

## Ben Ha Arbayim – “Between the Two Evenings” – Just What Does This REALLY Mean?

(Copyright) by HOIM Staff, John Keyser  
(Azusa, California)

PAGE 2 **Article**

## The Victim Beside the Road

(Copyright 2006) by Catherine C. Kroeger  
(Brewster, Massachusetts)

PAGE 8 **Article**

## The Formula for Overcoming

(Copyright 2023) by David F. Maas  
(Charlotte, North Carolina)

PAGE 13 **Article**

## Happy New Year (Copyright) by John Jewell (London, England)

PAGE 15 **Article**

## America Has Too Much Time On Its Hands (Copyright 2006) by Richard Markland (London, Ohio)

PAGE 17 **Article**

Iron Sharpening Iron  
19 --- Mount Sinai by Dwight Fleming – Comments by Laura Lee

Letters  
20 --- Ray Daly

Announcements  
20 --- Kenya Update from William P. Goff  
20 --- Messages from Zac Poonen

### 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:

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

**To Submit Items for Print:** Send to: [the-church-of-god-messenger@hotmail.com](mailto:the-church-of-god-messenger@hotmail.com) or 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.

**The "New" Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**June 10, 2023 --- Issue No. 123**

**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:** Ray Daly, Dwight Fleming, William P. Goff, HOIM Staff, John Jewell, John Keyser, Catherine C. Kroeger, Laura Lee, David F. Maas, Richard Markland, Zac Poonen

**Websites:**

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

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

<https://church-of-god-bismarck.org/newsletter/>

## Articles

### Ben Ha Arbayim – “Between the Two Evenings” – Just What Does This REALLY Mean?

(Copyright) by HOIM Staff, John Keyser (Azusa, California)

Some proponents of observing the Passover insist that the Hebrew expression *Ben Ha Arbayim* -- translated literally as "between the two evenings" -- has to refer to dusk or twilight, the period of time after sunset and before dark. The Jews, rabbis, and orthodox Judaism, however, maintain that this expression refers to the period between noon, when the sun begins to go down, and sunset, when it has gone down. Which is the truth? Since the Passover lamb was killed "*ben ha arbayim*" this question is of vital importance in determining when Passover should be observed!

In Exodus 12:6, YEHOVAH God commands Israel, "And you shall keep it [the Passover lamb] up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening." Many have been perplexed by this expression, "in the evening." The margin of my *National Bible* says, "from the ninth to the eleventh hour." In Israel, the day had twelve hours, beginning around 6:00 AM our time as the first hour. Therefore, the ninth to the eleventh hour would have been from 3:00 PM in the afternoon till 5:00 PM.

However, another Bible I have has a marginal rendering of this expression, saying, "Hebrew, between the two evenings." The question is, does this period of time refer to the afternoon of Nisan 14, especially from 3:00-5:00 PM? Or does it refer to the BEGINNING of Nisan 14, which begins about 6:00 PM the previous evening, from the time the sun sets until dark sets in -- a period of about forty minutes or so?

Some who observe "Passover" at the beginning hours of Nisan 14, shortly after sunset, claim this expression means twilight, between sunset and dark. Is this really true? In his newly self-published book entitled *The Christian Passover*, Fred R. Coulter, former minister of the Worldwide Church of God, asserts that this expression is "the vital key to understanding." He claims to "prove" that the Scriptural meaning of *ben ha arbayim* is the period of time after sunset, normally referred to as dusk or twilight -- definitely NOT "late afternoon"! Coulter simply rejects out of hand Jewish explanations and exegesis on this expression, as well as the studies of most scholars. Seemingly, he is going to "reinvent the wheel," and produce "new" evidence from the Scriptures themselves to define this important term.

Coulter claims that the traditional Jewish explanation of this term, such as that of Rabbi Rashi, a renown scholar of the Torah, simply contradicts Exodus 12:8, which, he claims, shows that the entire Passover was to be kept on the 14th of Nisan, and the Passover lambs were to be eaten on the night of the 14th, not the 15th!

These are very strong words. Coulter claims that Exodus 16 is the KEY PROOF that he is right, and all the rabbis and scholars are wrong. He accuses various scholars, including Robert Kuhn and Lester L. Grabbe, formerly with the

**The "New" Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**June 10, 2023 --- Issue No. 123**

Worldwide Church of God, of "either ignoring or overlooking the plain commands of God which were given in the original Passover and which have been preserved in His Word" (p. 28, *The Christian Passover*).

After slamming and blasting Kuhn and Grabbe, referring to their "so-called scholarly methods," and accusing them of "SUCH ARROGANT AND IMPIOUS HANDLING OF HIS WORD OF TRUTH" (emphasis Coulter's, p. 29), he goes on to claim that he will "prove from Scripture" that the statements of Kuhn and Grabbe, defending the traditional Jewish explanation and that of most scholars, are "UTTERLY FALSE!" Of course, just because he boasts that he will do so, and virtually SHOUTS with uppercase letters, this does not prove that he will succeed in his attempt. It is only a claim.

What is his "proof" which he refers to? He says the whole "key" is Exodus, chapter 16.

### **The Mystery of the Quail**

Claims Coulter, the Hebrew term generally translated "evening," or "even" -- *ba erev* -- means "sunset." Therefore, according to him, all the common Bible translations are IN ERROR, AS WELL AS **STRONG'S CONCORDANCE**, EVERY HEBREW LEXICON!!! He does not bother to "prove" that *ba erev* should be translated "sunset." He simply asserts it is so, saying dogmatically, without providing evidence, "This is proved by its usage in the Scriptures . . ." This statement is pure hyperbole, and pure poppycock. To accept this statement, you must put the authority and "scholarship" of this mysterious Fred Coulter before ALL Hebrew scholars, rabbis, and authorities.

Says Coulter, "the meaning of *ba erev* is without controversy," and means "sunset." Is this true? The Jews and rabbis most emphatically do NOT agree with this. According to them, the term *ba erev* simply means "evening," and the first "evening" begins when the sun begins to go down in the sky, and the second "evening" is sunset. Says **Gesenius Hebrew-Chaldee Lexicon**,

"The Pharisees . . . and the Rabbinites considered the time when the sun began to descend to be called the FIRST EVENING (Arabic 'little evening'; when it begins to draw towards evening); and the SECOND EVENING to be the REAL SUNSET" (p. 652, #6153).

Thus Fred Coulter, it appears to me, seriously misrepresents in his book, claiming agreement with the Jews which simply does not exist -- not even over the term *ba erev*! How much else can we believe of what he states, declares, and claims? His book must be read with extreme CAUTION. If one chooses to read his book, he should BEWARE -- and take NOTHING AT FACE VALUE -- but checkup and prove ALL things -- EVERY statement! Otherwise, if you do not watch yourself, you become fodder for the wolves, a spiritual "Little Red Riding Hood" face to face with a big, bad wolf!

Coulter, having asserted that *ba erev* means "sunset," then proceeds to the next step in his explanation: He states that there is "legitimate, Biblically sound, chronologically defined, Scripturally documented way to prove, beyond any shadow of doubt whatsoever, that *ben ha arbayim* originally meant the time period from sunset to dark" (p. 37). He says this "proof" is in Exodus 16. Let's take a look.

On page 41 of his book, Coulter quotes Exodus 16:6, "And Moses and Aaron said unto all the children of Israel, AT EVEN, then shall ye know that the LORD hath brought you out from the land of Egypt." Coulter inserts in parentheses, after the words "AT EVEN," the following interpolation: "*ba erev*, or sunset-ending that Sabbath on which, this message was given." Notice! HE defines *ba erev* as "sunset." But that is merely his opinion and since it is merely an opinion, it proves NOTHING! It goes against the weight of ALL scholarly and historical opinion and research, particularly that of the Jews, to whom were entrusted the "oracles of God" (Rom. 3:1-2).

But Coulter is building a "case." Once he gets you to accept this "re-definition" of the expression *ba erev*, he has you at his mercy. For he then refers to verse 8 of Exodus 16. Notice, once again: "And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, I have heard the murmurings of the children of Israel: speak unto them, saying, AT EVEN [Heb. *ben ha arbayim*, "between the two evenings"] ye shall eat flesh . . ." (verses 11-12). "And it came to pass, AT EVEN [*ba erev*] the QUAILS came up and covered the camp" (verse 13).

Coulter says YEHOVAH God sent the quail at *ba erev*, which he says is "sunset." Therefore, since the quails came at sunset, and were EATEN at *ben ha arbayim*, "between the two evenings," Coulter reasons that this "PROVES" that *ben ha arbayim* must refer to DUSK, AFTER "sunset."

**The "New" Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**June 10, 2023 --- Issue No. 123**

How convenient! Do you see what he has done? He has "loaded the dice." He has "marked the cards." He has pre-defined the words to suit his case, and so naturally, the outcome would validate his claim -- IF "*ba erev*" truly meant "SUNSET"!

BUT IT DOESN'T! It merely means "evening," and the Jews clearly say that it begins at noon, when the sun begins to go down, and lasts till nightfall -- the hours before sunset being the "first evening," and the hours after sunset being the "second evening." Therefore, this passage in Exodus 16, which is the whole KEY to Coulter's case -- falls flat on its flimsy face! He has proved nothing. Says *The New Westminster Dictionary of the Bible*:

"It [the daylight portion of the day] was divided into morning, noon, and evening (Psa. 55:17; cf. Dan. 6:10)" ("Day," p. 214).

This authority adds:

"The festival [Passover] began on the 14th of Abib at EVENING, that is, in the beginning of the 15th day, with the sacrificial meal (Lev. 23:5-6). A lamb or kid was slain between the evenings, that is, TOWARD SUNSET (Exo. 12:6; Deut. 16:6; cf. between the 9th and 11th hours . . ." ("Passover," p. 705).

The quail came, flew into the camp of Israel in the "evening." What does this mean?

The real picture we see in Exodus 16 is that the quail flew into the camp late on the Sabbath day, just before sunset -- late afternoon -- and settled into roost for the night. After the sun set, the people went forth to gather them for food!

Rather than be misled by Coulter's definition of "at even," let's see what the Scriptures themselves tell us about this expression.

**Letting The Bible Interpret "At Even"**

In Leviticus 23:27 we read: "Also on the tenth day of this seventh month there shall be a day of atonement. . ." There is no question that the Day of Atonement is the tenth day of Tishri -- nobody argues otherwise. But now notice how YEHOVAH God Himself delimits and defines this period of time! Notice how YEHOVAH God uses the term "at even" to refer to the END of a day rather than the beginning hours!

In Leviticus 23:32 we read, ". . . in the ninth day of the month AT EVEN, from even unto even, shall ye celebrate your Sabbath [the Day of Atonement]." The expression "at even" here is obviously used to mean the ENDING portion of the ninth day. Thus, the Day of Atonement starts after the concluding portion of the ninth of Tishri. It lasts until the concluding portion of the tenth of Tishri. The "evening" of the 9th would be the afternoon, up until sunset; the evening of the 10th would be the afternoon of the 10th, until sunset. A grade school student could see that principle. The Day of Atonement begins at sunset, when the 9th day of Tishri ends, but the Biblical expression to state this fact is, "in the ninth day of the month, AT EVEN . . ." Clearly the "AT EVEN" refers to the ending of the ninth day, NOT ITS BEGINNING! Even so, the Passover was to be sacrificed on Nisan 14, "AT EVEN" (Exodus 12:6), which means the ENDING of Nisan 14, and not its beginning!

Another Biblical example of this truth is found in the instructions YEHOVAH God gives on when to keep the days of Unleavened Bread. Notice! We read: "In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month AT EVEN, ye shall eat unleavened bread, until the one and twentieth day of the month at even" (Exodus 12:18). If "at even" here meant the beginning of Nisan 14, then this verse would be saying the 14th of Nisan is the first Day of Unleavened Bread, and we should therefore be observing the Feast from Nisan 14 to Nisan 20 -- not Nisan 15 to Nisan 21! Obviously, "on the fourteenth . . . AT EVEN," refers to the END of Nisan 14 and the beginning of Nisan 15! Even those who argue that Passover should be observed at the beginning of Nisan 14 admit that the Feast of Unleavened Bread is from Nisan 15 to 21. Their own admission, therefore, contradicts their claim that the "even" of Nisan 14 means the beginning of Nisan 14, when it comes to the Passover!

Letting the Bible interpret the Bible, then, "on the fourteenth day AT EVEN" plainly means at the END of the fourteenth - - as Exodus 12:18 says. The Bible is consistent. YEHOVAH God does not contradict Himself "The Scripture cannot be broken" (John 10:35). Therefore, the rule of consistency proves that the same phrase used in both Exodus 12:18 and

**The "New" Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**June 10, 2023 --- Issue No. 123**

Exodus 12:6 means the same thing in both verses -- that is, the word "even," as used in verse 6, which deals with the slaying of the Passover lambs, also means at the ENDING PART of Nisan 14!

Thus, the Passover lambs were slain late in the afternoon of Nisan 14, just before the beginning of Nisan 15, when the Passover meal itself was always eaten. During the time of the Messiah, the Jews were slaying their Passover lambs at the Temple of YEHOVAH God -- about 250,000 lambs at each Passover celebration during the first century, as Josephus the Jewish historian relates:

"So these high priests, upon the coming of their feast which is called the Passover, when they slay their sacrifices, from the ninth hour to the eleventh, but so that a company not less than ten belong to every sacrifice . . . and many of us are twenty in a company, found this number of sacrifices was two hundred and fifty six thousand five hundred which, upon the allowance of no more than ten that feast together, amounts to two million seven hundred thousand and two hundred persons that were pure and holy" (*Wars of the Jews*, Book VI, 9:3).

Even as these sacrificial lambs were being slaughtered at the Temple, in 31 AD, YEHOVAH's own True Passover Lamb, Yeshua the Messiah, was being slain for all of us who accept his shed blood for the forgiveness of our sins (II Cor. 5:20; I Cor. 5:7-8). Thus, Yeshua the Messiah fulfilled the TYPE of the Passover lambs PERFECTLY -- RIGHT ON TIME, exactly on schedule! If the lambs were sacrificed the previous evening, as some claim, then Yeshua missed the correct time by twenty hours -- and did not fulfill the type of the Passover perfectly! If that were true, then he could not be our SAVIOR! He would be an impostor! But Yeshua fulfilled EVERY Scripture that prophesied of his coming TO THE MOST INFINITE DETAIL, in every respect -- PERFECTLY in all points!

#### **Evidence from Deuteronomy**

When is, then, "between the two evenings"? Clearly the Jews say it refers to the afternoon. Coulter himself admits this fact. But in addition to their testimony, we have plain and clear proof FROM SCRIPTURE ITSELF that this is so!

Notice Deuteronomy 16:4. This verse shows that the Passover is a part of the days of Unleavened Bread, leading right into them. We read: "And there shall be no leavened bread seen with thee in all thy coast seven days; neither shall there any thing of the flesh, which thou sacrificedst the first day AT EVEN, remain all night until the morning." Here the 14th of Nisan is called "the first day." That is because it is the late afternoon of the 14th that the Passover was sacrificed, leading right into the First Day of Unleavened Bread that same sunset!

This shows, too, that the "first day" when all leaven was to be put out of the houses of the Israelites was Nisan 14 (Exodus 12:15; compare Deut. 16:4 and Exodus 12:18-19). From the end of Nisan 14 they ate unleavened bread until the end of the 21st day of Nisan.

Now, notice verse 6 of this chapter. Here is the key! Here Moses is told by YEHOVAH God, "But in the place which the LORD thy God shall choose to place his name in, there thou shalt sacrifice the Passover AT EVEN, at the GOING DOWN of the sun . . ."

Letting the Bible interpret the Bible, then this expression *ba erev* or "evening" when the Passover was killed, was also the same moment or time period as "the going down of the sun." Literally, the expression "at the going down of the sun" can only mean when the SUN DESCENDS IN THE SKY -- that is, from the time the sun BEGINS to DESCEND, till it has descended or disappeared behind the horizon! Notice! It is the "going down" -- present progressive tense -- showing the action of the sun moving down in the western sky. This period of time must be, has to be, by scientific analysis, from the moment after HIGH NOON, at the earliest, and lasting until the sun disappears behind the horizon, or the actual moment of SUNSET! Once the sun has "set," it is no longer "going down" -- it has, rather, "GONE DOWN"!

This period of time from noon till sunset, then, is the broad space of time during which the Passover lambs HAD TO BE SLAIN! Isn't this perfectly crystal clear?

The expression "at the going down of the sun" means "as the sun goes down" -- showing it was during the action of the sun moving down in the sky toward the western horizon. In English, this is the present progressive tense. If YEHOVAH God had meant to convey the idea that the lambs were to be killed AFTER the sun went down, that is, after sunset, then He would have stated it differently. He would have said, "AFTER the sun goes down," or, "After the sun HAS GONE

**The "New" Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**June 10, 2023 --- Issue No. 123**

down." The sun "goes down" until it "sets." After it "sets," it has technically "gone down." YEHOVAH God commanded that the lambs be slain as the sun sinks in the western sky -- not after it has already plunged beneath the horizon! The Jews have always faithfully done this, as long as the Passover was sacrificed, throughout their history.

The command is plain that the lambs had to be slain ON THE FOURTEENTH of Nisan, in the late afternoon. But if they were not slain till AFTER SUNSET of the 14th, they would have been slain on the FIFTEENTH! That would have been a violation of the commandment! Also, if they were slain at the beginning of the 14th, after sunset of the 13th of Nisan, that would not have been during the "going down" of the sun. Could anything be plainer? Even a small child can understand this truth! Why is it that so many cannot grasp these plain and simple Spiritual, Biblical truths? Why is it so hard for so many to admit it when they have been wrong?

**Proof of the "Daily Sacrifices"**

This proof should be enough for most of us, especially since Fred Coulter has offered or presented NOT ONE SHRED of proof to support his spurious claims -- only a battery of opinions and baseless arguments.

But now notice an amazing proof which has generally been overlooked. It is the proof of the "daily sacrifice." Most of us understand that the children of Israel were commanded to offer a daily sacrifice. The actual command is given in Numbers 28, where we read:

"And thou shalt say unto them, This is the offering made by fire which ye shall offer unto the LORD; two lambs of the first year, without spot DAY BY DAY [margin, Hebrew, "IN A DAY"], for a continual burnt offering. The one lamb shalt thou offer in the MORNING, and the other lamb shalt thou offer AT EVEN [Heb. *ben ha arbayim*, "between the two evenings"] . . ." (Numbers 28:3-4).

Notice! In this plain passage of Scripture, we are told that the DAILY SACRIFICE involves both a morning and an "evening" sacrifice, and the "evening" sacrifice occurs "between the two evenings." Yet this passage says plainly that these two sacrifices were "IN A DAY." The morning sacrifice, which was done first, was in the SAME DAY as the "evening" sacrifice, which was made that same day, "between the two evenings"! Since the day ENDS at sunset, this expression *ben ha arbayim* HAS to refer to late AFTERNOON! If it referred to dusk, or twilight, AFTER sunset, as Fred Coulter claims, then it would be THE NEXT DAY! Even he admits that sunset is the delineation between one day and the next. Therefore, this passage buries in the grave Coulter's exegesis and claims -- once and for all!

How clear it all is when we simply let the Bible interpret the Bible! It is really NOT complex at all. It's simply a matter of following the Bible and not a man, EVEN if that man happens to be some self-appointed minister or self-serving, self-proclaimed "scholar." The question is, will we follow the INSPIRED WORD OF YEHOVAH GOD -- or will we follow the opinions of a man, regardless of who that man happens to be?

**Yeshua the Messiah -- Perfect Passover Lamb, Perfect Proof!**

Yeshua the Messiah was killed at 3:00 PM in the afternoon of Nisan 14, according to Scripture. At the ninth hour, when the Jews began killing their Passover lambs, Yeshua himself hung on the tree. "And at the NINTH HOUR Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani? which is, being interpreted, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? . . . And Jesus cried with a loud voice and gave up the ghost. And the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom. And when the centurion, which stood over against him, saw that he so cried out, and gave up the ghost, he said, Truly this man was the Son of God" (Mark 15:34-39).

Matthew's gospel states, "Now from the sixth hour [noon] there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour [3:00 PM]. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? Some of them that stood there, when they heard that, said, This man calleth for Elias [Elijah]. And straightway one of them ran, and took a sponge, and filled it with vinegar, and put it on a reed, and gave him to drink. The rest said, Let be, let us see whether Elias will come to save him. Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost" (Matt. 27:45-50).

Yeshua the Messiah, the Savior, YEHOVAH God's Anointed One, the "Lamb of God" (John 1:36), IS YEHOVAH's suffering servant who gave his life for the sins of the world, fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah, who wrote:

**The "New" Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**June 10, 2023 --- Issue No. 123**

"Surely he hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are HEALED."

"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a LAMB to the slaughter [the Passover lamb!], and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was CUT OFF from the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken.

"And he made his grave with the wicked [the two robbers slain with him], and with the rich in his death [he was given Joseph of Arimathea's tomb]; because he hath done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth. Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make HIS SOUL [LIFE] AN OFFERING FOR SIN, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days [be resurrected!], and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand" (Isaiah 53:4-10).

As Paul put it plainly: "For even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us" (I Cor. 5:7-8). Yeshua the Messiah fulfilled the symbolism of the ancient Passover lambs perfectly. He was YEHOVAH's "lamb without blemish." He died at 3:00 PM, at the very time the Jews were slaying their Passover lambs at the Temple of YEHOVAH God, by the thousands, one per family. Josephus the Jewish historian of the first century relates that over 250,000 lambs were being killed at the Passover, during his time.

Certainly, Yeshua the Passover Lamb had to be slain at the proper time! Those who claim that the Passover was observed at the BEGINNING of Nisan 14, and that the lambs were slain shortly after sunset of Nisan 13 have a very serious problem. According to their chronology, Yeshua was therefore not slain until some twenty or twenty-four hours LATER than they claim the Passover was commanded by YEHOVAH God to be slain! If this were indeed the case, then Yeshua the Messiah died TOO LATE to fulfill the perfect Passover typology! If that were the case, then he could not truly be our Savior, YEHOVAH's Passover Lamb -- he would be a fraud, an impostor, a FAKE!

The Messiah was the PERFECT fulfillment of the Passover. Therefore, he had to be slain at the VERY MOMENT the Passover lambs were being slain at the Temple of YEHOVAH God! He had to be slain at the VERY TIME YEHOVAH commanded for the Passover to be killed "between the two evenings"!

Therefore, looking at this question from the reverse angle, since the gospels plainly show that Yeshua was killed at precisely 3:00 PM on the afternoon of Nisan 14, then THAT IS THE PRECISE TIME THE PASSOVER LAMBS HAD TO BE KILLED -- and, by further deduction, this means that the expression "between the two evenings" MUST REFER TO LATE AFTERNOON, ABOUT 3:00 PM -- THE VERY TIME YESHUA THE MESSIAH DIED FOR OUR SINS AS OUR PASSOVER!

Here, then, is proof positive -- the example of Yeshua the Messiah himself, who was our Passover lamb! HE was slain at 3:00 PM in the afternoon; and he HAD to fulfill the commandment to be slain "between the two evenings" (Exodus 12:6). Therefore, *ben ha arbayim*, "between the two evenings," MUST INCLUDE 3:00 PM IN THE AFTERNOON!

All the Bible unites to prove this point, as a unity, a complete whole. If the Pharisees were wrong in sacrificing the Passover in the late afternoon, then Yeshua would have been wrong to say they sit in Moses' seat and that we are to follow their interpretation of the Law (Matt. 23:1-3). If they were wrong, then the apostle Paul LIED when he said he kept the law of YEHOVAH God "blamelessly" as a Pharisee (Phi. 3:6). Both Yeshua and Paul endorsed the teachings of the Jews, and the Pharisees, on this vital matter.

Who are we to disagree, and to supplant the Word of YEHOVAH God with our own human opinions?

---

Reprinted with permission from: Hope of Israel Ministries  
<https://www.hope-of-israel.org/>

---

## The Victim Beside the Road

(Copyright 2006) by Catherine C. Kroeger (Brewster, Massachusetts)

A traveler was trudging along the way between Jerusalem and Jericho. The road in that direction is an easy one, all downhill; for Jerusalem is on high ground and the land around the Dead Sea lies 1390 feet below sea level. So, it was that our traveler was led to expect a swift and fortuitous journey; but suddenly the totally unexpected happened. He was set upon by a group of robbers who seized his belongings, stripped him naked and beat him so severely that he lay half dead by the side of the road. He lies there alone, his friends and family totally ignorant that he is in trouble of any sort.

Of course, the analogy is soon made to the condition of victims of domestic abuse. Although sometimes there are warning signals that went unheeded, often trusting unfortunates set out blithely on the matrimonial journey with absolutely no inkling that the specter of abuse could lurk along the road.

I once heard Sarah Buell, a nationally acknowledged expert on abuse, say that it is very difficult even for skilled professionals to recognize a potential abuser in advance. Just like the traveler caught unawares, the victim "usually a woman" finds herself in dire straits with no one immediately available to help. Even if she is able to raise her voice, there is no guarantee that anyone will respond. So many victims lie alone beside the road, often deliberately isolated by their abuser from friends and family.

In our story, the victim has sustained a life-threatening experience. He has been deprived of his assets, abused, beaten, inflicted with serious bodily injury, stripped of dignity and basic human rights and shunned by the religious establishment. It is he who is designated by Jesus as the exemplar of the neighbor whom one is to love as oneself.

Two highly qualified leaders of the religious establishment pass by unconcerned, unwilling to get involved in what is clearly a most unfortunate situation. Did the priest and Levite fear defilement as they traveled upwards on the road to minister in the temple at Jerusalem? Why soil their hands of their garments? Surely their ritual purity was more essential than the complicated nuisance that lay beside the road. Did they perhaps curse the crumpled form that was cluttering up their path? And so they leave him to die as trash along the road.

Indubitably the reverend gentlemen were well aware of the biblical dictate that "those who despise the poor are an insult to their maker, and those who help the poor honor him." (Prov 14:31) Nor were they ignorant of the prophecy of Obadiah, the shortest tractate in the Old Testament (also the least read). It has a very simple message: the importance of standing up for those in need.

The Edomites are condemned for their failure to come to the aid of Israel. Because of the violence you did to your close relatives in Israel, you will be filled with shame and destroyed forever. When they were invaded, *you stood aloof, refusing to help them*. Foreign invaders carried off their wealth and cast lots to divide up Jerusalem, but you acted like one of Israel's enemies. You should not have gloated when they exiled your relatives to distant lands.

You should not have spoken arrogantly in that terrible time of trouble. (vs. 10-12) Disregarding admonitions of this sort and hewing to their own neatly designed theological rationalization, the priest and Levite simply ignore the victim? or perhaps even blame him. He is a matter of indifference to them, and they proceed on about their own business. But have we too, like Obadiah's Edomites, been guilty of standing aloof or of speaking arrogantly and unfeelingly when those of our own church family are in a time of terrible trouble?

Was the man beside the road conscious enough to realize that his own faith community had rejected him, that the religious authorities felt no incumbency to give him any sort of assistance or compassion? Did he feel, as so many other victims do, that there was now no longer room for him in the family of God, that somehow his own sin had placed him in this crisis?

How often victims feel distanced from the Lord's presence and favor, snubbed by church leadership, scolded, humiliated, and abandoned!



**The “New” Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**June 10, 2023 --- Issue No. 123**

One member of a world-famous fundamentalist church wailed “Our church sends tons and tons of food overseas but won’t even give a basket of groceries to a devoted church member when she is fleeing abuse.” Other victims tell of being removed from the choir or praise team, of being asked to defer their request for church membership, of being asked what they have done to deserve the abuse. Yes, it is the rejection by other Christians that hurts the worst of all.

But to return to the victim in the story, some might ask “why didn’t he just call 911”? This, of course, is ridiculous in the context of the story, but no more ridiculous than the questions that are often asked about modern day victims of abuse. “Why doesn’t she just leave, what is she doing to stop it, doesn’t she know that she’s just enabling him”? There may be remarks such as “I tried to help her once before, and she just went back to him.”

Alas, we are all too willing to place all the responsibility at the victim’s door. Recently an attorney for the Greater Boston Legal Services wrote a letter to the *Boston Globe*. In part she said Too often the victim is expected to leave the situation, so victims of domestic violence are essentially blamed for staying. We should never be asking why victims stay. The real question is why, as a society, do we continue to portray intimate victim violence as anything other than it is: a crime. If the parties to an assault were not in a relationship, no one would ever suggest that the victim was to blame for permitting the assault to occur.

My experience working with victims of domestic abuse has shown me that society treats these crimes differently. Why else would the media persistently refer to an assault on one’s partners as a “domestic dispute”? It’s a crime, and it needs to be treated as such. To do less is to perpetuate prejudice against victims, permit perpetrators to continue to deny responsibility, and allow the judiciary to impose sentences that send a message to perpetrators that it is not really a crime to beat up your spouse.

Of course, nice Christian people think that the whole thing is horrid, and few are willing to address the issue, or to take on its systemic implications. The job is messy, complicated, and inconvenient. It demands far too much of us personally and is likely to earn us the opprobrium of the respectable Christian community. However, Jesus tells this story to place the responsibility on the people of God. It is they who must show love to their neighbor.

Help comes for the abandoned man from a most unlikely source. It is an individual outside of the victim’s own faith community, one who is able to buck the attitudes of the religious establishment. Although of a different race, the Good Samaritan has read the same five books of Moses. But he looked at the law of God with different eyes and was willing to step out of line, to respond to a different call and to invest himself in obedience to what he read. Some of us would consider other parts of his theology somewhat suspect.

Thus, it is that modern day victims too sometimes finds that help comes from those who do not have the same religious point of view. Actually, secular feminists were in the shelter movement and performing all sorts of acts of mercy while we evangelicals didn’t even know there was a problem. It is still true today that most help for victims of domestic abuse comes from sources that do not identify themselves as Christian. One devoted church member exclaimed “It was such a shock to discover that I had to go to the community sources for help to apply for food stamps and get a restraining order and emergency shelter and safety counseling.” The church that had a great reputation for caring really didn’t care to touch any part of the problem with a ten foot pole. Yes, we have been there with too little and too late.

The Samaritan, however, when he came to the place where the man lay, poured both oil and wine into his wounds, bound them up and placed him on his own means of transportation. Thereafter he brought him to a safe place where he would not be further abused. Beside the sacrifice of his own sleep and leisure in caring all night for the victim, the Samaritan parted with personal wealth in order to secure humane treatment for the survivor. It had cost time and trouble and treasure, but it earned him the commendation of Jesus.

The Samaritan had ministered not only to the body but also to the soul of a man whose desperate need had been ignored by his co-religionists. We read that the kindly stranger poured both oil and wine into his wounds. Wine, of course, can serve as a disinfectant, and oil promotes healing. In the Bible oil symbolizes the work of the Holy Spirit, grace, joy, and a demonstration of God’s favor and empowerment. It is particularly this demonstration of God’s grace that constitutes the gift that we who follow Jesus Christ can bring to abuse victims.

---

**The “New” Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**June 10, 2023 --- Issue No. 123**

Other agencies may be better suited to meet many of their other needs, but we are best suited to treat the soul wound. It is here that the injury is deepest, and the need so often ignored. These victims have been betrayed and abused by someone they love, and often the emotional and psychological abuse is far worse than any physical injury they have sustained. They have been vilified, demeaned, humiliated, insulted and derided. Often their self-image is at ground zero.

Here is where the people of God can give victims the healing balm of the scriptures, the hundred odd texts that condemn physical, verbal, sexual and emotional abuse. We can show them what the prophets say of God’s love for those who are oppressed, disenfranchised and afflicted. We can share with them God’s promise of healing and wholeness.

Early one morning an abused woman read a collection of scriptures that I had e-mailed to her, and she said “As I drove to work, I just had shivers running up and down my spine.” She had been shunned by her church, but she found her affirmation in the Word of God, and she regained her personhood. Thereafter she started a support group so that she could share her good news with other Christian women in similar straits.

I recollect a woman who came to our local Cape Cod community shelter, and her first words were “More than anything else, I want someone to pray with me.” The wounded woman who has been covered with blows loves to be covered with prayer. They love to have you hold their hand as you pray. One day I stood with my arms around that woman as we prayed together in the restroom of the courthouse before she had to face her husband in a divorce hearing. Prayer can take on a whole new dimension for these people.

Abused women love little acts of caring, of being invited to your home, of being included in holidays that they might otherwise have to face in lonely bitterness. They are hungry for your words of affirmation and encouragement, and profoundly grateful for practical acts of assistance, watching the children, a basket of groceries, a safe place to store belongings. Toiletries, clothing, and children’s toys for those who have had to flee in haste. A teddy bear. These say that somebody cares, that God is still there for those caught in the horrors of domestic abuse.

We can also help persons in unsafe situations to develop a safety plan. Some feel that to do so would be a lack of faith, but the wisdom writer said, “A prudent person foresees danger and takes precautions. The foolish go blindly on and suffer the consequences.” (Proverbs 22:3)

Yes, there is the oil of healing, but the Samaritan also poured wine into the wounds as a disinfectant. There are many false ideas that bind the family and the church into patterns that exacerbate existing wounds and make further abuse more likely to occur. Alas, we have developed a predisposing ethos. If we are to be faithful to the scriptures, then we must disabuse God’s people of some dangerous concepts. May God lead us to understand the ways of peace!

We note that the Samaritan bound up the wounds, availed himself of a community resource and recruited the services of the inn keeper. We can also encourage women in consulting the services available in their community.

“From the steeple to the shelter” is very good policy. Here is an essential point: churches fear to send their congregants to the available community resources, and those connected with these community resources fear to have the victim contact her pastor. A woman who must seek protection in a shelter feels compelled to hide her spiritual needs and convictions. Shelter workers have repeatedly experienced the jeopardy in which their clients have been placed by pastors who insist that the victims return home. They are understandably reluctant for any contact with churches or church-related agencies. Yet we can seek to bring evidence of our concern to shelters and agencies caring for abused women.

The needs are so diverse that ordinarily no one agency or service can meet all of them... Here is a wonderful place to serve as a volunteer; and in that capacity one doesn’t necessarily have to stand on a soap-box to make it apparent that one is a Christian who cares.

Increasingly there is a realization that a victim bears acute wounds in his or her soul and that spiritual needs must be recognized and addressed. The division of violence and Injury Prevention of the Department of Public Health in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts now employs a program coordinator to offer spiritual resources to secular community agencies that provide assistance to victims of domestic abuse. They’re starting to want what we have to say.

---

**The “New” Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**June 10, 2023 --- Issue No. 123**

Our literature, our labor and our love can make themselves felt in ways that are both large and small. As the Samaritan turned his patient over to the innkeeper, he pulled money from his own purse to pay for accommodation and care during the convalescence. If the process were to take longer than might be anticipated, the Samaritan stood ready to underwrite a more protracted period of recovery. Healing cannot be programmed into a timetable.

In particular, forgiveness does not happen on cue. It is the work of the Holy Spirit and cannot be rushed or supplied on demand. Much is written in the Bible about forgiveness, and often a pastor is very quick to demand that a wife forgive the husband who says that he is sorry. But neither God nor human beings can forgive in a vacuum. Forgiveness is based upon a changed pattern of behavior. Jesus said to forgive those who genuinely repented. This will take time to establish, and the wife has every right to continue to be concerned for her own safety as well as that of her children. To insist upon a precipitous reconciliation may be to send a woman and her family to their deaths. A victim may well need a protracted period of time before forgiveness is possible. This must not be forced or rushed. It may be a very long while before members of the family can feel safe around one who has betrayed their trust and endangered their lives. God can bring forgiveness at the right time and in an appropriate way.

We must remember that Jesus said that forgiveness should come as a result of genuine repentance and transformed conduct on the part of the offender. That takes a lot of time and work, no matter how extravagant the claims of immediate transformation. There are a few faith-based intervention programs that offer hope, but they do not offer instant cures.

But let us return to the conditions on the Jericho Road. It led down through a deep ravine with high cliffs on each side, and the wild terrain offered excellent opportunities to those willing to take advantage of an unwary traveler's vulnerability.

Have we developed such an unsafe environment within our churches? Along that Jericho Road, there are towering crags behind which an abuser can hide. There are ideologies that can predispose to abusive behavior. For instance, Elizabeth Hanford Rice, in her book *Me? Obey Him*, maintains that a godly wife must submit to her husband's authority even when it comes to wife swapping, domestic violence and child abuse. Dorothy McGuire, Carol Lewis and Alvena Blatchley commended a wife who submitted to her husband even after he had been tried and convicted of trying to murder her.

1 Their book *Submission: Are There Limits*, requires that a wife submit to physical abuse, sexual abuse and going to an x rated movie. I once sat in a crowded auditorium and heard a highly influential speaker illustrate that the husband was a hammer, pounding down on a chisel (the wife) that was in turn hacking away at the children.

He later went on to say that a wife was to praise God for her husband even while he was beating her. Yes, sentiments such as these, absorbed by the Christian community, provide the climate in which abuse can easily happen. All too often the church has contributed to the problem rather than providing solutions.

The problem of domestic abuse is not confined to evangelicals. Sociologist Nancy Nason-Clark, finds not a higher rate of occurrence but of more severe situations among earnest believers. In a paper given at the Evangelical Theological Society last fall, Steven Tracey wrote, "It is widely accepted by abuse experts (and validated by numerous studies) that one fourth to one third of North American women will be assaulted by an intimate partner in their life time and that evangelical men who sporadically attend church are more likely than men of any other religious group (and more likely than secular men) to assault their wives."

2. Evangelicals are exceedingly reticent to disclose the reality, even when it reaches life-threatening proportions. They fear that this will damage the testimony of their church and of their spiritual convictions. They perceive marriage to be a replica of Christ's love for the church and they dare not reveal the terrible travesty of what goes on in their own home. In point of fact, such a perception reverses the biblical image: Christ's love for the church is supposed to be a paradigm for the love of husband and wife. This cannot possibly be mirrored by an abusive marriage.

One endangering issue is that of insistence that a family stay together even when the situation is unhealthy or even dangerous. Another is an insistence on secrecy, even when this only serves to perpetuate the problem.

Our testimony is not damaged by the admission of a difficulty but rather by silencing, denying, ignoring, or minimizing it. Sometimes we have idealized and idolized the family in ways that have blinded our eyes to the ugly realities. We as evangelicals stand upon a biblically based affirmation of the integrity and importance of the family, but this then requires

**The “New” Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**June 10, 2023 --- Issue No. 123**

not that we turn away but that we address the problems with prayer, scriptural resources, informed response, and caring concern.

In terms of abuse prevention, we have splendid resources that are critically underutilized. In the first place, we have the power of the Scriptures. If we believe that they are our only infallible rule of faith and practice, then we must heed their manifold injunctions against physical, verbal, mental, emotional and sexual abuse. The Bible condemns such conduct vehemently, and it is our duty to be faithful to what we are being told in the Word of God. There are some hundred biblical passages addressing battering, violence, rape, incest, stalking, lying in wait, twisting the words of another, threats, and intimidation. If this is what the word of God says, then we must be faithful in proclaiming it. Let us remember that what is taught in the church permeates large sections of our society far beyond the walls of the church.

Lamentably, many church members tell researchers that they have never heard a sermon on domestic abuse. The ancient prophets viewed things quite differently. Ezekiel specifically condemns shepherds who allow the more powerful members of the flock to butt and mistreat the weaker members. “Hear indeed, O shepherds, the word of the Lord: Thus says the Lord God: I am going to deal with the shepherds! I will demand a reckoning of them for My flock.” (Ezekiel 34:7-9)

If the shepherds have failed, then God will assume direct supervision. And as for you, My flock, thus said the Lord God: I am going to judge between one animal and another. To the rams and the bucks: Is it not enough to you to graze on choice grazing ground, but you must also trample with your feet what is left from your grazing, And is it not enough for you to drink clear water, but you must also muddy with your feet what is left? And My flock graze on what your feet have trampled and drink what your feet have muddied. Assuredly, thus said the Lord God to them: Here am I, I am going to decide between the stout animals and the lean. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder against the feeble ones and butted them with your horns until you scattered them abroad, I will rescue My flock and they shall no longer be a spoil. I will decide between one animal and another. . . (34:11-22)

May God make us faithful to respond, to bring our congregations to a place of zero tolerance for abuse, to develop a protocol that can be used uniformly when there is a disclosure by a victim, to listen carefully to those who dare to tell their story, to bring offenders to accountability, to become agents of healing rather than condemnation, to become spiritually informed and faithful in prayer. There are many wounded lying along the road, and will you indeed love these neighbors as yourself?

**(Footnotes)**

1 Dorothy McGuire, Carol Lewis and Alvena Blatchley *Submission: Are There Limits?* (Denver: Trii-R Ministries, 1984) 36-42. 49. 52/

2 Steven R. Tracy “What does: Submit in Everything” Really Mean? The Nature and Scope of Marital Submission, Presented at the Evangelical Theological Society November 17, 2006.

-----  
**Reprinted with permission from: God’s Word to Women**  
<http://www.godstowomen.org/>  
-----

**Thank You!**

## The Formula for Overcoming

(Copyright 2023) by David F. Maas (Charlotte, North Carolina)



How many of us, over the course of our spiritual lives, have encountered a persistent fault, habit, or character flaw that has left us with a helpless sense of frustration? Maybe a better question is, "How many have NOT had such an encounter?"

Overcoming constitutes a year-round, lifelong obligation—the most burdensome and irksome chore we will ever have. When we weigh this task against the enormity of sin and the downward pulls of our human nature, it seems *next to impossible*!

In the spring of the year, when we go through a rather intense period of self-examination, we find pockets of hidden—and sometimes not-so-hidden—leavening that may leave us with a sense of futility, hopelessness, or discouragement. Yet, overcoming remains a task that our Elder Brother Jesus Christ has laid upon us (Matthew 5:48), and He has every confidence that, together, we can bring this job through to completion (Philippians 1:6).

This article will reveal an insightful but little-understood concept that lays bare why overcoming often seems nearly impossible. It will then provide a powerful formula that, when properly applied, will make overcoming exciting, adventurous, and challenging.

### A Paralyzing Affliction

In his book, *People in Quandaries*, General Semanticist Wendell Johnson proposes a theory to explain why individuals become so overwhelmed by programs of self-improvement and overcoming. He refers to an affliction that enslaves and paralyzes 90% of humanity. Johnson termed this affliction the IFD disease. IFD stands for Idealism, Frustration, Despair, a predictable sequence that moves the hapless victim down a destructive spiral.

We could explain the acronym as:

- I** - People set their goals or *ideals* impossibly high or beyond reach.
- F** - They feel *frustrated* or a sense of *futility* in falling short of their expectations.
- D** - They feel *demoralized* and *defeated*, and do not desire to continue.

This article is not intended to attack the striving after high ideals. God wants us to have high ideals and standards, but

**The "New" Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**June 10, 2023 --- Issue No. 123**

He does not want us to become frustrated in the process of attaining them. The highest ideal we can imagine is becoming a member of God's Family!

However, transforming from a carnal, physical body to a godly, dazzling spirit cannot be contemplated except as an end-product of thousands and thousands of subprocesses. We will succeed in achieving a workable and valuable goal when we spell out the ways and means of reaching it in measurable and attainable steps. In other words, we cannot possibly grasp the big picture unless we see a series of small pictures.

In the context of Christian living:

**I** - refers to vague and hazily defined goals—ones that we do not measure in bite-sized chunks or increments.

**F** - refers to the frustration and anxiety we feel because we have not made intermediate, incremental objectives clear in our own minds.

**D** - refers to the despair we feel in falling short of attaining these spiritual goals of perfect godly character.

### **Fine as Incense**

We often fail to move toward spiritual perfection because we do not ask for it, or when we do ask, we couch it in vague generalities. God commands us to break our requests down finely as incense ([Psalm 141:2](#)). In many of our generic, all-purpose petitions—such as, "Please, God, help me to overcome," or "Please, God, help me to change"—we fail to spell out to God exactly what we want Him to help us to do. It would be better if we broke down our goals into visualized objectives, as much for our own peace of mind as for God's assistance.

Of course, God knows what we need before we ask ([Matthew 6:32](#)), but we are the ones who need to know what to ask for. If we were more specific about the immediate steps we need to take, we would not have so much anxiety and despondency about the outcome.

When our goals for overcoming are not spelled out in incremental, intermediate steps, we can expect the inevitable outcome to be demoralization and worry. Motivational expert Paul Meyer describes anxiety about the future as a penalty paid in advance for failure or wrongdoing we have not yet committed. Conversely, he defines success as the day-by-day realization of a predetermined, worthwhile goal.

Consequently, we should consider overcoming a fault or a character flaw as a "now" activity, not a future possibility. Jesus advises His disciples to put high intensity into overcoming and living in the present—in the here and now. He also cautions us in [Matthew 6:34](#), "Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble."

We have the most success with overcoming when we break it down into daily, manageable increments rather than trying to envision it as a horrendous, lifetime project. In [Luke 9:23](#), Jesus recommends that we consider overcoming a daily task, suggesting, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross *daily*, and follow Me" (emphasis ours throughout).

Similarly, the apostle Paul expresses an awareness that we ought to consider overcoming a daily, incremental process: "I affirm, by the boasting in you which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die *daily*" ([I Corinthians 15:31](#)). He again reinforces this day-by-day principle in [II Corinthians 4:16](#): "Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed *day by day*."

British philosopher Sir William Osler sums up the concept succinctly when he says, "Live in 'day tight' compartments." This does not mean that we live for today only. It means we should carve a worthy lifetime goal, like becoming a member of God's Family, into bite-sized chunks.

### **Meaningful Days**

At the beginning of each day, we would do well to set specific priorities and measure our success at its end. For instance, we could set bite-sized spiritual goals, such as refraining from thinking or saying coarse things when a rude, inconsiderate motorist cuts us off or drives 20 mph in a 70-mph zone. These concrete situations will determine if the self-control, patience, and peace of [Galatians 5:22-23](#) have really matured in our character.

---

**The “New” Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**June 10, 2023 --- Issue No. 123**

Perhaps we have a bad habit of gossiping about a brother or sister in Christ. We can set an incremental goal of changing the subject when gossip rears its ugly head. In conquering an enslaving habit like alcoholism, people find it more productive to look at sobriety as a day-by-day, step-by-step process than a grim lifetime of abstinence. Explorer John Goddard has said, "Any task in life can be made easier when it is broken down into increments."

Achieving spiritual goals resembles the physical task of pulling weeds. I considered clearing our 50-acre bean field of cockleburrs a most irksome task, but my brother and I managed to keep up the intensity by concentrating on the weeds immediately before us. If we looked back, we would become self-satisfied and rest on our laurels. If we looked at the weediness of the entire field, we would become discouraged and tempted to quit.

Like many people, I am afraid of heights. When I had to, however, I could climb a windmill by concentrating on one step at a time, directing all my energies into climbing that one step. Both literally and metaphorically, all of us should be able to put one foot in front of the other.

Several years ago on *The Tonight Show*, Johnny Carson had a guest who had set himself a goal of eating an entire car. He had done this over a period of years by breaking, cutting, or grinding all the components into bite-sized segments—even the battery, crankshaft, and muffler! One would think that becoming a member of God's Family every bit as worthy a goal as eating a car!

Whatever the goal, the principle of the bite-sized increments remains the same. For example, back in 1988, my wife Julie embarked on the task of getting a book manuscript ready for publication. We broke the task down into hundreds of small subprocesses, celebrating after each minor accomplishment. (We celebrated a lot!) The euphoria of accomplishing one mini-task supplied the energy to begin the next one. Similarly, failing to complete an insignificant mini-task, like writing a letter or making a phone call, can grow into a millstone as one puts it off.

Rabbi Meir Kahane once suggested that the greatest curse to fall upon a human being happens when he looks over his entire life and finds it meaningless. An empty life consists of the cumulative total of numerous empty days. If we can render each day of life meaningful, a lifetime of meaningful days will accrue to us, and we will have had a meaningful life.

The only real overcoming and character-building are now—in the present—today. To those who do not live in the present, there are only empty yesterdays and fearful tomorrows. We need to apply this better formula to our Christian lives:

**O=M/G**

Overcoming (O) consists of keeping our motivation (M) high while pursuing realistic, attainable, bite-sized goals (G).

---

**Reprinted with permission from: Church of the Great God**  
<https://www.cgg.org/>

---

**Happy New Year**  
**(Copyright) by John Jewell (London, England)**

That's what most people wish everyone else as a new Roman year begins and I'm sure that most people genuinely do want everyone else, including themselves, to have a happy year. Most, however, from experience, will not be convinced it will be a happy year. For some in the western world it may be a productive year, even a profitable one, and indeed, for a number it might be a fairly good year with one or two high points; but for most of the inhabitants of this planet it will be yet another miserable year. We have been chronicling its events nearly every week for over 6 years, the first edition of this newsletter as such being on the 24<sup>th</sup> of October 2003. This is now the 7<sup>th</sup> year of publication of the What Next Newsletter, and this is the 304<sup>th</sup> edition. In all this time we have consistently tried to show how far away from the true God we are as a people, what we need to do to return to Him and the benefits of doing that.

We have tried to do as the bible tells us, as we endeavour to serve God, to actively bring a message to the world, to all

**The “New” Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**June 10, 2023 --- Issue No. 123**

nations, of warning, but with a message of hope. To show the world in general that there is going to be a new world. We do what we can to show people that there is a purpose to life, we try to show what that purpose is, we are but a few but together, and as God makes possible, and using the latest technology, that message is being preached around this world. It can be picked up over internet radio 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in around 120 nations. The message is also transmitted over two European radio stations. God’s message has got to be taken around the world. It can’t be transmitted in every nation in the local languages that just isn’t practicable. How would you get broadcasts and articles translated and preached in all those languages! Even the international newspapers don’t try to do that. For example, the International Herald Tribune is put together in Paris, France and printed in the English language. English is virtually the world language today.

It’s enough to make the message available around the world and in every nation. Today, our radio station, radio4living, can be heard and listened to even in remote parts of Kenya and the islands of the South Pacific. For those who don’t understand English, or suffer dreadful hardship in everyday life, it is comforting to know that there is another day. Jesus Christ did not say that every single person at this time had to hear the message and understand it. He was asked by the disciples what would signify his return to this earth, what would signify the end of this present world system – if it can be given the credit of being called a system! He spelled out for them and for us today what would be happening in the world. He said there would be wars and rumours of war, nation against nation, there would be famines, diseases, earthquakes. Now these have always been around, but before his return they would be at a level never known before.

He said that there would be false prophets who would deceive many. At this time of the year, you are witness to those false prophets. The western world is told of a baby Jesus, and everything gets very sentimental. But in the gospels the baby Jesus is given very little time. The account is kept in perspective. In fact, two of the gospels don’t even mention Christ as a baby at all. And the other two gospels give no more space than 3 or 4 pages. After all, he had to be born! What was important was his life, then his sacrifice of that life, and the message he brought. It was not the baby who was to be our Saviour, it was to be the adult man. True ministers of God will bring that message! The same message he commissioned the disciples to take to the world. He said in words everyone can understand that the gospel of the kingdom and everything that that entails would be preached in all the world for a witness to all nations and then, then shall the end come. But even then, there was one more factor to come into place.

The gospel of Matthew in chapter 24 says of the end of the age that the world would reach a point when but for the return of Jesus Christ everyone on earth would be wiped out. He says this: “except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: ...!” And he meant saved alive. The planet would reach a point at which all life on earth would cease. We are now very close to such an eventuality. At one point in time it would not have seemed possible that you could kill, slaughter and annihilate everyone on earth. Or virtually everyone. It may be a medium sized planet as planets go, but nevertheless it is still pretty big! So how could all life be ended! Or rather what situation could arise that, if continued, would see the ending of all life. From television we are familiar with the lives of the Roman emperors. Is there anything they could have done that would have eradicated all life from earth! The answer is, obviously, No! How about the European monarchs? Not one, otherwise you can be certain one would have attempted it! How about the English monarchs? The Tudors for example! Not possible. There’s always a Cromwell around to stop it and in any case, it just couldn’t be done.

So, one has to come closer to our present age. Take for example, the last 100 years! The First World War would have seemed to some to threaten the life of everyone on earth. But again, not possible. There was no viable procedure. The second world war was much the same, apart from one factor! And that was the dropping of two atomic bombs on Hiroshima and upon Nagasaki, in Japan. We then entered an age within which it had now become possible, with development, to destroy all life on earth. The atomic bombs became hydrogen bombs, and an arms race began and so today Russia and America between them have around 20,000 hydrogen bombs. Britain and France also have a stock, although not so many in actual numbers. But then, in addition, a small number of “peace-loving” nations such as North Korea and Pakistan have a few each. To which must be added those held by India and Israel and now probably Iran. But it is only necessary, so it has been estimated, to set off a total of 100 at the one time to start the nuclear winter. This could, conceivably, eradicate all life from earth. Could some sort of chain reaction be developed that could vaporize the planet! We’re probably in comic book territory now! I haven’t otherwise heard this as even a wild theory.

What other possibilities exist! Well, there are those weather conditions that could be activated by the activities of Man. Conditions of which we are already becoming aware. Conditions that if continued would see the eradication of all life on



**The “New” Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**June 10, 2023 --- Issue No. 123**

earth. Drought is one such possibility. This is already becoming extensive to varying degrees and it wouldn't take much for it to be so widespread as to cause wars between nations over food supplies and over the supply of water. The melting of ice in the Himalayas is already prejudicing the supply of water to southern China, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and India with the River Ganges being reduced in its flow. Drought is rapidly becoming a problem to the whole of the northern part of Africa, to most of Australia and to large parts of the United States. It is also raising its head in Spain with the Sahara having successfully crossed the Mediterranean from Africa. It was less than 2 years ago that Barcelona on the Mediterranean coast of Spain was forced to import water by tanker for a while.

It could certainly be a mixture of these events. Loss of water supply and drought could bring about shortage of food, or famine. This could easily be accompanied by widespread fires such as have already taken place in the United States and in Spain. This demon inspired cocktail would inevitably result in disease. Not even a year ago we had witness to how rapidly a disease could race around the world. This was the swine flu. Originating in Mexico, I believe it was, it took no time at all before deaths from it were being reported from everywhere on earth. Cases are still being identified. What if this had been a highly infectious, virulent, and aggressive disease such as has been known before. What about something like smallpox, only even more active. It is not impossible. In fact, it is highly likely.

Jesus Christ was not joking. He knew what he was talking about when he spoke of a situation that could see the ending of all life on earth. In Matthew 24: 21 – 22 it says this: “except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: ..” Revelation 11: 18 has this: “... and (God) should destroy them which destroy the earth.” This is writing of people who are in the process of making it impossible for life to exist on earth in the short term. It is not referring to the possibility of the planet becoming a supernova in the heavens!

People tend to forget that we already have an example of climate change that did wipe out all life from the face of the earth. In Genesis 6: 13 speaking of the world population God says He will destroy them with the earth. He did, but He didn't destroy the planet. This was the climate change to end all climate changes! Water erupted from the earth itself and as it says in Genesis 7:11 the windows of heaven were opened. And the rain was upon the earth forty days and forty nights. The planet was completely flooded right to the top of the highest mountain. Everything living, whether animal, bird or man died! Only one family with sample pairs of animals, birds etc. survived. Obviously, all fish survived! What happened then! Did the planet enter into a new rainy season? A climate change so no life could be sustained? Not at all! What caused the climate change? It was mankind! Genesis 6 says that it was man's activities (man was so violent) that caused God to take action. Once that was dealt with, the waters subsided, the environment rejuvenated itself and the earth was repopulated.

Once again violence fills the earth. People are violent to each other, and they abuse the environment. For every action there is a reaction. We see it as changes to the climate. Changes which could destroy all life on earth. Are these permanent changes? No! Is God's hand once again to be shown? Yes, it is! In the gospel of Matthew, chapter 24 it says this: “...as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. We know there will not be a worldwide flood again as God promised there wouldn't be. But we are going to come face to face with the imminent results of our own actions as we just read in Matthew 24:22 “except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.”

## **America Has Too Much Time On Its Hands**

**(Copyright 2006) by Richard Markland (London, Ohio)**

### ***Personal Comfort Zones Have Created A False Sense Of Security***

It's another day in America. People are once again doing what they normally do. The average person on any given day lives a life that is basically predictable.

If there is one characteristic that describes the United States, it is complacency. We are a nation lacking in urgency about the problems we face and have resigned ourselves to talking and complaining about what bugs us, but beyond our normal everyday gripes and groans, nothing more-nothing less.

---

**The "New" Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**June 10, 2023 --- Issue No. 123**

Americans have a love affair with everyday routines. Overall, the average person has each day planned. Some people don't even plan, they simply go through the motions of what they believe is going to happen. There are of course personal problems that can come out of nowhere, but overall, each day seems like the day before.

The car that just passed looks like the one yesterday. Each day at work consists of the same employees next to one another. The local Wal-Mart hasn't moved. A trip to the grocery is routine. America is still fighting in Iraq. Gas prices go up and down. Days simply blend in with one another and daily routines are just an accepted part of everyday life.

Could everyday routines be a national curse? Is it possible to live life and not realize a personal and national complacency has made us apathetic, yet we don't see how bored we are?

A case in point are holidays. They bring out a totally different mindset in people. The Christmas holiday is the greatest example of all. If people wonder why reminders of December 25th start in late August or early September, it is for economic reasons of course, but it also helps people to be distracted by something to cheer them up and look forward to. It's quite a different story after January 2nd, however. It's a cold and dreary winter and all that's left is the Superbowl later in the month. Holidays are a gauge of the American spirit. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to see that people are basically bored and in need of a distraction to make them feel better.

So much of the news is depressing. The War on Terror is the same 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Dead soldiers have become an everyday occurrence to an America that feels helpless to what is taking place. Gas prices go up and down and can give the average driver mental whiplash. It may or may not be warm or cold. Life is simply one big routine and America is showing just how much it is, by resigning itself to the status quo.

Anyone who speaks out is not accepted. Ruffling feathers is not appreciated. We have convinced ourselves that things really aren't so bad or if we don't accept the status quo as a fact of life, we don't say anything because no one seems to care.

People are cynical of politicians yet keep voting for the same candidates. Personal freedoms are slipping away daily, yet people have resigned themselves to accept security measures without questioning if they are constitutional or not. The weather is discussed without realizing how much it is a part of our daily conversations. Asking "How are you?" is a cliché, because the person asking doesn't really want to hear the word "lousy".

Why have we lost the ability to think? Why do we simply go through the motions of everyday life without asking why we do what we do? We have a love affair with the comfort zones we find ourselves embracing. As long as our personal worlds are undisturbed, we don't care about what is happening to someone else or somewhere beyond our personal realms. Many people have spent years building personal comfort zones and they will not permit anyone past the "No Trespassing" posted on their turf.

Because most people don't inform themselves of problems taking place beyond their self-created worlds, they will be blindsided when problems become personal.

We are spiritually void, yet believe we are a Christian nation. The Bible has a lot to say about the American condition. God spanked America on September 11, 2001, yet most people scoff at such a possibility because America's churches are asleep, and they don't have the courage to tell members that God isn't pleased with the way people are conducting their daily lives.

Political and spiritual correctness is a cancer. The longer everything stays the same, the more satisfied we are with the way we are. If there is something wrong, it is always someone else who is the problem.

It's a generation of godless kids, yet people reason it is just a phase they are going through. We are overweight physically yet search for a pill to take off the pounds because of a lack of self-discipline. We are mentally complacent because we are stressed out, yet don't realize it.

God is going to show the true condition of the American spirit. He sees an America that gives Him the spiritual finger every day because it only calls on Him when there is a crisis. He has taken a back seat for years and is continually told

to mind His own business.

America has too much time on its hands. We are not thankful for what we have. We constantly say "God Bless America" without realizing He has. God has become a spiritual blob and a grandfather figure out of touch. America loves to talk the spiritual talk but doesn't know how to walk in the steps of obedience to the only One who has the answers to personal and national problems.

## Iron Sharpening Iron

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

### In regard to: Mount Sinai

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

On May 26, 2023, Darwin and I had opportunity to watch the two videos and also go over the article by Christopher Eames of the Armstrong Institute of Biblical Archaeology.

Dwight claims this is a well written article. That claim turned out to be false. Christopher in his article not only twists scripture to fit his theory but he also twists history.

"The Sinai Peninsula has been a part of Egypt from the [First Dynasty](#) of ancient Egypt (c. 3100 BC)." From: [Sinai Peninsula - Wikipedia](#)

Most scholars who accept a historical core of the exodus date this possible exodus group to the thirteenth century BCE at the time of [Ramses II](#), with some instead dating it to the twelfth century BCE at the time of [Ramses III](#). From: [The Exodus - Wikipedia](#)

From the above we learn that the Sinai Peninsula was a part of Egypt from Ancient times. It has only been in more recent times that it was controlled by others but it has primarily always been a part of Egypt since apparently 3100 BC.

From the Bible we learn that the land of Midian is not in Egypt as some are wanting to tell us.

[Exo 4:19](#) And the LORD said unto Moses in [Midian](#), Go, return into Egypt: for all the men are dead which sought thy life.

[1Ki 11:18](#) And they arose out of [Midian](#), and came to Paran: and they took men with them out of Paran, and they came to Egypt, unto Pharaoh king of Egypt; which gave him an house, and appointed him victuals, and gave him land.

From the Bible we learn that Moses left Egypt and fled to the land of Midian after he killed the Egyptian. Moses was a sheep herder in the land of Midian. Moses led the flock to Horeb the mountain of God.

[Exo 3:1](#) Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father in law, the priest of Midian: and he led the flock to the backside of the desert, and came to the mountain of God, *even* to Horeb.

From the Bible we learn that Mount Sinai and Mount Horeb are the same mountain, and it is located in the land of Midian which is not a part of Egypt. Read Exodus 17 in regard to Horeb.

[Exo 17:6](#) Behold, I will stand before thee there upon the rock in [Horeb](#); and thou shalt smite the rock, and there shall come water out of it, that the people may drink. And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel.

From the Bible we learn that Mount Sinai/Mount Horeb is in Arabia.

**The "New" Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**June 10, 2023 --- Issue No. 123**

[Gal 4:25](#) For this Agar is mount Sinai in [Arabia](#), and answereth to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children.

There is also archaeological evidence for where the Israelites crossed the Red Sea which Christopher pretty much dismissed in his article. He uses outside sources to prove most of his points and pretty much either twists scripture or dismisses it altogether. The Bible is always a more truthful source of information than anything else that exists.

So, our conclusion is that the Bible clearly shows that Midian was not a part of Egypt, and the Mountain of God was located in the Land of Midian. Meaning the Israelites had to cross the entire Sinai Peninsula and the Red Sea in order to get out of Egypt. It is not just one diver who has seen and photographed the artifacts found on the bottom of the Red Sea at the Gulf of Aquba and Moses was at the Mountain of God in Midian tending sheep before he led the Israelites to the Mountain of God in Midian (Jabel A Lawz) which is part of the Midian Mountain range in Arabia.

## Letters

### **Letter from Ray Daly (May 26, 2023)**

Laura,

Would you do me a "favor". Would you contact "Michael Zaeske for me? He was the first contact I had after WCG. We had some very interesting discussions on, basically, non "specific" Scriptural topics. Such as the water flows to the west of the continental divide (Jamestown area), directly south to the Gulf. While the waters to the east of said c.d. flow south into northeast S. Dak. and then turn and go back into Canada.

I do not know, specifically what separated us, but I really enjoyed our above topics. And there is so much more to visit on. Like the fact (geologists say), that there is more "fresh" water beneath all of the mountain ranges, than there is in all of the "oceans".

I did then, and still think a great deal of him.

If you will?

Ray

**Hi Ray:** As near as we could figure this, we have not had contact with Michael Zaeske for at least 13 or more years, so we print this in case someone does have contact with Michael and can let him know that you are wanting to contact him.  
Laura Lee

## Announcements

### **Announcement from William P. Goff (May 26, 2023)**

**Kenya Update**

**Greetings Brethren,**

**We posted a new Kenya Update at: <http://www.khofh.org>**

**Bill Goff**

### **Announcement from Zac Poonen (May 31, 2023)**

**MESSAGES**

**The Holy Spirit Helps Us To Do God's Will (with German Translation)**

<https://cfcindia.com/sermon/the-holy-spirit-helps-us-to-do-gods-will>

**Brief Lessons from the Lives of Some Men and Women in the Bible**

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

**A Right Attitude to Correction**

<https://cfcindia.com/sermon/a-right-attitude-to-correction>

**The “New” Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**June 10, 2023 --- Issue No. 123**

Freedom from the Power of Sin

<https://cfcindia.com/sermon/freedom-from-the-power-of-sin>

Freedom from Condemnation and from Sin

<https://cfcindia.com/sermon/freedom-from-condemnation-and-from-sin>

CFC Bangalore

<https://cfcindia.com>

## **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