage were impassable by vehicle. Even the four-wheel drive police vehicle transporting the body couldn't pass in the deep mud. So, the coffin had to be carried, trekked on foot by the brethren, (and it was a long distance to the Sengera House.) They continually had to alternate carriers for relief as they got tired. But they never stopped moving forward as they struggled, trekking through the deep mud.



Transporting Haron's body to the orphanage for burial.

**The “New” Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**May 11, 2024 --- Issue No. 171**



Finally reaching Sengera House to bury Harron.

There is a video that Francis took which is quite inspiring.

The children were originally scheduled to go back to school on Monday April 29<sup>th</sup>. But due to the continued deluge; the reopening of schools has been postponed for at least one week.

Thanks to your donations, we made it through the Feast of Unleavened Bread quite well. There were numerous sites, and the brethren kept all seven days of the Passover Feast together. (Ezekiel 45:21)

It was wonderful; everyone ate three meals a day for all seven days. Many of our brethren “rarely” eat three meals in a day, but often go a day or two without eating anything. Our brethren are poor peasant farmers, and times have been rough for all of them. So, the Feast was a wonderful blessing. The brethren thank all of you from the bottom of their heart.



Feast of Unleavened Bread 2024 Getionko Congregation.



**The "New" Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**May 11, 2024 --- Issue No. 171**

Letter from Douglas the overseer at Getionko:

"Dear Bill and Donors,  
On behalf of the Getionko Group, I want to express our sincerest gratitude for your unwavering support during the Passover Festival. Your generosity in providing food for the seven days of unleavened bread has been a lifeline for our congregation. Your kindness and compassion have touched our hearts deeply, and we are immensely grateful. We are reminded of the importance of unity and support within the church of the Living God. Thank you for being our pillars of strength.

With heartfelt appreciation,  
Dauglas Ogen  
Getionko Group."



Getionko Congregation Children - Feast of U.B. 2024.

These children were so excited to be together for the entire Feast of Unleavened Bread. And to eat breakfast, lunch, and supper each day was a huge blessing to them. You donors continue to make a big impact on our impoverished brethren. You continue to ease their suffering significantly.

(Psalm 41:1) *"Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the LORD will deliver him in time of trouble."*

**The "New" Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**May 11, 2024 --- Issue No. 171**

(Proverbs 21:13) *"Whoso stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard."*

Thank You.

Bill Goff

Website: [www.khofh.org](http://www.khofh.org)

E-mail: [goffb50@aol.com](mailto:goffb50@aol.com)

Phone" 843-447-0140

See William P. Goff's other articles at:

[Goff, William P. – Church of God, Bismarck \(church-of-god-bismarck.org\)](http://church-of-god-bismarck.org)

Reprinted with permission from: A Voice in the Wilderness

<https://khofh.org/>

## Let's Talk Dutch!

(Copyright 05-03-2024) by Dwight Fleming (Oroville, California)

Ladies and Gentlemen, grab a fire extinguisher because this Dutch lady will set your house on fire! Not literally but figuratively. She sounds like an American by her English. But she definitely talks truth.

Let me introduce Eva Vlaadingerbroek. The Wikipedia article calls her a "Dutch far-right activist, known for propagating conspiracy theories." O gosh! She may corrupt our naive minds!

Eva eloquently blasts the immigration policy hypocrisy of the European Union which is destroying Europe. She exposes the EU agenda against white Europeans. These government elites believe that nationalism and national sovereignty are the cause of wars. But Eva has a better explanation for the cause of wars so that us common people can easily see who is really telling the truth.

What the elites have done to Europe, the same sinister plan is taking place in America with the mass influx of illegal and unvetted immigrants who will change American culture into divided camps of hostile political and social views. Our roots as a nation are being destroyed with Marxist ideology that has infiltrated top levels of educational institutions and "progressive" elites.

It's time to speak Dutch! It's time to speak out against twisted philosophy that denies Biblical truth. As Eva says, "the Tower of Babel needs to be destroyed" and we must "put on the full armor of God"!!!

Video link to Eva's short speech: <https://youtu.be/-A0dDZcvynQ?si=o-mO9z1NQzSR2eyd>

See Dwight Fleming's other articles at:

[Fleming, Dwight – Church of God, Bismarck \(church-of-god-bismarck.org\)](http://church-of-god-bismarck.org)

# Have a Happy Sabbath!

## "Are The Ten Commandments Obsolete?" (Copyright 2013) by Terry Bruns (Oregon, Wisconsin)



A very common belief among many modern Christians is that the Old Testament represented the failure of the Law and is therefore "bad" while the New Testament teaches grace and is therefore good – that the God of the Old Testament was harsh and cruel, but Jesus came to pacify His father's anger and change the rules so as to make life easier to live. After all, the Old Testament has those impossible to keep Ten Commandments, but Christ only commanded us to "love".

But is all of this true? Did Christ come to "do away" with the Law of God? Were the Ten Commandments "nailed to the cross?" Is the Old bad and the New good? A close examination of Scriptures may surprise you.

As we begin our study, it might surprise you to learn that there is very little "new" in the New Testament. What I mean is that almost every concept found in the New Testament was first introduced in the Old Testament. A good study Bible with marginal notes will show which Old Testament scripture is being quoted in the New Testament. Rather than the New Testament writers rejecting or condemning the Old Testament scriptures, they often quoted from them, praised them, and encouraged their students to read and study them. Let's examine this point a bit further.

### What "Scriptures" are mentioned in the New Testament?

The apostle Paul, in writing to the young minister Timothy reminded him, *"that from a child you have known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works"* (2 Timothy 3:15-17). Was Paul speaking of the New Testament? Of course not, it hadn't been written when Timothy was a child. He told him that the "scriptures", the Old Testament, were able to make one wise unto salvation. Hard to believe? Let's hear from Jesus Himself:

- John 5:39, *"Search the scriptures; for in them you think you have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me"*
- John 5:46-47, *"For had you believed Moses, you would have believed me: for he wrote of me. But if you believe not his writings, how shall you believe my words? "*
- Luke 24:25-27, *"Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory? And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.*
- Luke 24:44-45, *"And he said unto them, These are the words which I spoke unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me. Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures"*

Let's hear more from Paul and the other apostles on the authority and validity of the "Old Testament" scriptures:

- Romans 15:4, *"For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope"*
- Ephesians 2:19-20, *"Now therefore you are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone"*



**The "New" Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**May 11, 2024 --- Issue No. 171**

- John 1:45, *"Philip finds Nathanael, and says to him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph"*
- Acts 28:23, *"And when they had appointed him a day, there came many to him into his lodging; to whom he expounded and testified the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus, both out of the law of Moses, and out of the prophets, from morning till evening"*
- 2 Peter 1:19-21, *"We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto you do well that you take heed, as unto a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Ghost"*

"But we're a New Covenant church" you might say. Well even the "New Covenant" was first introduced in the Old Testament; can you believe it? Look at Jeremiah 31:31-33, *"Behold, the days come, says the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, says the LORD: But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, says the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people"*

And look, the New Covenant would still contain God's Law, only this time, through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, the Law would be written in our hearts. In other words, the law would be a part of us. That's what God wanted all along: *"O that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children for ever!"* (Deut. 5:29). You see, the problem was not with God or His Law, the problem with the Old Covenant was with the people: *"For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second. For finding fault with them, he says, Behold, the days come, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah"* (Hebrews 8:7-8). There is much more that can be said on the covenants, but that will have to wait to be covered in a future article.

### **Did Jesus Change Things?**

"But" you ask, "didn't Jesus come to do away with the Law?" Well, did He? Let's see: *"Do not think that I have come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I have not come to destroy, but to fulfill. For verily I say unto you, until heaven and earth pass, neither one jot nor one tittle shall pass from the law, until all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven."* (Matthew 5:17-19). Clearly, Jesus said He did **not** come to destroy the Law. Read the rest of Matthew 5 and you will find that, rather than do away with the Law, He expanded upon it, made it more spiritual. People say that instead of having us keep the Law, Christ gave us "the Golden Rule" about doing unto others as we would have them do unto us, right? Well, if you read where this is given in Scripture, you may be surprised where Jesus says this idea comes from: *"Therefore all things whatsoever you would that men should do to you, do you even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets"* (Matt. 7:12). Can we begin to see that the Law, rather than being a harsh set of "do's" and "don't's", is based upon the simple concept of Love. Let's look at another example of this concept.

It has been said that Jesus brought two "new" laws – to love God and love our neighbor. Would you be surprised to learn that Jesus was merely quoting from the Old Testament Law? *"And you shall love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might"* (Deut. 6:5) and *"You shall not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but you shall love thy neighbor as thyself: I am the LORD"* (Lev. 19:18).

Let's look at that scripture in its full context: *"Then one of them, which was a lawyer, asked him a question, tempting him, and saying, Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets"* (Matthew 22:35-40).

Notice first that the lawyer asked him which was the greatest commandment in the law. "The law", as was commonly

**The "New" Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**May 11, 2024 --- Issue No. 171**

known to the Jews of that time, consisted of the first 5 books; Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. This is still how the Jews refer to these books, also known as the Torah. He wasn't asking Jesus to make up a new law, nor did Jesus answer by saying that the greatest commandment isn't in the law, but here's a new one.

More importantly, notice that these two "laws of love" are the very foundation of the Law and the Prophets – in other words, the Old Testament. The purpose of God's Law, the Ten Commandments being an outline or framework, is to teach us how to love with a Godly Love. The first four of the Ten Commandments teach us how to love God, the last six teach us how to love our neighbor. Paul understood this when he said, *"Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loves another has fulfilled the law. For this, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not kill, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, You shall not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, You shall love thy neighbor as thyself. Love works no ill to his neighbor: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law"* (Romans 13:8-10).

Did Jesus change things? Hardly! Before His human birth, Jesus, then known as the Word or the Logos, was the very member of the God Family who gave the Ten Commandments to mankind through Moses! Why would He change the very Laws He gave?

### **God's Law is Love**

God's Law is for our own good, much like the rules and regulations that your parents might have set down when you were young. Nobody likes those laws or rules when they are a child growing up. But once we've grown up, we realize that our parents established those laws because they knew better than we did and they did it for our own good, because they loved us. God has done the same, only on a much grander scale. Far from being harsh and cruel, God is Love, *"He that loves not knows not God; for God is love"* (1 John 4:8). He is the perfect parent, and His laws are all meant for our own good, not His. Jesus kept His Father's commandments and taught us to do the same. Look at these New Testament scriptures:

- John 15:10, *"If you keep my commandments, you shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love."*
- 1 John 5:3, *"For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous."*
- 1 Corinthians 7:19 – NRSV, *"Circumcision is nothing, and uncircumcision is nothing, but obeying of the commandments of God is everything"*
- Revelation 14:12, *"Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus. "*

Jesus did not come to change things but rather to expand upon the Law, to make it spiritual, not to do away with it. Read Matthew 5:17:48 for more on this point. He also came to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom of God. This is the "good news" that He brought – that men could repent, that is, change what they were doing and believe in the good news that God would come to earth to rule righteously. He came to fulfill all of the prophecies made about Him in the Old Testament, prophecies involving His first coming as Savior and Redeemer and His second coming as King of Kings and Lord of Lords – the soon coming Kingdom of God.

Think about this: if Jesus had been opposed to the way His Father had done things, then how can you reconcile the following Scriptures?

- John 5:30, *"I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me"*
- Matt. 7:21, *"Not every one that says unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that does the will of my Father which is in heaven"*

**The "New" Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**May 11, 2024 --- Issue No. 171**

- John 8:28-29, "Then said Jesus unto them, When you have lifted up the Son of man, then shall you know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things. And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him."
- John 5:19, "Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he sees the Father do: for what ever things he does, these also does the Son likewise"
- John 14:28, "You have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come [again] unto you. If you loved me, you would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for my Father is greater than I."
- John 10:30, "I and my Father are one"

You see, there has always been a unity and a consistency in the God Family. The Father and the Son are united in thought and in deed. They do not change: "For I am the LORD, I change not;" (Malachi 3:6). "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and for ever" (Hebrews 13:8). They do not try one set of laws, and then throw them out and try a new bunch. God's Plan for man was perfect from the beginning. As we saw, the problem was with men; they were not able to keep God's Law alone, without God's Holy Spirit.

God's Law of Love (outlined by the Ten Commandments) is eternal and will be written in the hearts of men in the future New Covenant. We will explore the Covenants in a future article, but for right now, check out our chart: **The Ten Commandments Throughout God's Word**. This chart (by no means exhaustive) gives examples of each of the Ten Commandments and general commandment keeping, in four different time periods of eras. You'll see at least one example of either the keeping of the commandment or the negative results of not keeping it. These represent only a first pass at finding examples of each commandment in these four eras, so keep checking for additions.

The eras are significant since many teach that the commandments were a part of the "Old Covenant" and therefore, were done away with. This chart shows that they were in effect before being formally given at Sinai, were kept by Jesus, by Paul, the Apostles and the early New Testament Church, and will still be kept in the future Millennial Kingdom.

**10 Commandments - Throughout the Word of God**

Exodus 20	Before Sinai	Christ / Teachings	Paul / Apostles	In Prophecy / Future
1st Commandment: Ex 20:2-3 "I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have no other gods before me."	Gen 3:5; 26:5; 35:1-4	Matt 6:24; Luke 4:8	Rom 6:13-16	Micah 4:1-5
2nd Commandment: Exodus 20:4-5 "Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;"	Gen 9:6; 31:19, 32; 35:2; Gen 35:1-4	Matt 6:21-24	Acts 17:29; Acts 19:26; Rom 1:21-23; Col 3:5 (NRSV)	Micah 5:10-15; Rev 21:8; Rev 9:20
3rd Commandment: Ex 20:7 "Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain."	Gen 9:5-6; 31:49; Lev 18:3, 21, 27	Matt 5:33-37	Col 3:8	Mal 1:11, 12; Jer 5:7-9

**The "New" Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**May 11, 2024 --- Issue No. 171**

4th Commandment: Ex 20:8 <i>"Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy."</i>	Gen 2:2-3; 7:4; 26:5; Ex 16:4-7, 27-29	Luke 4:16	Acts 18:4, 21; 17:2	Zech 14:16-18
5th Commandment: Ex 20:12 <i>"Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee."</i>	Gen 3:11; 26:35; Gen 9:21-26	Matt 15:4-6; Luke 18:20; Matt 19:19; Mark 7:9-13	Rom 1:30; Col 3:20	Is 3:4-12
6th Commandment: Ex 20:13 <i>"Thou shalt not kill."</i>	Gen 4:11; 9:5-6; 26:5; 27:41; 31:23, 29; 34:25; 37:18; 42:22; 49:6	Matt 5:21-22; Matt 5:38-39; Matt 5:43-44; Matt 19:18	Rom 1:29	Is 11:9; Rev 21:8
7th Commandment: Ex 20:14 <i>"Thou shalt not commit adultery."</i>	Gen 2:24; Gen 6:2; 12:15-20; 20:6-7; 26:10; 31:50; 34:2; 35:22; 38:18; 39:7-8; 49:4	Matt 5:27-28	I Cor 6:18; I Cor 6:9	Rev 14:8; Jer 5:7-9
8th Commandment: Ex 20:15 <i>"Thou shalt not steal."</i>	Gen 3:6; 9:3-6; 26:5; 27:10, 23, 36; 29:27; 30:33, 42; 31:19, 27, 32, 41; 34:27; 38:26	Matt 15:19; Matt 19:18; Matt 21:13; Matt 22:17-21; John 12:6	I Cor 6:10; Eph 4:28	Mal 3:8-10
9th Commandment: Ex 20:16 <i>"Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor."</i>	Gen 3:4; 26:5; 27:19,21; 29:25; 31:7, 41; 34:13; 37:33; 39:14	Matt 19:18; Matt 26:59	Acts 6:13; Rom 1:29; I Tim 1:10	Rev 19:20; Rev 21:8
10th Commandment: Ex 20:17 <i>"Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbor's. "</i>	Gen 3:6; 26:5; 27:10; 30:27; 31:23	Matt 5:28; Matt 6:19-21, 31-32	Rom 1:29; II Cor 6:9-10	Micah 2:1-2
General Law	Gen 2:16-17; Gen 26:5; Ex 13:9; Ex 15:26; Ex 16:4; Ex 16:28-29	Matt 5:17-20; Matt 22:36-40	Rom 2:13-15; Rom 2:20-23; Rom 3:31; Rom 7:7-12; James 2:8-12; I John 5:2-3; Rev 12:17; 14:12; 22:14	Hebrews 8:9-13; Micah 4:1-5

See Terry Bruns other articles at:

[Bruns, Terry – The "New" Church of God Messenger \(church-of-god-bismarck.org\)](http://church-of-god-bismarck.org)

Reprinted with permission from: Great Commission Church of God  
<https://www.truecog.org/index.html>

## A funny thing happened on the way to Damascus (Copyright 2023) by Curtis Dahlgren (Stephenson, Michigan)

**THREE DAYS** before Christmas, I walked into a bar. I looked around, but no one was there, though the Packers were playing to a full house. After a while a bartender appeared, all bubbly and bright, and I ordered a beer. As she popped the top, a stranger came in, dusting off snow, kind of nondescript. He had nary a smile, and for some reason he seemed older than he looked (though I'm not too good at judging the cover of a book).

I SAID "HOWDY" and he said "Shalom, or, that is to say, *hello*, more or less." I couldn't place the guy's accent, but he certainly didn't look Nordic, so I said:

"You from around here?"

"Not hardly," he said with half a smile.

So, I said as I stared, "So where are you from? Not that it matters, but..."

He turned, as if looking right through the plate glass mirror behind the bar, thinking, I guess. Just as he started to speak, who should appear but the bubbly bartender. "What'll you have, bud?" said she, and says he:

"Have you any Mediterranean wines from about 40 A.D.? If so, I'll have it."

"Not in this place," she laughed. "Would you settle for a Mogen David?" And he says:

"Close enough! I know how to abound and how to be abased."

"Hey, that's pretty good," I said. "What do you do? Are you a writer or what?"

"I'm retired," he says. He stuck out his hand and says "My name is Paul. But I used to be called Saul. Of Tarsus."

We shook hands and I said, "My name is Curt, but some people call me the crazy woodcutter. Because..." And he says:

"I can relate, I think. That is to say, I used to be a tent maker on the side, and some people thought that's all I was."

"Let me guess," I said. "You were on Reality TV. Or were a TV evangelist. Before they got such a bad reputation?"

"Close, but before TV," says he.

I began to wonder if this guy was sick, so I just said, "You're the Apostle Paul." And he says:

"How did you ascertain that so quick? Quickly, I mean?"

I looked around, but no one was there, not even the bartender (she must have been stomping the grapes yet). I managed to catch Paul's eye and said, "Well, let me hear a few lines. Something you've written."

**"God gave them over to a reprobate mind, being filled with fornication, wickedness, covetousness, and maliciousness; full of envy, hatred, deceit, and malignity; whisperers, backbiters, proud, disobedient to parents;**



---

**The "New" Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**May 11, 2024 --- Issue No. 171**

without understanding or natural affection, liars, and unmerciful debaters; who, knowing the judgment of God – that those who commit such things are not worthy of immortality – not only do the same, but have pleasure in those who *do them too!*"

"Sounds very judgmental," I said with a smile and a sip of my beer. "Before I go home, I'll buy you that Mogen David if you can recite the first sentence of your letter to Rome *without taking a breath*" (I finally got a laugh out of him). "But seriously, what is 'malignity'?"

**"'Malignity,' from 'malignus' – 'bad' or 'wicked' – other words from this family including 'malice,' 'malaise,' and 'malignant'; but the simplest way to define 'malignity' is 'TROUBLE' – as in 'here comes trouble,' that is to say, a popular culture out of control like a malignant growth, so to speak," he said.**

I took a quick glance at the wide-screen and around the room, and then I said:

**"Assuming for a minute that you're the Apostle Paul, where have you been?"**

"I DON'T KNOW," said the stranger. "It seemed like I was sleeping, having, on occasion, pleasant dreams; then I had this horrible nightmare. I dreamt that people are full of envy, hatred, and immorality; that governments are corrupt and corrupting; that there are wars all over the world, and that believers were being persecuted and killed, just for being believers again."

"That's actually all true. There's a war in Israel and Gaza now," I said. And he says:

"All of a sudden I woke up and here I was."

And you were standing in front of a saloon?" I asked.

"Exactly," he says. "And my first thought was, I could use a glass of some good old-fashioned wine. So, I came in here, but where AM I?"

"You're in the Upper Peninsula," I said, and he says:

"Where's that?"

"It's in Michigan," I said.

And he says, "Where's that?"

"It's in the United States of America," I said. "We used to call this the New World. It's about three months west of Europe by sailboat, or a few hours by jet plane." And he says:

"Is that some kind of a flying machine? I saw those in my bad dream. They were battling each other in the sky."

"Yes," I said. "And people are being killed in battle every day. And, by the way, in this part of the world Christians are maligned for quoting the Apostle Paul, er, you."

"Why?" asked the stranger. And I said:

"They want to silence us. Drive religion into the shadows, underground. Any other questions?" And he says:

"Where's the bartender? Is she still stomping the grapes, or what?" And I said:

"THAT REMINDS ME me," I said. "I have a question for *you*. In your letter to the Romans, you told them to be 'submissive' to the powers-that-be, the authorities. Elucidate for me, if you will."

---

**The "New" Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**May 11, 2024 --- Issue No. 171**

"In the first place," he says, "I was writing to the Christians in Rome *specifically*, *not* the whole church. We didn't want our lay members there to get crucified."

"That was for *you guys*, wasn't it?" I said. And he says:

"Exactly. I could still show you scars on my back that I got for *disobeying* the authorities. Another point is, I had to put something in the letter to get it past the censors in case it got intercepted. And I knew the Christians would understand what I meant." And I said:

"What about Christians in other parts of the world?" And he says:

"At that point in time, people in Asia Minor and Greece weren't under the thumb of the Empire quite as much. On Mars' Hill, a person could speak just almost anything that was on your mind. Peter and I said that if you have Freedom of Thought, Freedom of Religion, and Freedom of Speech, don't *waste it!* That would be like having God give you a talent, or dollars, and burying them in the ground!"

"In other words," I said, "Unto whom much is given, much shall be *required*."

"*Exactly!*" he said. "Any other questions?"

"Well," I said, "we could talk about theology, about the 'faith-works' controversy, but I already understand that." He nodded and says:

**"Faith WORKS!"**

"Absolutely," I said. "But I have one other question."

And he says, "What's that?" And I said:

"When did you learn how to speak English?"

"Oh," he says. "That happened on one day of Pentecost when I was in the desert being trained by the Lord Himself."

"That figures," I said. "But if He taught you English, He was ahead of His time, wasn't He?" And Paul said:

"He was *always* ahead of His time; God *created* time, and everything else people seem to enjoy so much at this time of the year. Their overindulgence only verifies His prophecies, especially if people try to put believers to silence. He predicted a Time of Great Hatred."

Then what should appear but the dear lass with the bubbly glass of burgundy. I told her to put it on my tab, and Paul raised the glass:

**"To the Kingdom."**

I raised my Back 40 bock and said:

**"Uffda. To the Kingdom!"**

But then I added, "By the way, I do a little writing. If I quote you, is that okay?"

With a lurch of his head and a laugh from his belly, the rosy-cheeked stranger said, **"OKAY!"**

Then, without another word, he was gone. Not up the chimney, but straight through the looking glass.

**[I woke up on the couch and God said "Have a nice day!"]**

See Curtis Dahlgren's other articles at:

[Dahlgren, Curtis – Church of God, Bismarck \(church-of-god-bismarck.org\)](http://church-of-god-bismarck.org)

Reprinted with permission from: Renew America

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

## Double Trouble

(Copyright 2023) by Dwight Fleming (Oroville, California)

A new king has been coronated. Will he follow a traditional role or decide to implement changes to fit the agenda he pursued as prince?

His reign may parallel an ancient king who was not satisfied with the old ways. This ancient king made radical changes by making alliances with foreign nations and strange gods. The old religious beliefs, though not perfect, were replaced with a new religion that worshipped the environment. After all, didn't life depend upon a healthy environment was the rationale of his day.

To ensure that everyone conformed to this new religion, power was given to subagents of the king to enforce the new religion of environment worship. The primary enforcer was Queen Jezebel. Her name means, "Baal exalts" or "Baal is husband to." With this new religion, the nation had now completely forsaken their true husband, the Creator of the universe. God had tolerated their erroneous means of worship instituted by Jeroboam after the death of Solomon. But this outright rejection would eventually convert the nation back to the wicked ways of the Canaanites which God had to destroy.

God wasn't going to just sit by and allow His wife to be spiritually hoodwinked by false gods and evil seducers. This would require strong measures and strong medicine. Who would God send to counter the deceptive influence of the King and his minions?

Certainly not a person who desired the acceptance and praise of high society or craved a position of power in the King's court. A man of humble means and who could endure the hardship of persecution would be necessary for the task. And whose very name declared that The Eternal is God--Elijah!

No doubt, you are already familiar with the story of Elijah and the circumstances that brought him on the scene. Elijah demonstrated that Baal was no match to the true God or His servant by forbidding rain which was vital for crops and the economy. As a result of Elijah's efforts to bring the nation back to the true God, he was branded as "the **troubler** of Israel" (I Kings 18:17). Here is Elijah's reply to King Ahab:

"And he answered, 'I have not troubled Israel, but you and your father's house have, [How?] in that you have forsaken the commandments of the LORD and have followed the Baals'" (I Kings 18:18).

We see the same thing happening today as happened in Elijah's day. The rejection of God's commandments with the proliferation of a new religion of social justice and environmental worship by government elites and corporate heads. Chief among them has been a prominent member of the British Royal Family who now sits as king. His coronation included representatives of other faiths: Muslim, Sikhism, Greek Orthodox, Roman Catholic, and Judaism. Perhaps others that I'm not aware of. There seems to be a growing alliance between Pope Francis and King Charles for the cause of saving the planet.

Many of these same religious leaders plus heads of state and corporate entities under the spell of the WEF (World Economic Forum) seek to bring about a new world order of their own making. To prevent future cataclysms, they believe

**The "New" Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**May 11, 2024 --- Issue No. 171**

that a one world government is necessary. Is this what the builders of the Tower of Babel also believed?

Slow but steady efforts are being made by those in power to accomplish their goals by any means available to them. Control over the masses is vital for achieving their stated plans. One important avenue will be a digital currency that will be implemented in the near future. This was predicted in Zechariah 5:1-4. All of your transactions will be visible to government agencies. Conform to government policies and mandates or your digital wallet will be frozen.

Who will become the top leader of this one world government? Who will be able to transcend the differences in the various religious beliefs? Will the plea for everyone to come together in order to save the planet be the "siren song" that causes many world leaders to submit to a perceived "savior"?

Once enough power has been consolidated under one person, any evil agenda that he desires will be vigorously pursued with whatever consequences that result. The Bible has warned about such a person as far back as the time of Daniel who lived in ancient Babylon. This person will work contrary to the laws of God. He will attempt to change to a new calendar. This new calendar will have months but will probably omit the weekly cycle. This will be an attempt to cut many religious groups off from their roots.

Without knowing the days of worship instituted by God, a person is further alienated from the true worship. This happened to the Israelites during their time in Egypt. They knew the lunar months but had lost knowledge of the weekly Sabbath. God had to re-introduce the Sabbath after their escape from Pharaoh. God made the Sabbath for man to keep us in relationship with the true God, the Creator of the heavens and earth. Thus, it will be imperative for a future world leader to hide the Sabbath with a new calendar that has new holidays for worshipping him or his accomplishments. See Daniel 7:25.

Daniel 11:38 mentions that this king will honor the god of **fortresses**. Could this be a reference to a future alliance with the Kremlin in Russia? What does "kremlin" mean? Fortress! Revelation 13 depicts a beast that rises from the sea. It has the body of a leopard, the feet of a bear, and the head or mouth of a lion. These three animals today represent Britain, Germany, and Russia. They are also depicted in Daniel seven. A little over a century ago, they were headed by George V of Britain, Wilhem II of Germany, and Nicholas II of Russia. All three leaders were cousins. World War I was basically a family feud with very tragic results which set the conditions for WWII.

With such a historical background and royal family ties, will these three nations someday honor King Charles III as an honorary leader of a future alliance? Time will tell. In his desire to tackle climate change, Charles has called for a military-type effort. What would this entail? What would happen to any nation which failed to comply with any environmental laws or even denied the authority of the savior of the planet? This future savior will desire more than just compliance, but outright worship as happened with Roman emperors centuries ago.

Will anyone or anything be able to counter the power and influence of this future false savior? Will another "Troubler" appear on the scene? Will God send another Elijah? Yes, indeed, as Malachi 4:5-6 promises. It seems that he will be one of the two witnesses mentioned in Revelation 11. In the transfiguration of Jesus found in Mark 9:2-4, Moses and Elijah appeared with Jesus in His glorified state. This indicates that Moses and Elijah will be the two witnesses who are killed by the Beast but then resurrected three and a half days later at the sounding of the seventh trumpet. Will God bring Moses and Elijah back to life in the last days or will the Two Witnesses be a spiritual Elijah and Moses as John the Baptist was a type of Elijah?

More important, will we be able to recognize the Two Witnesses as prophets of the Eternal God once they come on the scene? Will we be offended by their message as perhaps John the Baptist was with Jesus? Jesus was not quite what John expected. See Luke 7:16-23. If Elijah was considered **trouble** to Israel, then the Two Witnesses will be **double trouble** to the whole world. This is why the whole world will rejoice at their death (Revelation 11:7-10).

Despite the efforts of the Two Witnesses to testify against the evil of the Beast and Babylon the Great, the Antichrist and the False Prophet, whoever they may be, will prevail for a short time. God will then begin to intervene with the Resurrection of the saints. Rather than repenting at the sight of God sitting on His throne in heaven (Revelation 6:12-17), the Antichrist and the False Prophet will rally the nations to fight against Jesus and His armies from heaven. Christ will destroy them with the brightness of His coming (2 Thessalonians 2:8).

**The "New" Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**May 11, 2024 --- Issue No. 171**

In the meantime, are we just passing the time with carefree pursuits? Consider the apostle Paul's prudent admonition: "Pay careful attention, then, to how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is" (Ephesians 5:15-17). To better understand God's will in our lives, we need to better know God by studying His Word.

It has been said that the Bible is approximately one third prophecy. Prophecy glorifies God and is proof of His existence. Only He knows the end from the beginning. As the angel said to John, "Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy" (Revelation 19:10). Let's not ignore one third of the Bible but ask God for understanding and wisdom.

"Go your way, Daniel,' he replied, 'for the words are closed up and sealed until the time of the end. Many will be purified, made spotless, and refined, but the wicked will continue to act wickedly. None of the wicked will understand, but the **wise will understand**" (Daniel 12:9-10).

I have linked below several videos for your interest. The first two are fairly short and pertain to what was discussed in this letter. The third video is about an hour long. Colonel Douglas Macgregor is interviewed by Donald Trump, junior. An insightful interview by Colonel Macgregor on the problems facing our nation in the military and foreign policy. Well worth your time to watch.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9JsldnQkk\\_g](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9JsldnQkk_g) Digital Currency by 2030?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6kqucxvx-sw> King Charles III environmental ambitions

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oslctttStQU> Colonel Macgregor interview

**Editor's Note:**

I left the last link on here but YouTube says the video has been removed because the account was terminated. If someone knows if the video has been uploaded some place else, please send the link and we will replace this link. Laura Lee

-----  
See Dwight Fleming's other articles at:

[Fleming, Dwight – Church of God, Bismarck \(church-of-god-bismarck.org\)](http://church-of-god-bismarck.org)  
-----

## A Question for Christians About the Sabbath

(Copyright) by Jeffrey Caldwell (Arkansas)

Almost all who profess to be Christians these days believe that observing the weekly seventh day Sabbath is not the true Christian faith, and, presumably, thus not an aspect of what Jude calls "your most holy faith" (Jude 20, New International Version).

Scripture says that at Creation "on the seventh day" God "rested from all his work. And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done" (Genesis 2: 2-3, NIV).

His work of creating, according to Genesis 2:1, was completing "the heavens and the earth ... in all their vast array" (NIV)!

A logical question for Christians who accept the Genesis record as Scripture -- as I myself do -- is:

Do you believe that in the days of Christ's apostles the Creator withdrew His blessing from the seventh day, or annulled its holiness?



See Jeffrey Caldwell’s other articles at:

[Caldwell, Jeffrey – Church of God, Bismarck \(church-of-god-bismarck.org\)](http://church-of-god-bismarck.org)

## **Haron Has Fallen Asleep**

**(Copyright 2024) by William P. Goff (Myrtle Beach, South Carolina)**

Haron, our orphanage administrator, was involved in a car accident, and has died from his injuries. A friend of his (a man who also headed a small orphanage) was driving and was killed instantly. Haron was 34 years old, and a very humble man; we have worked together for many years. I liked him a lot. He was arrested more times than I can remember, (and “never” for doing anything bad.)

One time a jailer decided to handcuff one of his arms to the top of a window frame, and by morning his wrist was nearly cut into (it was torture.) He was also often beat up in jail, and usually had to be hospitalized after being released to treat his wounds.

Another time Haron and I were arrested together, and as we sat there on the dirty cement jailhouse floor, he said to me: “Bill you better try to contact the American Embassy in Nairobi, because it looks like we going to have a rough night”. And on top of all that, Haron had one of the worst types of Leukemia. And he rarely (actually never) complained about any of the rough times he endured. He was also a good husband to his wife Dorcah, and a good father to his two young children. The orphans at Sengera House also loved Haron due to his love and caring for all of them.

Haron was persecuted so much, I wonder if God took him now to spare him from the persecution that is ahead for the rest of us, as this evil age comes to an end.

I hope to update you soon. For now, let us pray “Thy Kingdom Come” because so many are suffering all around this world.

See William P. Goff’s other articles at:

[Goff, William P. – Church of God, Bismarck \(church-of-god-bismarck.org\)](http://church-of-god-bismarck.org)

Reprinted with permission from: **A Voice in the Wilderness**

<https://khofh.org/>

## **Holy Days 2024**

**Passover – April 23, 2024 (Observed at Sunset the Evening Before)**

**Passover/Unleavened Bread – April 23-29, 2024**

**Pentecost – June 12, 2024**

**Trumpets - October 3, 2024**

**Atonement – October 12, 2024**

**Tabernacles –October 17, 2024, to October 23, 2024**

**Last Great Day – October 24, 2024**

## **Iron Sharpening Iron**

New American Standard Bible (Proverbs 27:17)  
As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.

## **In regard to: The Spices and the Visits to Christ's Tomb**

Article by B. L. Cocherell  
Comments by Laura Lee (Bismarck, North Dakota)

### **Alert: False Doctrine**

On April 27, 2024, David Antion started teaching that Christ was crucified on a Friday and Resurrected on Sunday. This is a false doctrine and is not supported by scripture no matter how many verses he twists in order to get to his new doctrine.

We are in the end times and it is very important that God's people, His elect do not fall for these false doctrines which will lead them into believing it is okay to be a part of Satan's one world order which includes a religious component which is meant to bring all people together into one religion which will worship the beast (Satan) and not God. Do not fall for this garbage.

Read the following items in Newsletter Issue #69:

**The Spices and the Visits to Christ's Tomb**  
by B. L. Cocherell (Nevada)

(B. L. Cocherell's article above is a similar false doctrine to what David Antion is now teaching)

And especially read:

**Iron Sharpening Iron**  
In regard to: The Spices and the Visits to Christ's Tomb  
Article by B. L. Cocherell  
Comments by Laura Lee (Bismarck, North Dakota)

The Iron Sharpening Iron shows what scripture really says in all of the areas that David Antion stumbled in, in coming up with his false doctrine.

Study your bibles, do not fall for these false doctrines.

Find the article and the Iron Sharpening Iron in Issue #69 Special Edition:  
<https://www.church-of-god-bismarck.org/linked/05-28-2022-issue-0069SE.pdf>

Or Here:

<https://church-of-god-bismarck.org/article-authors/the-spices-and-the-visits-to-christs-tomb/>

# **Thank You Everyone!**

## In regard to: Double Trouble

Article by Dwight Fleming  
Comments by Laura Lee (Bismarck, North Dakota)

### From Dwight's Article:

This was predicted in Zechariah 5:1-4. All of your transactions will be visible to government agencies. Conform to government policies and mandates or your digital wallet will be frozen.

### Laura writes:

I am sure there is a prophecy there someplace however, I am not understanding how you are hooking up digital currency with Zechariah 5:1-4. Could you explain this to everyone in detail?

### From Dwight's Article:

This indicates that Moses and Elijah will be the two witnesses who are killed by the Beast but then resurrected three and a half days later at the sounding of the seventh trumpet. Will God bring Moses and Elijah back to life in the last days or will the Two Witnesses be a spiritual Elijah and Moses as John the Baptist was a type of Elijah?

### Laura writes:

Oh shucks, now this is getting complicated. William P. Goff in his article "You Are My Witnesses" claims the two witnesses are Elijah and John (not John the Baptist but the other John). Now you are claiming the two witnesses are Elijah and Moses. Whoever it is, I will be happy with any two of these three. Anyone else think they know who it is (with proof)?

## Letters

### Letter from Elijah M. Osiemo (March 31, 2024)

Dear brethren, praise God! Thank you for your Newsletter. I am a Sunday worshipper, and I have realized that I am lost, and I need to confess and repent, so I request to partner with you to change my Church to Sabbath keeping which is on Saturday. I was misled by Bible scripture from the Book of Colossians 2:16-17 new international version. But viewing King James Version the original translation, I found that the interpretation of New international version is the wrong one. Please accept me to come home. Blessings, pastor Elijah.

**Response:** We are primarily a newsletter. If you want to submit articles you have written for print, we will look at them for consideration to print. If you have questions, we would be happy to answer them in our newsletter, that way perhaps others could help you transition from Sunday to Saturday worship. Laura Lee

### Letter from Kasuba Manad (April 21, 2024)

#### PSALMS 41:12

Dearest of our Lord Jesus Christ, SISTER LAURA LEE,  
Warmest Christian greetings to each one of you, your beloved families and all the little flocks at your Church in the Precious Name of our Lord Jesus Christ! Myself, my beloved families, the Orphans under my care and all the little flocks at our Home Church are greeting each one of you with so much Christian love!

How are you and your beloved families? I hope and trust you are doing well, and our good Lord Jesus Christ is looking after you well. It has been really a long time since I last heard from you.

The situation in our Country is becoming unbearable. Our Country is facing a food shortage. ZAMBIA is facing the threat of food insecurity following a long drought caused by the El Nino weather. Half the Country's fields are destroyed due to a long dry spell the country is facing. The price of food skyrocketed starting in 2022 up to this year.

**The "New" Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**May 11, 2024 --- Issue No. 171**

I am here humbly requesting you in the Precious Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, if you can assist our Orphans with funds for food. The Bible says in 1 JOHN 3:1718 "But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but indeed and in truth" Also in PROV 19:17 "He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the Lord; and that which he hath given which he hath given will he pay him again"

I will continue to pray for you, your beloved families, all the little flocks at your church and God's work you are faithfully doing. Please continue to pray for me, my beloved families, the Orphans under my care and God's work you are faithfully doing.

It is more encouraging to hear from you soon again,

WITH kindest Christian regards!

ELDER KASUBA MANAD

**Response:** We are primarily a newsletter. We do not collect money from anyone for anything. There are other groups and people that do what you are asking, so you would have to contact one of those groups for help. We will continue to send you our newsletter. Laura Lee

**Letter from William P. Goff (April 21, 2024)**

Greetings Brethren,

We are in need of help. Haron will be buried on Friday April 26<sup>th</sup>. But we still owe the balance for the Hospital, and also the Mortuary.

On top of that, schools will reopen next Monday, the 29<sup>th</sup> of April, and school fees will be due for the orphans. If you can help us at this time, please do so, it will be very much appreciated.

Thank You.

Bill Goff

**Donate:** <https://khofh.com/support-us/>

**E-mail:** [goffb50@aol.com](mailto:goffb50@aol.com)

**Website:** [www.khofh.org](http://www.khofh.org)

**Phone:** 843-447-0140

## Announcements

**Announcement from William P. Goff (April 18, 2024)**

Greetings Brethren,

The April 20, 2024, Kenya Update is now posted at: <http://www.khofh.com>

Thank You.

Bill Goff

## "In Defense of Bathsheba" (Part 1) (Copyright 2023) by David Antion (Pasadena, California)

This is the kind of story Hollywood loves. It has romance, passion, forbidden desires, and ultimately a man "after God's own heart" does the forbidden sin out of "love" or lust because she tempted him. A movie starring Gregory Peck and Susan Hayward was made in 1951. It was titillating -- forbidden passionate desires of a man and a woman so strong that they would defy God's law and commit sin!

As a minister, I had talked a number of times about this story of forbidden love. I read the Bible and it said that David looked from his rooftop and saw a woman "bathing" and she was beautiful to look upon. He didn't know who she was at that moment and asked his servants. They told him that she was Bathsheba, Uriah the Hittite's wife.

My reasoning was that if he could see her, she could see him and may have teased him by her nakedness. When his lust was aroused, he sent for her, and she came willingly to his castle -- the king's home. After she arrived, they slept together in passionate love and then she went home.

I checked five different commentaries, and they all conclude that Bathsheba was the instigator of this adulterous affair in that she exposed herself where she could be seen and especially from the king's roof. And that she very willingly went to King David.

This is the position I have taken over the years. I am aware that reasonable minds can see things differently.

We all know that David was called "a man after God's own heart" (1 Samuel 13:14; Acts 13:22). But there are, like human situations, different sides to David and his behavior. For instance, after being continuously hunted by King Saul, David fled to the Philistines. He offered himself and his men to fight for them. But they were suspicious of his motives, and he proved himself by invading some Israelite towns and killing every man and every woman (read 1 Samuel 27:1-12).

The lord of the Philistines accepted David because he made himself hated:

<sup>KJV</sup> **1 Samuel 27:12** And Achish believed David, saying, He hath made his people Israel utterly to abhor him; therefore he shall be my servant forever. (KJV).

<sup>NET</sup> **1 Samuel 27:12** So Achish trusted David, thinking to himself, "He is really hated among his own people in Israel! From now on he will be my servant." (NET)

David ran from Saul in fear. He had two opportunities to kill Saul. He refused saying that he would not kill the "Lord's anointed" -- meaning Saul. This was after Samuel brought God's word that Saul had completely disqualified himself and that God had chosen David to replace him. See 1 Samuel 24 and 26.

He wouldn't kill Saul who was trying to murder him, but he killed innocent men and women in small towns in Israel. David's men could not understand the position that David took regarding Saul. But it appears to be David's own morality rather than being based on some commandment in the Law. The taking of innocent lives of men and women in Israel to show his loyalty to Achish seems to me to be upside down in moral values.

**BACKGROUND:** The background of the story of David and Bathsheba is that Israel had the Ammonites on the run. In almost all of Israel's battles, David was involved in the war by going into the field with his men. But because the Ammonites were on the run, he decided to remain in his home in Jerusalem. He was probably in his 50s about this time.

It was springtime and David slept late on this particular day (2 Samuel 11:2). Getting up late in the afternoon he walked around his rooftop and saw a woman "bathing." Almost all translations use the word "bathing." The Hebrew reads: *rachats*



**The "New" Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**May 11, 2024 --- Issue No. 171**

**Meaning:** *to wash, wash off or wash away, or bathe.* She could have been washing something else besides herself but let's assume she was washing herself which was probably doing the washing of purification (see verse 4 which indicates she was ending her monthly menstrual time and had to purify and wash after seven more days from the stopping of the period.) See Leviticus 15.

He saw her whether partially clothed or partly naked and she was beautiful to view. David was so taken with her appearance that he asked his servants who she was. They told him her name and her father's name and her husband's name. Verse 3: "So David sent and inquired about the woman. And one said, "Is this not Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?" (NAU)

"Wife of ..." -- now meant she was taken, not free to marry, not free to have sexual contact with any man but her husband! This should have been a large moral STOP sign for David. But, instead, we read in verse 4, "David sent messengers and took her..." The Hebrew reads: "And David sent messengers **and he took her.**" The Hebrew word translated "took" means "to take" and it is sometimes translated as "captured, or caught, or to "take a wife" it is sometimes translated as "married." When a king "takes" a woman it is not an invitation with an RSVP! She has no choice but to be taken.

Verse 4 continues with this brief statement: "And when she came to him, he lay with her." But the Hebrew is very brief like "they took her she towards him, he lay with her." The last part of verse 4 tells us: "(Now at that time she was in the process of purifying herself from her menstrual uncleanness.) Then she returned to her home." (New English Translation). She didn't stay, spend the night, or have dinner. David brought her to him by messengers, for one reason -- to sleep with her. Then she went home.

But being seven or more days away from the end of her menstruation she was fertile to conceive a child and that is exactly what happened (verse 5). It could have been another three or more weeks before she sent a communication to tell David, "I am pregnant."

David knew the law that both the adulterer and the adulteress should be stoned (Leviticus 20:10). In Old Testament times it was NOT adultery for a man to take another single woman. Adultery was when a married woman had sex with any man. And it was adultery for any man to have sex with the wife of another man.

So, David sent and asked Joab (his commander or general over the troops) to send Uriah the Hittite to him. Under the pretense of wanting to know about the war, David questioned him about how the war was going. When the brief interview was over David suggested that he wash up and go and visit with his wife. David even sent a gift of food from his table with Uriah. The next morning David's men said that Uriah did not go down to his house but slept in front of David's castle.

So, David called him in and asked why he didn't go down to his own house and be with his wife. He answers, "Uriah said to David, 'The ark and Israel and Judah are staying in temporary shelters, and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are camping in the open field. Shall I then go to my house to eat and to drink and to lie with my wife? By your life and the life of your soul, I will not do this thing.'" (2 Samuel 11:11 NAU).

Men in the service know how soldiers form a bond during war times and some will even jump on a grenade to save their brothers in arms. Now David knew Uriah would not consciously go to his own house. So, David asked him to stay one more day and have dinner with David. During the dinner, David got Uriah drunk thinking that he just might be willing then to visit his beautiful wife. But no. Again, he would not go to his wife.

Of course, had he gone to his wife and had relations with her, he would have thought that the child was his. But Uriah hadn't been with his wife for the week of her period and for the seven days of purification following and maybe longer.

Uriah was a dedicated soldier whose concern for his fellow brothers in the war would not allow him to please himself while they were in hardship. So, David embarked on another plan -- and sin grows from what looks like rape or forced sex upon her to the murder of him!

After drunken Uriah would not go down to his own house to be with his wife, we read: "Now in the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and **sent it by the hand of Uriah.**" (2 Samuel 11:14 NAU)

---

**The “New” Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**May 11, 2024 --- Issue No. 171**

Faithful Uriah is now carrying his death sentence. David knew that Uriah had enough integrity that he would never try to open the letter or look into its contents. The letter told Joab what to do. He was to place Uriah in the front of the battle by the city walls and withdraw troop support, "so that he may be struck down and die." (2 Samuel 11:15 NAU) Murder!

What an irony. The man who is so dedicated to his fellow soldiers is now to be abandoned by them on orders of the King.

As it turned out this plan not only cost the life of Uriah but the lives of other men. Joab sent messengers to David to tell him about the casualties and the state of the war. They explained that the strong warriors of the Ammonites came out against them. "Moreover, the archers shot at your servants from the wall; so some of the king's servants are dead, and your servant Uriah the Hittite is also dead." (2 Samuel 11:24 NAU)

When David heard that he pretended that he wanted to console the commander, Joab. So, he told the men, "Thus you shall say to Joab, 'Do not let this thing displease you, for the sword devours one as well as another; make your battle against the city stronger and overthrow it; and so encourage him.'" (2 Samuel 11:25 NAU)

The plot was clever and only Joab and David knew it was murder. When Bathsheba heard that her husband was dead, she mourned for him. After she finished mourning for Uriah, **David brought her** to his house, and "she became his wife then bore him a son" (2 Samuel 11:27 NAU). David got away with murder except "But the thing that David had done was evil in the sight of the LORD" (2 Samuel 11:27 NAU).

In part two, we will examine just how the Scripture talks about Bathsheba and whether she was blamed for this adulterous affair. We also need to know why David was a man after God's own heart.

---

**See David Antion's other articles at:**

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

**Reprinted with permission from: Guardian Ministries**

**<http://daveantion.com/>**

---

## Notes

## Notes