

Black Criminal Protection Device: Kills

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May 13, 2023 --- Issue No. 119

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

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Articles

Black Criminal Protection Device: Kills (Copyright 2021) by Richard Frates (Easley, South Carolina)

Police Resisting - Black Criminals Resisting Arrest: Effectively against the Law! **Police armed with tasers, in the eyes of black criminals are - Disarmed. Police have been made Targets of black Criminals, Devil-Media, federal and state officials.**

Officer Kim Potter Innocent: Black Criminal and State officials Guilty! **Daunte Wright would be alive today** if police were Not armed with tasers. Tasers are a green light for black criminals to resist arrest, especially, when being arrested by a woman. If taser use by police were banned as I suggested to many Lawmakers; Daunte would Not have forcefully resisted arrest. Realizing the only way, the policewoman could prevent him from overpowering her was a deadly weapon.

Tragically - the young criminal intended to overpower her and resist arrest confident she could only use the taser ended up dead. It is obvious, to the wise, police under attack by criminals may mistakenly use the taser instead of the gun. Police instantly must decide - **Is the stay out of jail taser or go to Jail gun required with every violent criminal attack.** Authorities, pandering for black votes, who force taser use by police are **the guilty party**. Devil-Media, black leaders, democratic party snakes, care nothing about white criminals. Kim Potter did her job: Police must assume a criminal forcefully resisting arrest will disarm them, take their gun, and kill them.

Criminals should expect deadly force if they forcefully resist arrest. In Democratic party-controlled cities: Black criminals have no such concerns; they know police are compelled to use tasers. Black Criminals have learned that they have allies, in Devil-Media, black and white democratic party leaders.

CRIMINAL PROTECTION INSURANCE FOLLY: Dangerous Save Black Criminal Lives Thinking - Is Destroying Cities. **Dimwitted conservative media talker - Sean Hannity** - suggested police need to be armed with - new tasers that can neutralize criminals without injuring them 40 feet away. That is Ridiculous: Commit violent crime and **be assured** no serious injury or death. Such criminal insurance guarantees to recruit more criminals and increase crime. Serious injury

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or death to violent criminals is the best insurance against becoming a victim of violent crime.

Black Criminal Reform as I suggested is needed: Not police reform. Respect the police and even the bad ones will respect you - Disrespect police and even the good ones will disrespect you. Ban taser use by police: Rearing Police will create respect for police and create safer neighborhoods. And **this must be Law**: Devil-Media must be required to report what initiated a police shooting first in any report. Example: Young black attacked police punching him in the face is shot and killed; that is a message to criminals. Why does Devil-Media report - unarmed black shot and killed by police - instead?

Devil-Media and black racist leaders attacks on police in defense of black criminals, have turned black neighborhoods into black criminal protection zones, where blacks are killed daily, and their black lives do Not “Matter.” Devil-Media and - State officials use their power to condemn police and paint black criminals as victims for political black vote advantage. Harvest black votes and Lock blacks into the Democratic Party Hate Plantation wins elections. Black Leaders: Cheered on by their white democratic party mind slave masters: Are infested with this - Extreme Black Racist Madness. Innocent or guilty irrelevant, black, or white is all that matters.

May God have mercy on America. Devil-Media, Dimwitted easily intimidated, Republicans, Federal and State Leaders black or white - repent - and implement the commonsense policies suggested. Innocent blood is on your hands. Judgment Day is the day of your death - you will Not remember being dead. Save city neighborhoods, Shackle Criminals instead of police with burdensome regulations!

Godly Offspring

(Copyright 2010) by Norman Edwards & Others (Perry, Michigan)

The following is a true account of a long-time Church of God family. The parents are a half-generation ahead of me, but I had gotten to know them in my 20s. I found their family to be a mixture of peace, patience, and practicality, in what is often a difficult world. For several years, I worked either directly for or alongside of the father, Carson, a gifted systems programmer at the Worldwide Church of God computer department. Later on, his wife, Verna worked for me in computer applications.

I remember playing with some of their children and holding their babies when I was a young single man—getting advice on this mysterious thing called child-rearing, that I hoped to do someday. Later, after I was married, I remember Verna holding our babies—glad to do so because hers were grown, but no grandchildren yet. I remember learning things about the advantages of midwives, home schooling, vaccine avoidance—and praying about difficulties when there seemed to be no answer.

Even with a large family, God was at the center of their lives. Not only did they frequently attend Bible studies and church activities, they lived Deuteronomy 6:7. The children knew when and where Dad and Mom prayed and not only left them alone to do so, but also learned by their example. As a result, their children were well behaved, respectful to adults, yet creative and fun—a difficult balance to achieve in the art of childrearing.

Theirs is not a storybook yarn where everything always goes right. Some of the children struggled with long-term health problems. Their father also struggled with health problems, and died at the age of 46, leaving Verna with 5 children: Ruth, age 21; Anne, age 19; Lynn, age 15; David, age



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11; and Karen, age 6. Nevertheless, all of them avoided the rebellious teen stage that so many go through. And today, they are all married to their first and only spouse, with families of their own. Verna married Frank and moved the two children still at home to southwestern Missouri. Frank is also suffering with health difficulties, but she continues to work, and they continue to take care of each other, observing the Sabbath and Feast days with Church of the Great God.

So here, in a combination of Norm Edwards’, Verna’s and her children’s words, are their stories. All of the children have migrated east, and Ruth’s house has become the hub for family get-togethers. When the 14 grandchildren get together, you can see the effect of the years Carson and Verna spent leading them in God’s way—by example. The individual families still pray together regularly and talk often of God (Deut 6:6-7). Each family also has taken this gift and tried to extend it outward in service of others.

Ruth met Harvey at the beginning of their sophomore years at Ambassador College and were married right before his senior year, so he was a married student his last year of college. They now have two children which were both home-schooled. Kirstin will be 22 in November and Julie is 17. Both of them take God’s Way of Life very seriously. Kirstin is a sophomore in college. Harvey and Ruth attend with Church of God, *an International Community*, and at one time hosted a congregation in their home. Harvey has his own portable sawmill business and Ruth works for an upscale plant nursery.

Anne met Darryl at the WCG’s Summer Educational Program, and they married two years later. Anne was always more of an independent, think-for-herself personality and Darryl is certainly her equal in that regard. He obtained a doctorate and began teaching university classes, but later switched to on-line teaching so that he and Anne could raise their four children on a 57-acre homestead. His parents live next door, and a long-time friend also lives nearby, making it easy to share manpower.

They have a large garden, raise several cows and other animals, make hay, build mountains of compost, have an off-grid solar system, heat with wood, cook on a wood cook-stove and can and dry food. They home school their children while he works on building a house (<http://cedar-ridge-farm.blogspot.com/>). They have made the choice to forego the traditional American pursuit of things in favor of emphasizing family relationships and both parents being home instead of being gone to work somewhere else. They love that life and the beauty of its simplicity (being simple doesn’t mean it doesn’t involve a lot of hard work, but it’s good, honest, sweat-producing work). Their oldest child is now 14. As you might have guessed, they are independent believers, but still observe the Sabbath and Feast days with other like-minded brethren. They have even received *Servants’ News* since it began in 1995.

Lynn was introduced to Stephen, her husband-to-be, by brother-in-law Harvey’s family. Harvey and his family had attended the WCG with Stephen in North Carolina before Harvey went to Ambassador College. Beginning in their teen years, Lynn and Stephen corresponded for several years before they actually met. They were married eight years after they began corresponding and now have four children ages 3 through 14. They attended with WCG until a couple of years ago. Stephen now pastors a small independent church in central North Carolina and is also heavily involved in youth summer camp ministry. They are well loved there as they serve the people there with generosity and loving care and concern.

David met Mikele while he was a student at the University of Missouri, Rolla and she was a student at Xavier. Her family was nominally Catholic, from Southern Illinois. How they met and conducted their court ship is an amazing story. David was living in a frat house, one for high scholastic standards. It was hosting, along with a sister sorority, a Saturday night Halloween party for the children of the community. David had been to Sabbath services in St. Louis and “sneaked” back into the house after sunset, not wanting to be part of a Halloween Party. He went to his study room. The door was closed and there was a note on the door which said, “Girl crashed inside.”

David went into the dark room very quietly and made his way around the edge of the room to his desk. In the dim light he could barely make out the form of a body, lying on his floor. He sat there thinking, “Now what am I going to do?” He had planned to study, but turning on the light did not appear to be an option.

Apparently, his activity awakened this girl, and they started talking, without turning on the lights. She was a student at Xavier University, St Louis, and was visiting Rolla because her best friend was a student there and was in the sister sorority. She was tired from the trip to Rolla and did not want to be involved in a Halloween party either. They talked for about three hours before they turned on the light. By then, the connection between them was well established. David was

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convicted that he would never marry someone who was not converted, so their friendship could not develop into anything more.

After knowing each other a couple of years, Mikele decided to do some research so that she could prove David’s beliefs wrong. Instead, she became convicted of the truth of Scripture and became baptized. Understanding that marriage can be full of surprises, they worked through various books to try to be as prepared as possible. They married five years after their meeting. Verna feels that God has blessed them greatly because of David’s attitude and approach in this matter.

David works for Church of the Great God as the Information Systems Manager, and he also writes for the *Forerunner* magazine. He has struggled with type-1 diabetes for 25 years but knows that God is also using that for good. David and Mikele now have three children, the oldest being 8.

Karen, Verna’s youngest, met her husband-to-be online when he, Joseph, was using his sister’s Instant Messenger. Joseph’s family has been part of the COG for several generations in Oregon. One of Verna’s closest friends knew Joseph’s dad and his family back in the early 1960s. Karen and Joseph met at a Feast of Tabernacles in 1995, but Karen did not notice Joseph because he was almost seven years younger than she. Later, they became friends and were married in 2009, she at age 27 and he 21. They attend with the Great Lakes Church of God. They have a child, age 6 months.

All of the children attend with a different group. As people and church groups go, some groups may divide or combine, and some of these young people may change to another group—just like most of the older *Servants’ News* readers have done. But Verna feels “thankful, humbled, and blessed” that all of her adult children are still largely practicing what they have been taught. None have been involved in drugs, alcohol abuse or premarital sex. They all have worked hard and put their lives into their families, and their families have all stayed together. If the measure of a child’s honoring his mother and father is how they end up living their own lives, Verna is greatly honored. Each of her children’s families serve congregations/ministries and live their beliefs wholeheartedly.

Today, Verna and Frank have 15 grandchildren, 14 of Verna’s and one of Frank’s. All but one were delivered by midwives (in the case of independent Darryl and Anne, delivered by themselves) and were home schooled. Karen’s baby was born in a hospital because of complications and is still too young for any sort of school. All of their children know that they were loved and wanted to become parents themselves. Church groups come and go—they never receive eternal life. But people do. To this writer, that is the true success of a parent. After all, the first commandment in the Scripture is to be fruitful and multiply (Gen 1:22). Even though such thinking is considered archaic by our modern society, it is not to God. And it is more important to God than a lot of other doctrine. In the last book of the Old Testament, God reminds us.

But did He not make *them [spouses]* one, Having a remnant of the Spirit? And why one? **He seeks godly offspring.** Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously with the wife of his youth (Mal 2:15).

This article has been reprinted from *Servants News* November/December 2010
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Have a Great Sabbath!

Holy Day Articles

Is New Year’s Eve a Pagan Holiday? (Copyright) by Mike Ford (Oxford, Georgia)



“Learn not the way of the heathen” (Jeremiah 10:2, KJV)

We know we are in the Christmas season—that time of year true Christians dread—when we find ourselves humming along with the piped-in music at the store and suddenly realize it is a Christmas tune. The church has published many messages over the years about the pagan origins of Christmas, but it is rare to hear or read about the New Year’s Eve celebrations that occur just a week later. This article is intended to fill that gap.

The Internet is also shockingly devoid of useful articles on this subject—most of the more popular ones are from church of God groups. One of these, [“The Truth About New Year’s!”](#) is a well-written article by William H. Ellis, appearing in the December 1964 *Plain Truth* magazine. Though it is more than a half-century old, it holds up well, so we will draw a few quotations from it below.

On an online forum, an anonymous user titled his entries, “True Christians should not celebrate New Year’s because it is pagan to the core.” Some commenters agreed, but others did not. One very indignant person wrote:

There is nothing wrong with going to church for a watch night service to bring in the New Year in the House of God. In our current calendar, the New Year is January 1st. While it makes no sense for a New Year to start in the middle of winter, it is what it is, and we can’t change the calendar now. This is [sic] not the biblical days, when

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the New Year started in March. We live in the USA and the New Year begins January 1st here. As long as your [sic] are not involved in drunkenness, lewd behavior, your [sic] doing nothing wrong.

So, where does the celebration of New Year’s Eve come from? Is it wrong to participate, as long as we are not involved—as the commenter said—in drunkenness and lewd behavior?

God’s New Year

Let us first establish when the New Year begins according to God.

Now the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, “This month [speaking of Abib or Nisan] shall be your beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year to you.” (Exodus 12:1-2)

So, the New Year begins in early spring (*abib* means “spring” in Hebrew), generally falling in mid-to-late March or early April. God notes this but says nothing more about it; it functions only as a time marker. Two weeks after the year begins, Passover on the fourteenth day and the Feast of Unleavened Bread on the fifteenth through twenty-first days, both festival times, occur.

It seems as if God mentions the New Year in passing—that it is only essential for calendar matters. Nowhere does He tell us to throw a party, count down the last few seconds of the old year, drink champagne, kiss our partner, or worse. How did all that come about?

In his *Plain Truth* article, Mr. Ellis quotes from a book, *4000 Years of Christmas: A Gift from the Ages* by Earl W. Count. Let me quote a little passage here:

Mesopotamia is the very ancient Mother of Civilization. Christmas began there, over 4,000 years ago, as the festival which renews the world for another year. The “twelve days” of Christmas; the bright fires and probably the yule log; the giving of presents; the carnivals with their floats; their merrymakings and clowning’s; the mummers who sing and play from house to house; the feasting; the church processions with their lights and song—all these and more began there centuries before Christ was born. And they celebrated the arrival of a new year! (pp. 20-21)

4000 Years of Christmas, first published in 1948, is still around. Earl W. Count was an Episcopalian priest who died at 97 in 1996. His widow, Alice, updated the book, reissuing it in hardcover in 1997, and it is still readily available on Amazon. Some of its reviews on the Amazon website make for interesting reading.

His book provides the history of the paganism involved in Christmas. Mr. Count did not intend it is an exposé of its pagan aspects, as he acknowledges them right up front. Instead, he endeavors to show that the “Christian” side of Christmas won the war, one might say, over the pagan side. Here is Amazon’s sales blurb describing the book (since removed):

What if our entire civilization could write its own memoirs and tell the complete story of Christmas past? Surprisingly, the tale would not begin in Bethlehem but 2,000 years earlier, in the cradle of civilization. It would be a nostalgic story involving Christians and non-Christians alike. Babylonians, Greeks, and Romans, whose ancient customs became part of the Christmas celebration, would people its pages. We would see early Europeans hanging fir sprigs and winter greenery to renew life and protect against the cold blasts of Arctic wind. People who had not yet learned of the Christ-Child would be burning Yule logs. Of course, the most important chapter in these memoirs would take place in a manger surrounded by wise men and marked by a brilliant star.

This ancient history of Christmas might seem like a tangent, but Christmas and New Year’s are connected. The ancient Romans celebrated Saturnalia, which lasted a week, in which they practiced drunken revelry, role reversal, gift-giving, and even human sacrifice in honor of the deity Saturn. Keep in mind that the publisher described this book as “a charming story of our Christmas traditions.”

The Incredible Morphing Holidays

On page 28 of *4000 Years of Christmas*, Mr. Count writes:

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The first day of the Saturnalia shifted during the lifetime of Rome . . . it began around the middle of December . . . and continued until January first. In its midst was December twenty-fifth, the day (as the Romans calculated), [sic] when the sun was at its lowest ebb.

So how did this pagan celebration containing precursors of both Christmas and New Year’s morph into a “Christian” one? Around AD 375, the Roman emperor Constantine imposed what he called “Christianity” on his empire. Earl Count’s book explains:

There were many immigrants into the ranks of the Christians by this time [of Constantine]. The Church Fathers discovered to their alarm that they were also facing an invasion of pagan customs. The habit of Saturnalia was too strong to be left behind. At first the church forbade it, but in vain. The Church finally succeeded in taking the merriment, the greenery, the lights, and the gifts from Saturn and giving them to the Babe of Bethlehem. . . . The pagan Romans became Christians—but the Saturnalia remained! (p. 31)

In his *Plain Truth* article, William Ellis buttresses what Mr. Count wrote:

During the Middle Ages many of the ancient Roman customs were maintained and augmented by the incoming heathen rites of the Teutonic peoples. It was during this period that the customary Yule log and mistletoe were added to the popular New Year’s festivities. The Yule log is a carry-over from the bonfires of sun-worship, and mistletoe is a parasite used in Druid rites as a symbol of sex-worship!

As Teutonic customs were added, the date of New Year’s celebrations was temporarily changed to March 25, to coincide with the Germanic spring rites of fertility.

Finally, Pope Gregory reinstated the ancient pagan Roman date of January first. He imposed it on the whole Western world in 1582 when his Gregorian calendar “reforms” were accepted. All Roman Catholic countries accepted this change at once! Sweden, Germany, Denmark and England, the strongholds of Druid customs, finally acquiesced to Rome in the 1700’s [sic]!

A History of Anti-Semitism

Aside from his other faults, Pope Gregory XIII was an anti-Semite of the first order. *U.S. News and World Report* ran an article in December 1996 that explains some things about Pope Gregory:

- On New Year’s Day, 1577, this Pope decreed that all Roman Jews, under pain of death, must listen attentively to the compulsory Catholic conversion sermon given in Roman synagogues after Friday night services.
- On New Year’s Day, 1578, Gregory signed a tax into law, forcing Jews to pay to support a house of conversion to convert Jews to Catholicism.
- On New Year’s, 1581, Gregory ordered his troops to confiscate all sacred literature from the Roman Jewish community. Thousands of Jews were murdered in the campaign.

So, throughout the Medieval and post-Medieval periods, January 1—supposedly the day on which Jesus was circumcised (that math is a little shaky)—was recognized as the day Judaism died, and “Christianity” took over. It was a day reserved for anti-Jewish activities: synagogue- and book-burning, public torture, and simple murder. Pope Gregory XIII was not the first pope to use New Year’s as a time of Jewish persecution. More than twelve hundred years earlier, in AD 324, Pope Sylvester convinced Emperor Constantine to prohibit Jews from living in Jerusalem. The following year, at the council of Nicaea, Sylvester arranged to pass a host of vicious, anti-Semitic laws. All Catholic saints receive a day on which Catholics celebrate a tribute to their memory. Guess which day is “Saint Sylvester Day”? December 31. Throughout Europe and in the State of Israel, Jewish people call New Year’s Eve “Sylvester,” showing something of the dark humor of which the Jews are capable.

It is hard to grasp the depths of perversion that linger in the historical background of this pagan celebration.

A Pitiful Excuse for a Holiday

What about some of the other New Year’s traditions? What about kissing on New Year’s Eve? At midnight on New Year’s Eve, a person can kiss another person, be they someone he knows or a stranger. It is another holdover from the Roman

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Saturnalia, an element of the sexuality that frequently appears in pagan celebrations. People cannot resist bringing sex into everything they do.

Traditionally, the old year is pictured as an old man, who is departing, and the new year, depicted as a baby in a diaper, takes over. These images are a reference to reincarnation and a never-ending cycle of life. The modern spin is that one gets a chance to make a new start in the new year, but it is also a tip of the hat to the Roman god, Janus, who has two faces, one that looks to the past and the other to the future.

Various cultures have some strange traditions. When nursing a hangover on New Year’s Day, a person should eat some lucky food: greens, beans, noodles, and grain. Slurping the noodles somehow brings more luck. Fruit and cake are also lucky, as are fish and pork. Pigs are a symbol of luck because they “root forward.” Where do people come up with such looney ideas?

In the American South—and having lived there all my life, I have never run into this—there is supposedly a traditional dish eaten on New Year’s Eve called Hoppin’ John. It combines greens, beans, and pork, several of those lucky foods. And we are the crazy ones for keeping God’s holy days.

New Year’s Eve is a pitiful excuse for a holiday. I attended exactly one New Year’s Eve party in my life in the bad old days of the early 1970s. Believe it or not, a church deacon (who later became an elder!) threw it. A streak of liberality was running through the church at the time, and most of the Who’s Who of the Nashville congregation were present. I was home from college on winter break, and in those days, I was not in the least interested in doctrine.

While the event is fuzzy at this remove, I do remember that it was a horrible night. There was excessive drinking by just about everyone. The attendees tried to force a good time on everyone, and a houseful of supposedly Christian people attempted to out-pagan the pagans. The aftermath was bad—it produced terrible, unmentionable fruit.

Even if God did not warn us against this kind of celebration, the byproducts of New Year’s Eve celebrations should keep us away. The horrible fruit, at minimum, is a hangover. But in many cases, it is much worse: adultery, sexual disease, drunk driving, accidents, prison, and broken relationships. Common sense alone should tell us to stay far away from these pagan holidays.

“Come Out From Her”

God also makes it plain how He feels. He says in Jeremiah 10:2, “Do not learn the way of the Gentiles [*heathen*, KJV].” The Gentiles were heathens because they did not practice the true religion God revealed to the Israelites, and He did not want His special people to add pagan rites and festivals to His way. We can see very clearly from the Episcopal priest who wrote *4000 Years of Christmas* that New Year’s is pagan to its core. It is one of the ways of the heathen.

In Leviticus 18:3, God commands the children of Israel, “According to the doings of the land of Egypt, where you dwelt, you shall not do; and according to the doings of the land Canaan, where I am bringing you, you shall not do; nor shall you walk in their ordinances.” That is plain.

Of course, this verse appears in the Old Testament, and many nominal Christians say, “That’s all fine and good. It is interesting stuff, but it doesn’t apply to us.” Is that true? No, the New Testament confirms this principle from the Old in Mark 7:7, where our Savior quotes from Isaiah 29:13: “And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.” God did not command us to keep New Year’s Eve; it has its source in pagans and syncretizing churchmen.

The forum commenter quoted earlier said nothing was wrong with going to a “Watch Night” service on New Year’s Eve because “[t]his is not the biblical days We live in the USA.” His or her thinking sees no problem with Christians changing with the times or covering paganism with a thin sheen of “Christianity.” Yet, that thinking is contrary to God’s thinking. He says in Malachi 3:6, “For I am the LORD, I do not change.” He repeats this in the New Testament, “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever” (Hebrews 13:8). Even though we are thousands of years removed from the children of Israel in the wilderness, God still wants us to keep His instructions as He gave them. If He wants us to do something different, He lets us know in His Word—and there is no word in Scripture about observing any New Year’s holiday.

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New Year's Eve contains nothing redeemable. It is pagan to the core. In the Northern Hemisphere, it falls in the dead of winter. It began as an adjunct to Saturnalia, celebrating the sun's rebirth. We can also add pagan fertility rites, human sacrifices, and later, an excuse to kill Jews and burn their homes and synagogues. And what is it today? An excuse to get drunk and act the fool.

The apostle Paul admonishes Christians in Romans 12:2, "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." The apostle John warns, "Do not love the world or anything that belongs to the world. If you love the world, you do not love the Father" (I John 2:15, *Good News Translation [GNT]*).

Revelation 18:1-5 (*GNT*) seems to sum the matter up very well for us:

After this, I saw another angel coming down out of heaven. He had great authority, and his splendor brightened the whole world. He cried out with a loud voice, "She has fallen! Great Babylon has fallen! She is haunted by demons and unclean spirits; all kinds of filthy and hateful birds live in her. For all the nations have drunk her wine—the strong wine of her immoral lust [elements of a New Year's Eve party]. The kings of the earth practiced sexual immorality with her, and the merchants of the world grew rich from her unrestrained lust." Then I heard another voice from heaven, saying, "Come out, [M]y people, come out from her!" You must not take part in her sins; you must not share in her punishment.

Twice the voice from heaven says, "Come out from her," because He does not want His people to practice Babylon's wicked ways and go through the punishments for them. Is that not enough of a warning from God that we should not participate in these Christianized pagan holidays?

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Questionable Article

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

Learn to Give an Answer!

Jesus Our Victory

(Copyright) by Dwight Fleming (Oroville, California)

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ was a great victory that is important to every Christian. It is unfortunate that many have turned to pagan fertility symbols to celebrate this event.

The apostle Paul stated: "And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is vain, and your faith is also vain. Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God... And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is futile, and you are still in your sins. Then those who have fallen asleep in Christ are perished" (I Corinthians 15:14-18).

While the death of Christ will remove our sins and reconcile us to God, without the Resurrection there will be no ultimate **victory over death**. Both Christ's death and resurrection are vital for our salvation. But when can we expect our ultimate victory over death to happen?

"But Christ has been raised from the dead, the **firstfruits** of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead also comes through a man... But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's **at His coming**" (I Corinthians 15:20-23).

The Feast of **Firstfruits** is a 50-day **harvest** period in the spring of the year. On the first day, a wavesheaf offering was

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made of the first cut grain. It was the first of the firstfruits. This was fulfilled by Jesus Christ by being raised from the dead. He was slain at the correct time on the 14th day of the first month of the Hebrew Calendar as a Passover lamb. His resurrection was a few days later on the day of the wavesheaf offering on the first day of the week.

The 50th day of this harvest festival is an annual Sabbath aka Pentecost which pictures the resurrection of those in Christ at His future return. Thus, Pentecost (which means "50th") will be another day of victory over death as also pictured by the first day when the wavesheaf offering was made. If the 50th day is an annual Sabbath, then why wasn't the first day of this 50-day harvest made a Sabbath day as well?

Simple. You don't start a harvest on a Sabbath. Rather, a celebration comes at the end of the harvest. The first day of unleavened bread which is the 15th day of the first month is an annual Sabbath. There are those who observe the Feast of Fruitfruits by sometimes starting their 50-day count on the first day of unleavened bread when it falls on the first day of the week. This thinking comes from a misunderstanding of Joshua 5. There is an excellent article written by Paul Yoos many years ago. He explains that a wavesheaf offering was not made at that time as some believe. Here is the link to his article: [The Journal: News of the Churches of God](#)

Joshua and the Israelites had crossed the Jordan River to take possession of the Promised Land. Their primary mission was to conquer the cities of the land. Settling down to raise crops was a few years away. Yet, if there was a day of victory as pictured by the wavesheaf offering, then it was the day that Jericho fell. All the inhabitants of Jericho were put to death with the exception of Rahab and her household. Thus, it was a day of **victory over death** for Rahab. She was not an Israelite in the flesh but in the spirit. She is even counted in the lineage of Jesus Christ. See Matthew 1:5.

Messiah/Christos

(Copyright 2023) by Ray Daly (Lincoln, North Dakota)

Leadup to this Article:

Ray writes:

I mailed a few pages from "Wikipedia" today. I would like them back if you won't have any use for them. But I asked you and Darwin to take note of a specific paragraph. I am going to quote it here as well. Keep in mind that the 1st century Jews were not expecting a Messiah to come and die for them, but to come and be their king.

The quote: "Like so many God's...in Babylon. In Babylon Mithra [Persian name] was identified with Shamash, the sun god.... Mithra was also the God of Cyrus [Persian king], who was considered the MESSIAH/Christos [the "Lamb" sacrifice] by the JEWS DURING THEIR CAPTIVITY." And they brought him with them when some of them returned to Judea. This is why they no longer observed Passover. And in several Scriptures, the Jews "Passover is called the FIRST DAY OF UB. Because they still "ate the lamb on that day".

Laura writes:

This is the only email you sent me today and again where is the link for the page you got this information off of. It isn't that we wouldn't use this but where is your proof (link to page on Wikipedia).

Ray writes:

I think I mentioned that I "mailed" the material to you. But it was the "slo-mo" mail system. You should have it in a few days. I honestly do not recall the source of the material that listed the workings of Mithras, but I have researched so many sources of ancient writings. I used to get material from a source called "Atlantis Rising". They were out of Montana. They gave materials and references to so many "ancient" writings. As well, I sent a "large" box of many of my books, booklets, and articles I received and researched to a fellow in Michigan who wanted to "start a library", in which Biblical sources could be read by the public. He failed on that, and basically has wandered from one area to another. I think he finally started a church in Tennessee.

Anyway, again, Scripture supports the Jews having already encountered a "messiah", and it is why they looked for the "king" to come.

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Laura writes:

We got your stuff yesterday. What point are you trying to prove with this stuff?

Are you trying to prove that Jesus is a Myth?

Or are you trying to prove something else?

Ray writes:

Not at all. Jesus was real, and so was the "Messiah/Christos" that the Jews in Babylon accepted as their Messiah/Christos". To put it another way. The Jews in Babylon would NEVER have accepted the Babylonian "Bel", or the same as the Persian "Mithras", unless he was of the tribe of Judah. Because, if he was not of Judah, then he could not be the future "KING" of Israel.

I knew you would have a hard time with this topic, so I am in the process of further explaining whom it was that was said "Messiah/Christos" in OT times. Will send it in a couple of days.

The Attachment is my final point on the meanings of the "Jews Messiah/Christos" of the OT.

----- **Article Starts**

The above is a continuation of the topic that was in Wikipedia, regarding the specific words that I emphasized to you earlier. Those words being as follows. And the theme of this contact are those underlined.

"In Babylon, Mithra [a Persian usage] was identified with Hamash [?], the sun god...Mithra was also the God of Cyrus, [and] who was considered the MESSIAH/CHRISTOS by the Jews during their captivity." In an e-mail message to you I pointed out that the Jews would never have accepted their "Messiah/Christos/Lamb" from any other tribe, than he which would originate from the kingly line of Judah. Of which David is the most noteworthy. And note in the following what The Almighty has to say about this line, and whom it would be that would come from it.

Isa. 7:13. "And [the LORD] said. Hear now, O house of David [re: the kingly line from whom Jesus was to come]. Is it a small thing for you to weary men, but will you weary [1]my [LORD] [2]God also? V.14. Therefore, the Lord himself shall give you a sign. Behold, a virgin [just as Mary in a later time] shall conceive and bear a son and shall call his name Immanuel." We'll come back to Immanuel in a bit.

In the 730's BC, king Pekah of Ephraim, and the Aramite [tribe from whence came Abraham] king Pekah, seeking kingship for themselves, invaded Judah. And they both took captives. Pekah was encouraged to return his, but Rezin carried his to Syria, and settled them in and around Damascus. Now, "I believe" that amongst the captives of Rezin, was Immanuel and his mother. Keep in mind that Immanuel was born of a virgin.

Shortly above the time of the birth of Immanuel, the armies of Assyria invaded the territories east of the Jordan, and across from Samaria. They took captive the two and one half tribes living there, the descendants of Abraham, via his second wife, Keturah, a number of mixed Gentile peoples, AND also the Aramite's, after killing Rezin. I could give you the areas in which Assyria settled those peoples, but I will only point out the one "peoples". That being the captives from Judah, which were settled in Babylon. I believe, based on the beginning words of this report, "the "Messiah/Christos", that Immanuel and his mother were among them. As the following supports.

In the early 600's BC, Babylon rebelled against Assyria. Prior to this time, both nations were "Baal and Sunday worshippers". But after this, Babylon ceased worshipping Baal, and began worshipping "Bel". They also quit observing Sunday, and began observing the seventh day. (Which, they continued to do, even after most Babylonians fled to the areas around Rome after their Persian defeat.) They ceased observing the Sabbath, officially in 321 AD.

Now, keeping in mind that, if the above is accurate, then in the 1st century AD, when Jesus came along, they would not have been expecting a "second Messiah/Christ. They would have been expecting "their King" to come.

Mat. 1:23. "Behold, a virgin [Mary] shall bring forth a son. And they [the Jews] shall call his name EMMANUEL!"

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They already had their Lamb, and were expecting a virgin birth, which would bring them their "King".

Let's continue with when Jesus was making his final trip into Jerusalem. He begins his trip via riding on an "ass/donkey". Along with the ass was her "colt". Then, when he came near to Jerusalem, many of the citizens came to meet him, and put him on said "foal". Or, upon the asses "MULE". Why the "mule"? Well, as it shows in the following, a "mule" was the symbol of kingship in OT times.

There came a time when David was near death. As a result, one of his sons [the eldest?], named Absalom, mounted on a "mule", and begin to claim kingship to all of Israel. He died by riding into a crotch of a tree and was left hanging there, with "someone" killing him while he hung.

But now note what David did, when he heard of his son Absalom's death. 1 Kings 1:33. David said...Cause Solomon my son, to ride upon MINE MULE [kingly sign], and bring him to Gihon. V.34. And let Zadok the priest, and Nathan the prophet anoint him their king over Israel."

You can read the following verses from the NT, regarding the Jews expecting their "Messiah/Christos" coming, via a mule, rather than another "Lamb".

Mat. 21:5; 27:11, 29, 37, 42. Luke 19:38. John 12:13, 15; 19:14, 19-21.

On your shoulders. I'm done.

Feast Sites

Feast Site David Antion and Guardian Ministries (May 2, 2023)

Since 1999 when GM launched its first sponsored Feast, GM has been an innovator in improving the program for the Feast. Others have copied what we've done but the sermons, fellowship, love of the Brethren, and serious Biblically-based sermons are still the hallmark of the GM Feast.

This year will be our second time at South Lake Tahoe at the Beach Retreat and Lodge. It is on the shores of Lake Tahoe with convenient grocery stores, restaurants, and breakfast places a block away or close by.

We invite you to join us as we worship and praise God and encourage and edify His people. No place is more beautiful than Lake Tahoe. We will be two miles from the Nevada border where some things are less expensive like gasoline.

All our services will be held at the Beach Retreat and Lodge. If you would like to room on-site, here is how to make reservations at this hotel:

You are now able to make reservations using our unique code. To do this:

1. Go to the hotel website and click on 'Book Your Stay' and a second window will open up: <https://www.tahoebeachretreat.com/>
2. Enter your check-in and check-out dates.
3. Under 'Promo Code' type in the **group code 'FOT23'** then click Check Availability.
4. A new window will open up with the room options for the check-in and check-out dates selected. Select 'Book' next to the preferred room type and continue with making the reservation by entering your information.
5. **Or you can call the front desk:** (530) 541-6722. Tell them you are attending the Feast of Tabernacles with Guardian Ministries and you will get our special discount.

Note: Please remember you must book your room before the cutoff date of **August 29, 2023**.

Of course, there are other places to stay in the area and houses are available for rent, but I prefer to stay where I can simply get up and walk to our meeting hall.

Registration Form
Register Online at:

<http://daveantion.com/feast-of-tabernacles.php>

Iron Sharpening Iron

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

In regard to: Biblical Teaching of Sabbath Keeping

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

You stated in one of your responses to me "Keep in mind that Satan broadcasts all the time, twenty-four seven. It is more likely that your message above came from Satan himself." Attributing the work of the Holy Ghost to the devil or a demon is blasphemy of the Holy Ghost, for which there is no forgiveness. Christians are not even to pray for such a one as yourself. Do not expect any further correspondence from me.

In regard to: Biblical Teaching of Sabbath Keeping

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

Richard is referring to the following:

Richard & Sandra's Article:
Sabbath Keeping
Part I - Why It Was Established

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

Laura Lee writes:

Keeping the Sabbath that God made Holy from the beginning is not worshipping an idol. (Gen. 2:2-3) If I were you, I would be careful in thinking that such a message as stated above has anything at all to do with God. Keep in mind that Satan broadcasts all the time, twenty-four seven. It is more likely that your message above came from Satan himself.

All I can say is God gave you free will to use for whatever use you wish to use it for whether for good or for evil. It is not me that is calling God a liar saying that when He said the 1st day, 2nd day etc. that He really meant 2nd day, 3rd day etc. I also did not make up a calendar that has a new moon day without a moon.

As far as the Sabbath goes, it is in the law of God and if we choose to keep it Holy as God wanted then it is not idol worship as you say. Most people run from keeping the Sabbath, so most people today do not keep it or even seek it out. If you are so much smarter than the rest of us, show us where the scripture is that says God took the Sabbath away from us.

I feel sorry for both you and your wife when you can make up all kinds of stuff and teach it to others, believing it comes from God when it clearly does not. We will pray for you, and I am sure others will also.

In regard to: Judaism in Jesus' Day

Article by Rich Traver

Comments by Ray Daly (Lincoln, North Dakota)

Something to consider regarding Rich Traver's article: "Judaism in Jesus Day".

For it is seemingly evident that Jesus went "to the Jews". And this did not mean only "Israelite Jews". He went to Gentiles that were "of the law" as well as those like the Pharisees that were deeply involved in the book of the law. The Herodian "Jews" for example were of the tribe of Esau, via his marriage to two Canaanite wives. They are known of in the Gospel accounts as being "Idumeans". As well there were several other "gentile peoples" that came to him to be healed, and he taught them also. It is very likely that the Samaritans and Galilean's were also Gentiles. After all, almost all or all of the Israelites living to the north of Judea were carried off to areas in the Assyrian empire or had fled before the invasion.

I guess one could say that Jesus went to any that were of obedience to the portions of the book of the law that involved them. Israelites/Judeans or Gentiles.

There are several Scriptural examples but will not get into them.

In regard to: Who Are the Nephilim

Article by David Sielaff

Comments by Ray Daly (Lincoln, North Dakota)

Regarding David Sielaff's article in the Apr. 29 issue. "Who Are the Nephilim". A bit lengthy, but interesting. For, he gives the answer to whom are the Nephilim's by the use of the "Elohim's". Which is under "God #430. He rightfully shows said word to be "PLURAL". And, if this is so, then would it not have to mean that the "elohim" refers to ALL ANGEL'S created by God Almighty. Billions upon billions. And it should be noted that God Almighty himself is a part of said Elohim. Note in Strong's Concordance that #430 has a second meaning. "The SUPREME GOD". And note that all of these Spirit beings have physical, "flesh, bone and spirit" bodies. But NO blood.

Let's now look at Gen. 1:1, where it says. "In the beginning God [plural Elohim] created the heaven and the earth." Or it was the plural ANGELS that created the earth that had already been in existence for hundreds of thousands, or even a million years. But note also what it says in V.3. "God said..."

Here it has to be speaking of he whom is called "The Supreme God" in #430. Or he whom we know of as the "VOICE" in OT examples. Thus, when The Almighty/Supreme Voice said, then the Angel Elohim's went about doing/creating what it is that he spoke to them of creating.

Let's now look at two other usages of God. #430. "A" deity, and "The" Deity". Referring to a higher level of Elohim's, such as those spoken of as being the God's of the nations, and The Supreme Elohim, "the" Deity.

#410. "Mighty" referring to the higher level of Angels in the ruler ship chain, such as Michael and Gabriel. Or those "four Angels" spoken of in Eze. 1, 10. And #410 also means the "Almighty". Or, again, the Supreme God, and "THE Deity".

What does the above have to do with "Nephilim". Well simply put, some of the Elohim Angels were given the duty to create human beings "in their images". Thus, basically, they were those that created the "darker skin, hair and eyes black and yellow races, some of whom were giants and pygmies". The Supreme God Almighty only created Adam in his image. Or, white, with lighter skin, hair, and eyes

Now, when it says that the Nephilim, when it says "when the sons of God [the Angels creation] saw the daughters of man [Adam and Eve], they took of whomever they would", just what is it saying? Well, simply put, the human beings created by the angels lacked something that Adam and Eve had within them. That being, the "spirit in man". And, when the

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Angels humans had intercourse with Mary's daughterly line, said spirit in man was passed on to the Angel's human's. This is shown in the following Scripture from The Amplified Bible. Ecc. 11:5. "As you know not what is the way of the wind, or how the spirit [in man] comes to the bones in the womb of a pregnant woman..." This coming of the spirit in man into the bones of a baby, is basically the same meaning of why a rib (within which was blood and spirit of man) was put into Eve.

BTW. When it says in Gen. 1:26, "Let US create man in OUR image", it is referring to the human beings that some of the lead angels created in their image.

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

Ray Daly's Iron Sharpening Iron:

Regarding David Sielaff's article in the Apr. 29 issue. "Who Are the Nephilim". A bit lengthy, but interesting. For, he gives the answer to whom are the Nephilim's by the use of the "Elohim's". Which is under "God #430. He rightfully shows said word to be "PLURAL". And, if this is so, then would it not have to mean that the "elohim" refers to ALL ANGEL'S created by God Almighty. Billions upon billions. And it should be noted that God Almighty himself is a part of said Elohim. Note in Strong's Concordance that #430 has a second meaning. "The SUPREME GOD". And note that all of these Spirit beings have physical, "flesh, bone and spirit" bodies. But NO blood.

Laura Lee writes:

The article was not saying that angels are gods. Also when Christ walked the earth he had blood.

[Joh 19:33](#) But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs: [Joh 19:34](#) But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water. (KJV)

Ray Daly's Iron Sharpening Iron:

Let's now look at Gen. 1:1, where it says. "In the beginning God [plural Elohim] created the heaven and the earth." Or it was the plural ANGELS that created the earth that had already been in existence for hundreds of thousands, or even a million years. But note also what it says in V.3. "God said..."

Laura Lee writes:

The angels did not create the earth or anything in it or on it. Jesus created everything:

[Col 1:14](#) In whom we have redemption through his blood, *even* the forgiveness of sins: [Col 1:15](#) Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: [Col 1:16](#) For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether *they be* thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: [Col 1:17](#) And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. [Col 1:18](#) And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all *things* he might have the preeminence. (KJV)

Angels did not exist for hundreds of thousands or even a million years. They were created on day 4 of creation week.

[Gen 1:14](#) And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years: [Gen 1:15](#) And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so. [Gen 1:16](#) And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: *he made* the stars also. [Gen 1:17](#) And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth, [Gen 1:18](#) And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that *it was* good. [Gen 1:19](#) And the evening and the morning were the fourth day. (KJV)

Angels were created to minister and help humankind:

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Heb 1:13 But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool?
Heb 1:14 Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation? (KJV)

In the Apocrypha book of Esdras it says the following:

2Es 6:45 Upon the fourth day you commanded that the sun should shine, and the moon give her light, and the stars should be in their order: 2Es 6:46 and gave them a charge to do service to man, that was to be made. (WEBA)

Ray Daly's Iron Sharpening Iron:

Here it has to be speaking of he whom is called "The Supreme God" in #430. Or he whom we know of as the "VOICE" in OT examples. Thus, when The Almighty/Supreme Voice said, then the Angel Elohim's went about doing/creating what it is that he spoke to them of creating.

Laura Lee writes:

The angels did not create anything.

Ray Daly's Iron Sharpening Iron:

Let's now look at two other usages of God. #430. "A" deity, and "The" Deity". Referring to a higher level of Elohim's, such as those spoken of as being the God's of the nations, and The Supreme Elohim, "the" Deity.

#410. "Mighty" referring to the higher level of Angels in the ruler ship chain, such as Michael and Gabriel. Or those "four Angels" spoken of in Eze. 1, 10. And #410 also means the "Almighty". Or, again, the Supreme God, and "THE Deity".

What does the above have to do with "Nephilim". Well simply put, some of the Elohim Angels were given the duty to create human beings "in their images". Thus, basically, they were those that created the "darker skin, hair and eyes black and yellow races, some of whom were giants and pygmies". The Supreme God Almighty only created Adam in his image. Or, white, with lighter skin, hair, and eyes

Laura Lee writes:

Ray, this is fake news. All of the traits of humankind were programed into their DNA. The angels did not create any human beings.

Ray Daly's Iron Sharpening Iron:

Now, when it says that the Nephilim, when it says "when the sons of God [the Angels creation] saw the daughters of man [Adam and Eve], they took of whomever they would", just what is it saying? Well, simply put, the human beings created by the angels lacked something that Adam and Eve had within them. That being, the "spirit in man". And, when the Angels humans had intercourse with Mary's daughterly line, said spirit in man was passed on to the Angel's humans. This is shown in the following Scripture from The Amplified Bible. Ecc. 11:5. "As you know not what is the way of the wind, or how the spirit [in man] comes to the bones in the womb of a pregnant woman...!" This coming of the spirit in man into the bones of a baby, is basically the same meaning of why a rib (within which was blood and spirit of man) was put into Eve.

Laura Lee writes:

Fake news Ray. You have a great imagination and could probably be rich writing fiction books but what you are saying here is just not in scripture. Read your bible.

Ray Daly's Iron Sharpening Iron:

BTW. When it says in Gen. 1:26, "Let US create man in OUR image", it is referring to the human beings that some of the lead angels created in their image.

Laura Lee writes:

There are no humans created in the image of lead angels or any other angels.

In regard to: Is New Year's Eve a Pagan Holiday?

Article by Mike Ford

Comments by Laura Lee (Bismarck, North Dakota)

This is an excellent article and the only thing I want to comment on is this part:

From the Article:

So, the New Year begins in early spring (*abib* means "spring" in Hebrew), generally falling in mid-to-late March or early April. God notes this but says nothing more about it; it functions only as a time marker. Two weeks after the year begins, Passover on the fourteenth day and the Feast of Unleavened Bread on the fifteenth through twenty-first days, both festival times, occur.

Laura writes:

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

This and many other verses throughout the Bible show that Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread are at the same time. The names Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread can be used interchangeably as both names are used for this same seven day period of time.

In regard to: Jesus Our Victory

Article by Dwight Fleming

Comments by Laura Lee (Oroville, California)

Dwight Flemings Article:

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ was a great victory that is important to every Christian. It is unfortunate that many have turned to pagan fertility symbols to celebrate this event.

The apostle Paul stated: "And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is vain, and your faith is also vain. Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God... And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is futile, and you are still in your sins. Then those who have fallen asleep in Christ are perished" (I Corinthians 15:14-18).

While the death of Christ will remove our sins and reconcile us to God, without the Resurrection there will be no ultimate **victory over death**. Both Christ's death and resurrection are vital for our salvation. But when can we expect our ultimate victory over death to happen?

"But Christ has been raised from the dead, the **firstfruits** of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead also comes through a man... But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's **at His coming**" (I Corinthians 15:20-23).

Laura writes:

Here the King James Bible is a poor translation of 1 Corinthians 15:20.

[1Co 15:20](#) But now is Christ risen from the dead and become the **firstfruits** of them that slept.

Firstfruits here should actually be firstfruit. It is singular and not plural. It should read as follows:

[1Co 15:20](#) But now is Christ risen from the dead and become the **firstfruit** of them that slept.

If you look in other Bible translations, you will find that many translate it correctly as "firstfruit."

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But now Christ has been raised from the dead; He became the **firstfruit** of those having fallen asleep. (Green's Literal Translation 1993)

But now Crist roos ayen fro deth, the **firste fruit** of deed men; (Wycliffe Bible 1382)

The reason it is singular is because Christ is only one. Christ is the first one of the firstfruits. When the resurrection of the ecclesia takes place, it would then be the resurrection of the firstfruits plural because there will be more than one person being resurrected at the same time.

Dwight Flemings Article:

The Feast of **Firstfruits** is a 50-day **harvest** period in the spring of the year. On the first day, a wavesheaf offering was made of the first cut grain. It was the first of the firstfruits. This was fulfilled by Jesus Christ by being raised from the dead. He was slain at the correct time on the 14th day of the first month of the Hebrew Calendar as a Passover lamb. His resurrection was a few days later on the day of the wavesheaf offering on the first day of the week.

Laura writes:

The wave sheaf offering does not represent Christ. Christ was accepted by the Father the minute He died for us which is why it was dark from noon until about 3 PM when Christ died, and the vale was ripped.

Mat 27:51 And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent.

The wave sheaf represents the ecclesia.

Read Albert Edersheim:

. . . They [delegates from the Sanhedrin] cut down barley to the amount of one ephah, or ten omers, or three seahs, which is equal to about three pecks and three pints of our English measure. The ears were brought into the Court of the Temple, and thrashed out with canes or stalks, so as not to injure the corn; then 'parched' on a pan perforated with holes, so that each grain might be touched by the fire, and finally exposed to the wind. The corn thus prepared was ground in a barley mill, which left the hulls whole. According to some, the flour was always successfully passed through thirteen sieves, each closer than the other. The statement of a rival authority, however, seems more rational - that it was only done till the flour was sufficiently fine (*Men.* vi. 6, 7), which was ascertained by one of the 'Gizbarim' (treasurers) plunging his hands into it, the sifting process being continued so long as any of the flour adhered to the hands (*Men.* viii. 2). Though one ephah, or ten omers, of barley was cut down, only one omer of flour, or about 5.1 pints of our measure, was offered in the Temple on the second Paschal, or **16th day of Nisan**. The rest of the flour might be redeemed and used for any purpose. The omer of flour was mixed with a 'log,' or very nearly three-fourths of a pint of oil, and a handful of frankincense put upon it, then waved before the Lord, and a handful taken out and burned on the altar. The remainder belonged to the priest. This was what is popularly, though not very correctly, called 'the presentation of the first or wave-sheaf on the second day of the Passover-feast, or **the 16th of Nisan**. (pp. 204-205, *The Temple: Its Ministry and Services*, updated edition)

The wave sheaf requires going through fire and being refined which is exactly what is happening right now to the first fruits.

In temple times (at the time of Christ) the wave sheaf was always done on the 16th of Nisan or the day after the Passover. Passover and the First Day of Unleavened Bread are on the same day. Christ was crucified and died on the afternoon of the 14th of Nisan between the two evenings or about 3 PM.

Dwight Flemings Article:

The 50th day of this harvest festival is an annual Sabbath aka Pentecost which pictures the resurrection of those in Christ at His future return. Thus, Pentecost (which means "50th") will be another day of victory over death as also pictured by the first day when the wavesheaf offering was made. If the 50th day is an annual Sabbath, then why wasn't the first day of this 50-day harvest made a Sabbath day as well?

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Simple. You don't start a harvest on a Sabbath. Rather, a celebration comes at the end of the harvest. The first day of unleavened bread which is the 15th day of the first month is an annual Sabbath. There are those who observe the Feast of Fruitfruits by sometimes starting their 50-day count on the first day of unleavened bread when it falls on the first day of the week. This thinking comes from a misunderstanding of Joshua 5.

Laura writes:

When people misunderstand what day Passover is on, then they also misunderstand what is being said in Joshua 5 about Passover because Joshua 5:10 is a pretty clear scripture so there should be no misunderstanding as far as what it says.

Jos 5:10 And the children of Israel encamped in Gilgal and kept the passover on the fourteenth day of the month at even in the plains of Jericho.

When you believe that Passover is on the early part of the 14th of Nisan, which it is not, then you automatically believe some people are doing the wave sheaf offering and harvesting grain on a high day. When you start with a false premise the whole doctrine will be wrong.

On the Hebrew Calendar the Passover and First Day of Unleavened Bread are the same day and there are multiple scriptures throughout the Bible that prove this is true. So, when you understand what day Passover is actually on then the day after Passover is Nisan 16 which is not a high Sabbath.

Dwight Flemings Article:

There is an excellent article written by Paul Yoos many years ago. He explains that a wavesheaf offering was not made at that time as some believe. Here is the link to his article: [The Journal: News of the Churches of God](#)

Laura writes:

[Paul Yoos does not know what he is talking about. His article will lead people in the wrong direction as he is teaching a false doctrine. The wave sheaf offering is spoken of here:](#)

Lev 23:9 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, **Lev 23:10** Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye be come into the land which I give unto you, and **shall reap the harvest thereof, then ye shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest unto the priest:** **Lev 23:11** And he shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, to be accepted for you: on the morrow after the sabbath the priest shall wave it. **Lev 23:12** And ye shall offer that day when ye wave the sheaf an he lamb without blemish of the first year for a burnt offering unto the LORD. **Lev 23:13** And the meat offering thereof *shall be* two tenth deals of fine flour mingled with oil, an offering made by fire unto the LORD *for* a sweet savour: and the drink offering thereof *shall be* of wine, the fourth *part* of an hin. **Lev 23:14** **And ye shall eat neither bread, nor parched corn, nor green ears, until the selfsame day that ye have brought an offering unto your God: it shall be** a statute for ever throughout your generations in all your dwellings. **Lev 23:15** And ye shall count unto you from the morrow after the sabbath, from the day that ye brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven sabbaths shall be complete: **Lev 23:16** Even unto the morrow after the seventh sabbath shall ye number fifty days; and ye shall offer a new meat offering unto the LORD.

It is pretty clear in these scriptures that they were not to eat anything in the new land until they did the wave sheaf offering which was to be made on the day after the Sabbath and Passover is a high day whether people want to believe that or not.

Dwight Flemings Article:

Joshua and the Israelites had crossed the Jordan River to take possession of the Promised Land. Their primary mission was to conquer the cities of the land. Settling down to raise crops was a few years away. Yet, if there was a day of victory as pictured by the wavesheaf offering, then it was the day that Jericho fell. All the inhabitants of Jericho were put to death with the exception of Rahab and her household. Thus, it was a day of **victory over death** for Rahab. She was not an Israelite in the flesh but in the spirit. She is even counted in the lineage of Jesus Christ. See Matthew 1:5.

Laura writes:

In Lev. 23:10 it clearly says when you come into the land ye shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest.

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Lev 23:10 Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye be come into the land which I give unto you, and **shall reap the harvest thereof, then ye shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest unto the priest:**

So yes, they did do the wave sheaf offering that year on the 16th of Nisan the day after Passover just like scripture says. Passover was at even on the 14th of Nisan. At even means the end of the 14th as it was turning into the 15th. The 15th of Nisan is Passover and the First Day of Unleavened Bread. Nisan 16, the day after Passover is the day, they did the wave sheaf offering and started their harvest. Nisan 17 is when the manna ceased to come down anymore, so we know what year this was. It was the same year they entered the promised land. The promised land now belonged to them and anything that needed to be harvested in that land also now belonged to the Israelites whether they planted it or not.

Jos 5:12 And the manna ceased on the morrow after they had eaten of the old corn of the land; neither had the children of Israel manna anymore; but they did eat of the fruit of the land of Canaan that year.

In regard to: Messiah/Christos
Article by Ray Daly
Comments by Laura Lee (Bismarck, North Dakota)

The Article:

Leadup to this Article:

Ray writes:

I mailed a few pages from "Wikipedia" today. I would like them back if you won't have any use for them. But I asked you and Darwin to take note of a specific paragraph. I am going to quote it here as well. Keep in mind that the 1st century Jews were not expecting a Messiah to come and die for them, but to come and be their king.

The quote: "Like so many God's...in Babylon. In Babylon Mithra [Persian name] was identified with Shamash, the sun god.... Mithra was also the God of Cyrus [Persian king], who was considered the MESSIAH/Christos [the "Lamb" sacrifice] by the JEWS DURING THEIR CAPTIVITY." And they brought him with them when some of them returned to Judea. This is why they no longer observed Passover. And in several Scriptures, the Jews "Passover is called the FIRST DAY OF UB. Because they still "ate the lamb on that day".

Laura Adds:

The pages Ray sent to us were not from Wikipedia as he claims. He sent 4 pages from a website address of <http://www.truthbeknown.com/mithra.htm> As near as I can figure the woman on this website does not seem to believe in Christ and the website is about Greek Mythology and Pagan gods. Though it is called Truth Be Known, not exactly the place to go to learn about Christ. If you are into Satan, it is probably a great website for that.

Then he sent 6 pages from a website address of <http://www.tektonics.org/copycat/mithra.html> which is also in regard to Pagan gods.

Now, I will agree that both websites have a lot to say in regard to Pagan gods, but that is not the point of this newsletter. We are not here to study Pagan gods or the websites we may find them on. We are here to study the Bible and I believe that if you studied the Bible even half as hard as you study these Pagan websites you might understand what the Bible actually says because you are not going to get that knowledge from studying Satan or his minions the Pagan gods.

Also, in case you do not understand this point, not every website on the internet is called "Wikipedia". Wikipedia is an online encyclopedia that is contributed too by many sources, including those in the Church of God. It actually contains quite a bit of truth, but you also have to be careful there in believing it is all truth because it probably is not. The only true source of "Truth" is your Bible. I suggest you read it instead of filling your head with the things of Satan.

For the paragraph Ray quoted, apparently even Ray did not like parts of the paragraph in his quote as he crossed a few things out of it. The full quote is here:

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"Like so many gods, Mithra was the light and power behind the sun. In Babylon, Mithra was identified with Shamash, the sun god. Christian authority and biblical commentator Matthew Henry (18th Century) stated that "Mithra, the sun," was the god of King Shalmaneser V of Assyria, who in the 8th century BCE conquered Samaria and "carried away the Israelites." Mithra was also the god of Cyrus, conqueror of Babylon, who was considered the Messiah or Christos by Jews during the "Captivity." In fact, **Mithra is Bel, the Mesopotamian and Canaanite/Phoenician Sun god, who is likewise Marduke the Babylonian god who represented both the planet Jupiter and the sun.** According to Clement of Alexandria's debate with Appion (Homily VI, ch. X) Mithra is also Appolo."

The part Ray crossed out in the papers he sent is in bold black above and of course he did not quote the entire paragraph, because it probably does not fit the fictional story he is trying to weave here.

As far as the Passover goes, the Jews during the Babylonian captivity even though not allowed at that time to keep the Passover, did not forget Passover or when it was kept. See Ezra 6:19-22 below:

Ezr 6:19 And the children of the captivity kept the passover upon the fourteenth *day* of the first month. **Ezr 6:20** For the priests and the Levites were purified together, all of them *were* pure, and killed the passover for all the children of the captivity, and for their brethren the priests, and for themselves. **Ezr 6:21** And the children of Israel, which were come again out of captivity, and all such as had separated themselves unto them from the filthiness of the heathen of the land, to seek the LORD God of Israel, did eat, **Ezr 6:22** And kept the feast of unleavened bread seven days with joy: for the LORD had made them joyful, and turned the heart of the king of Assyria unto them, to strengthen their hands in the work of the house of God, the God of Israel.

The Article:

Laura writes:

This is the only email you sent me today and again where is the link for the page you got this information off of. It isn't that we wouldn't use this but where is your proof (link to page on Wikipedia).

Ray writes:

I think I mentioned that I "mailed" the material to you. But it was the "slo-mo" mail system. You should have it in a few days. I honestly do not recall the source of the material that listed the workings of Mithras, but I have researched so many sources of ancient writings. I used to get material from a source called "Atlantis Rising". They were out of Montana. They gave materials and references to so many "ancient" writings. As well, I sent a "large" box of many of my books, booklets, and articles I received and researched to a fellow in Michigan who wanted to "start a library", in which Biblical sources could be read by the public. He failed on that, and basically has wandered from one area to another. I think he finally started a church in Tennessee.

Anyway, again, Scripture supports the Jews having already encountered a "messiah", and it is why they looked for the "king" to come.

Laura writes:

We got your stuff yesterday. What point are you trying to prove with this stuff?

Are you trying to prove that Jesus is a Myth?

Or are you trying to prove something else?

Ray writes:

Not at all. Jesus was real, and so was the "Messiah/Christos" that the Jews in Babylon accepted as their Messiah/Christos". To put it another way. The Jews in Babylon would NEVER have accepted the Babylonian "Bel", or the same as the Persian "Mithras", unless he was of the tribe of Judah. Because, if he was not of Judah, then he could not be the future "KING" of Israel.

I knew you would have a hard time with this topic, so I am in the process of further explaining whom it was that was said "Messiah/Christos" in OT times. Will send it in a couple of days.

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The Attachment is my final point on the meanings of the "Jews Messiah/Christos" of the OT.

----- Article Starts

The above is a continuation of the topic that was in Wikipedia, regarding the specific words that I emphasized to you earlier. Those words being as follows. And the theme of this contact are those underlined.

"In Babylon, Mithra [a Persian usage] was identified with Hamash [?], the sun god...Mithra was also the God of Cyrus, [and] who was considered the MESSIAH/CHRISTOS by the Jews during their captivity." In an e-mail message to you I pointed out that the Jews would never have accepted their "Messiah/Christos/Lamb" from any other tribe, than he which would originate from the kingly line of Judah. Of which David is the most noteworthy. And note in the following what The Almighty has to say about this line, and whom it would be that would come from it.

Isa. 7:13. "And [the LORD] said. Hear now, O house of David [re: the kingly line from whom Jesus was to come]. Is it a small thing for you to weary men, but will you weary [1]my [LORD] [2]God also? V.14. Therefore, the Lord himself shall give you a sign. Behold, a virgin [just as Mary in a later time] shall conceive and bear a son and shall call his name Immanuel." We'll come back to Immanuel in a bit.

Laura Adds:

Isa 7:13 And he said, Hear ye now, O house of David; *Is it* a small thing for you to weary men, but will ye weary my God also? Isa 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Isaiah 7:13-14 is a future prophecy about Christ himself and not about a Pagan god. I think you better get your eyes checked. There were not and never were two Christ's born to virgins for example, one in the Old Testament and one in the New Testament. And your little play on words with "Immanuel and later Emmanuel" also proves nothing of what you are trying to tell us all.

The Article:

In the 730's BC, king Pekah of Ephraim, and the Aramite [tribe from whence came Abraham] king Pekah, seeking kingship for themselves, invaded Judah. And they both took captives. Pekah was encouraged to return his, but Rezin carried his to Syria, and settled them in and around Damascus. Now, "I believe" that amongst the captives of Rezin, was Immanuel and his mother. Keep in mind that Immanuel was born of a virgin.

Shortly about the time of the birth of Immanuel, the armies of Assyria invaded the territories east of the Jordan, and across from Samaria. They took captive the two and one half tribes living there, the descendants of Abraham, via his second wife, Keturah, a number of mixed Gentile peoples, AND also the Aramite's, after killing Rezin. I could give you the areas in which Assyria settled those peoples, but I will only point out the one "peoples". That being the captives from Judah, which were settled in Babylon. I believe, based on the beginning words of this report, "the "Messiah/Christos", that Immanuel and his mother were among them. As the following supports.

In the early 600's BC, Babylon rebelled against Assyria. Prior to this time, both nations were "Baal and Sunday worshippers". But after this, Babylon ceased worshipping Baal, and began worshipping "Bel". They also quit observing Sunday, and began observing the seventh day. (Which, they continued to do, even after most Babylonians fled to the areas around Rome after their Persian defeat.) They ceased observing the Sabbath, officially in 321 AD.

Now, keeping in mind that, if the above is accurate, then in the 1st century AD, when Jesus came along, they would not have been expecting a "second Messiah/Christ. They would have been expecting "their King" to come.

Mat. 1:23. "Behold, a virgin [Mary] shall bring forth a son. And they [the Jews] shall call his name EMMANUEL!" They already had their Lamb, and were expecting a virgin birth, which would bring them their "King".

Laura Adds:

Mat 1:23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which

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being interpreted is, God with us.

Look in other Bible versions and you will see that some translation use Emmanuel and some use Immanuel in Matthew 1:23. You cannot use this spelling of Immanuel/Emmanuel to make two virgin births or two Christs. Isaiah 7:13-14 and Matthew 1:23 are both talking about Christ and Christ alone.

The Article:

Let's continue with when Jesus was making his final trip into Jerusalem. He begins his trip via riding on an "ass/donkey". Along with the ass was her "colt". Then, when he came near to Jerusalem, many of the citizens came to meet him, and put him on said "foal". Or, upon the asses "MULE". Why the "mule"? Well, as it shows in the following, a "mule" was the symbol of kingship in OT times.

There came a time when David was near death. As a result, one of his sons [the eldest?], named Absalom, mounted on a "mule", and begin to claim kingship to all of Israel. He died by riding into a crotch of a tree and was left hanging there, with "someone" killing him while he hung.

But now note what David did, when he heard of his son Absalom's death. 1 Kings 1:33. David said...Cause Solomon my son, to ride upon MINE MULE [kingly sign], and bring him to Gihon. V.34. And let Zadok the priest, and Nathan the prophet anoint him their king over Israel."

You can read the following verses from the NT, regarding the Jews expecting their "Messiah/Christos" coming, via a mule, rather than another "Lamb".

Mat. 21:5; 27:11, 29, 37, 42. Luke 19:38. John 12:13, 15; 19:14, 19-21.

On your shoulders. I'm done.

Laura Adds:

Ray, you do not understand the things you read for the most part. I am not saying you are totally void of truth because even evil people are not totally void of truth. I do not believe you are an evil person purposely teaching things that are untrue. I believe that you believe what you write for people to read but you do it all with a lack of wisdom, understanding and knowledge, three elements you can only get from God in order to discern what you are reading.

This whole thing for the most part is pure fiction. There are some things within which may be true, but the way that you put them together makes it a work of fiction. Read your Bible instead of all this other foolishness. The only place you will ever find truth is in the Bible.

Announcements

Announcement from William P. Goff (April 30, 2023)

The May 1, 2023, Kenya Update is now posted at: <http://www.khofh.org>

Announcement from Zac Poonen (May 3, 2023)

MESSAGES

This is the True Grace of God

<https://rlcf.church/media/sermons/this-is-the-true-grace-of-god-2>

CFC (GULF COUNTRIES) CONFERENCE

Being Ready for Christ's Return - Part -1

<https://www.cfcindia.com/sermon/being-ready-for-christs-return-part-1>

Being Ready for Christ's Return - Part-2

<https://www.cfcindia.com/sermon/being-ready-for-christs-return-part2>

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CFC Bangalore
<https://cfcindia.com>

Announcement from James Steinle (May 4, 2023)

YOUNG 11 Year Old BOY REVEALS

Jesus Throughout the Bible all by Memory & anointing!

<https://grandmageri422.me/2023/05/04/amazing/>

4:08 minute video. You will be amazed at him!

Other Items

(Poems, Jokes, Questions etc.)

Overweight and don't like it?

(Copyright 2023) by James Steinle (Swanville, Minnesota)

<https://nourishingtraditions.com/foods-that-make-you-fat/> by Sally Fallon Morell

Fascinating article on what things in our modern foods tend to make us put on weight [esp. 'low-fat foods'] and reduce our health. Many surprises in here and things we can do to get our bodies back on track, especially delicious fats!

Not your normal 'educated' ways that eventually don't work and actually can do you harm!

This information is a game changer. It reaches to your gut level "(no pun intended) and your instinct will tell you 'this is right!'

I'm hoping this info will go far and wide - pun intended.

Holy Days 2023

Passover – April 6, 2023 (Observed at Sunset the Evening Before)

Passover/Unleavened Bread – April 6-12, 2023

Pentecost – May 26, 2023

Trumpets - September 16, 2023

Atonement – September 25, 2023

Tabernacles –September 30, 2023 to October 6, 2023

Last Great Day – October 7, 2023

Notes

Notes