

The "New" Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
July 3, 2021 --- Issue No. 22

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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

'As It Was In the Days of Noah' by Richard T. Ritenbaugh (Charlotte, North Carolina)

Bahal was beginning to worry, since, as mayor, it was his job to worry for the rest of his remote, highland community. His wife, Chera, had remarked the day before that the rain was unusually heavy for this time of the year, but he had shrugged off her comment. Yet now, having endured three days of steady, heavy downpours, he felt the rain was something more than "unusual."

Earlier in the day, he had braved the pelting raindrops to check on his son's livestock down the road. His son, Sair—off on his honeymoon with his third wife—owned lands at a somewhat lower elevation than his father, so Bahal was concerned about flooding. He was glad he checked: The cattle had bunched together on the "drier" upper pasture because the lower one was knee-deep in water. Bahal had opened a gate to let his son's cattle move onto his own lands.

After breakfast, a member of the town council had reported that most of the town's streets ran higher than ankle-deep, and some people were using flat-bottomed boat's to get around. A neighbor sloshed over a little later to tell him that a mudslide had buried the home of an outlying family overnight. Worse, most considered the current crop, only partly harvested, to be ruined. The only good news was that the rain hampered the criminal elements as much as anyone else.

Bahal chuckled, suddenly amused by a stray thought. He had heard just last week that old Noah, the crazy, landlocked shipbuilder, had finally finished his "ark" after 120 years of scorn. Rumor had it that he and his family had actually sealed themselves in! "He's probably the only one not concerned about this storm," he thought. With a last chuckle, he made his way to the kitchen to grab some lunch before someone else interrupted him.

.....

Millions of people like Bahal, Chera and Sair drowned in the deluge God brought upon the earth in the days of Noah. The Flood destroyed the flourishing but corrupt civilization that mankind had built apart from God, and only Noah and his family survived. It was such a colossal event in history that most cultures have some kind of "legend" or "myth" remembering it.

The Bible contains the most lucid, historical, reliable version of the Flood story. Covering only four chapters (Genesis 6-9), it nonetheless expresses one of the Bible's major teachings and illustrations. Later, Jesus, Peter, Paul and others drew upon the account of the Flood to give moral or prophetic instruction. Truly, it was a "watershed" event in the history of humanity!

One of Jesus' allusions to the Flood is especially meaningful to us as Christ's second coming nears:

But of that day and hour no one knows, no, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only. But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying, and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. (Matthew 24:36-39; see Luke 17:26-27)

What does Jesus mean by "as the days of Noah were"? What were the days of Noah like? Apart from the Bible, we have very little conclusive information about pre-Flood civilization. The Flood itself erased most of the evidence, and what we do have from that time is a source of fierce debate among archeologists, botanists, paleontologists and historians. The pages of Scripture are our only reliable source of information about "the world that then existed" (II Peter 3:6)

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Pre-Flood Society

After man's expulsion from Eden, the Bible records only three vignettes from before the Flood, all of which involve unrestrained sin. As these accounts are our only glimpses into that period, God must have considered them representative of the activities and attitudes of the people who lived then. They paint a grim picture.

The first contains the well-known story of Cain and Abel (Genesis 4:1-15), in which the first man born on the earth also becomes the first murderer. A few points in this account are significant:

- » Cain killed Abel after a quarrel over a sacrifice to God. Cain brought a sacrifice, but God would not accept it because it did not meet His standards. While Abel's offering showed his complete submission to God, Cain's hints at grudging worship of God—and that done in his own way.
- » Becoming angry and sullen over his rejection, he quarreled with and killed his brother. Then, he lied to God's face! He had no fear of God or the consequences of sin.
- » Cain's retort to God's inquiry as to Abel's whereabouts is also significant: "Am I my brother's keeper?" Cain's attitude of indifference toward his fellow man greatly influenced later generations.
- » Coupled with his entirely selfish attitude, Cain tried to take advantage even of God's curse upon him. Using a "woe is me" ploy, he "convinced" God to guard his life from anyone avenging Abel's murder.

The way of Cain—idolatry, murder, deceit, selfishness, hypocrisy—saturated Pre-Flood society to the point that God, seeing the wickedness of man, regretted He had even created humanity (Genesis 6:5-7). The other two vignettes merely expand upon Cain's sins.

The next account tells the story of Lamech, five generations after Cain (Genesis 4:19-24). His sins run from polygamy to murder to boastful pride in his transgressions. Though it cannot be proven, Jewish tradition claims he killed his forefather Cain as well as righteous Enoch (verse 23). Though his children were talented and inventive, the general tone of the passage suggests that they achieved their progress apart from God (see verse 16).

The third vignette deals with the prevalence of ungodly marriage practices leading to disastrous results (Genesis 6:1-7, 11-13). The gist of this section is that, after a few generations of multiplying, men as a whole began to leave God out of their lives. They chose wives—probably several of them, like Lamech—based solely on their physical beauty, not on their depth of character. Their children, though they became mighty, famous leaders, grew into wicked adults whose every impulse, thought and plan was corrupt. Violence became a way of life. Once conditions reached this point, God decided to destroy them before they became so totally depraved that they could never repent, even in the resurrection.

The Bible pictures a society of unrestrained sin of every kind. The New Testament frequently mentions it in the same context as Sodom and Gomorrah and Israel's sins caused by Balaam and Korah. The underlying factor in all these situations is rebellion against and rejection of God. Cain, Lamech and mankind in general never took God into account when they committed their iniquities. As Psalm 10:4 says, "The wicked in his proud countenance does not seek God; God is in none of his thoughts."

Has our present society reached this nadir of behavior?

Today's Society

A few minutes of the evening news or a glance at the newspaper headlines provides enough proof for most Christians to answer this question affirmatively. Surely, mankind's behavior is not improving! Yet has mankind in general reached the point that "every intent of the thoughts of his heart [is] only evil continually" (Genesis 6:5)?

Charlotte, North Carolina, a city of about a half-million people, has over one hundred listings in the local Yellow Pages under "Security." Is that not an indication of the fear people live in? The recent surge in popularity of car security alarms, Lojack systems, the Club, pepper sprays and mace, mobile phones for emergencies and other security devices speaks volumes about the high incidence of crime.

We have become so used to "everyday" crimes that we fail to realize how much time, money, and effort we use fighting them. From multiple door locks on cars and homes to personal identification numbers for credit cards and bank accounts to exterior floodlights and window grills, we take the cost of safety for granted. Some communities pay heavy fees for

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high walls, gates, and guards. Taxpayers pay for increased police patrols and occasional sweeps of high-crime neighborhoods. Even air travel and mailing a letter or box involves high levels of security.

So much crime is committed around the world that we hear only about the major or more unusual ones such as a recent story out of Belgium (*Time*, December 1, 1997). A couple, dubbed "the Diabolical Lovers" by the Belgian press, found lonely singles, married them, and soon thereafter murdered them to collect their life insurance payouts, a reported \$1.272 million. Police arrested them in Miami, where they had been living the high life in an oceanfront condominium while planning their next hit.

In Luxor, Egypt, the same militant Islamic group that assassinated President Anwar Sadat in 1981 attacked foreign tourists visiting the ancient temples. In a 45-minute rampage in mid-November, the terrorists shot and slashed to death 58 people, most Swiss nationals, leaving centuries-old pillars splattered with blood. This rivals the Oklahoma City Bombing in gore if not in numbers of dead.

The way of Cain does not only reveal itself in crime but also in perversions of every stripe. At a November "Human Rights Campaign dinner" for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people, President Bill Clinton claimed that moral law is evolving (*World*, November 22, 1997). "We're redefining in practical terms the immutable ideas that have guided us," he remarked. This oxymoronic statement seems reasonable to people who have no moral foundation, such as God's law. This is just a pseudo-intellectual way to say, "If it feels good, do it."

The President later said that "most people as they grow older become somewhat limited in their imaginations." By this he meant, "Get 'em while they're young!" He wants to make sure that educators teach youngsters early that certain kinds of sexual activity are not morally wrong or that one kind is not morally superior to another. Such early sex education is taking place all over the country in the public schools.

And it is not confined just to the U.S. A non-profit group, Human Life International (HLI), reports that Planned Parenthood, along with its international affiliates, "does more to promote abortion and contraception throughout the entire world" than any other organization ("*Sex Education Programs Subject Latin American Youth to Wholesale Immorality*," January 1996). The unprecedented increase of illegitimate pregnancies, abortions, sexually transmitted diseases, and AIDS among adolescents, HLI says, are "a direct result of its sex education programs, which are devoid of moral values and usurp parental authority."

It is not hard to find evidence that "the wickedness of man [is] great in the earth" (Genesis 6:5) and "the earth [is] filled with violence" (verse 11). If the end time is characterized by its similarity with the days of Noah, Christ can come at any time!

The Primary Meaning

Though we have seen that our day rivals Noah's in corruption and evil, this meaning of Matthew 24:36-39 is actually the secondary interpretation. The primary meaning is more simple: Christ would come at a time when most of the world was busy doing its normal activities.

Notice verse 36: "But of that day and hour no one knows, no, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only." This is the subject sentence of the entire paragraph. Verse 42 repeats the thought: "Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming." Jesus rephrases it in verse 44: "Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not expect Him."

Luke's version makes this especially clear:

And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be in the days of the Son of Man: They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. Likewise, as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built; but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed. (Luke 17:26-30)

People will be involved in their normal activities, not realizing such a momentous event is about to occur!

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Paul writes that "the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. For when they say, 'Peace and safety!' then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape" (I Thessalonians 5:2-3). Just when men begin to think they have a handle on society's problems, total chaos and destruction will erupt.

Peter reminds us of scoffers coming in the last days who would say, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation" (II Peter 3:4). The apostle goes on to cite the example of the Flood—which came on suddenly and unexpectedly—as an event that broke the natural cycle of life (verses 5-6). Such is the time of Christ's return.

All of these prophetic warnings include the admonition to watch and be ready for it when it comes. As Paul says: But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. . . . Therefore, let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober, . . . putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation. (I Thessalonians 5:4, 6, 8)

Christ's return will not be sudden and unexpected to the church. We may not know the day or the hour, but we will be somewhere "in the ballpark." Jesus says His day "will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth" (Luke 21:35). But, as verse 34 says, if we "take heed to [our]selves," not being mired down by sin, we will be expecting it.

We are certainly living in times very like those of the days of Noah, so the return of Christ could come anytime soon. Knowing this, our job is to watch and pray and overcome so "that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man" (verse 36).

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Our World

by Grigore Sbarcea (New South Wales, Australia)

This Gospel of the Kingdom will be preached to all the world as a witness to all nations, and then the end will come.

Friends and Leaders Around the World:

The respite from Europe's and the world's debt problems did not last long. Things only got worse. The perennial conflict between Israel and the Palestinians has been joined by the Arab rising nightmares. Global warming and climate change are marching on relentlessly. Widespread famines in Africa and elsewhere, and water shortages in much of the world, are now a fact of life; and this at a time when much of the world lays under devastating floods.

International relations are on a knife edge, and unmistakably heading towards a major conflict. Unemployment, social unrest, crime, terrorism, and a decline in moral and spiritual standards have become permanent features of this world.

Life is becoming more untenable by the day, and yet, the wise of this world atheistic scientists of the like of Stephan Hawking and Richard Dawkins are relentlessly blaring at us from our television screens, telling us that, Humanity is on the brink of a brave new world, and Scientists are creating a brave new world for all of us.

Well, someone has to tell the truth, and the truth is that far from being on the brink of a brave new world, humanity is on the brink of catastrophe, and terminal catastrophe at that.

Humanity is already in the early stages of what the Scriptures call the Great Tribulation, or the Great Day of the Lord, or the Day of the Lords Vengeance.

The world has forgotten that it has a Creator God and abandoned itself to an orgy of immorality and wanton debasing of human life unprecedented in human history.

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Younger generations no longer know right from wrong, true or false, or holy and unholy, terms which many may have never heard.

This does not mean that God does not know what is going on in the world.

2Ch 16:9 For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him. In this you have done foolishly, therefore from now on you shall have wars.”

Ecc 8:11 Because the sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.

Psa 37:17 For the arms of the wicked shall be broken, But the LORD upholds the righteous.

Psa 37:18 The LORD knows the days of the upright, And their inheritance shall be forever.

Psa 37:19 They shall not be ashamed in the evil time, And in the days of famine they shall be satisfied.

Psa 37:20 But the wicked shall perish; And the enemies of the LORD, like the splendor of the meadows, shall vanish. Into smoke they shall vanish away.

Amo 3:6 If a trumpet is blown in a city, will not the people be afraid? If there is calamity in a city, will not the LORD have done it?

Now if the LORD takes responsibility for the calamities that have struck this world and become part of everyday life, should not our leaders ask themselves why He has done it, and take God’s case to their people, rather than close their eyes to them or blame the Islamists for many of this world’s evils. Is it not rather obvious that God is using them as a rod for the wayward Judeo-Christian world which has become the barer of atheism, immorality, homosexuality, unfaithfulness, and just about every sin and blasphemy under the sun?

For two decades we have warned the world that this is where it was heading. Now that it has come to pass, what follows is truly horrendous for the world.

All Hands on Deck
by Eddie Hyatt (Tulsa, Oklahoma)

After His resurrection, Jesus appeared first to a woman, Mary Magdalene, and sent her forth as the first witness and preacher of the Good News of His resurrection. His instructions to her were to “Go and tell My brethren” (Mathew 28:10). In other words, He required that His male disciples hear the Good News first from the mouth of a woman.

This was significant, for the testimony of a woman was not allowed as evidence in either Jewish or Roman courts of law of that day. To send a woman as the first witness and preacher of His resurrection was a revolutionary act that challenged both legal and cultural biases of that time.

Human nature has not changed, and those same biases are still with us in the 21st century. Here are two lessons from this story that are applicable to the church today.

1) Women are Equal with Men. By this act, Jesus made clear that women would have an equal role in His kingdom and would preach and teach men as well as other women. So, let’s dispense with those doctrines that would put women in a secondary and subservient role and hinder them from fulfilling the call of the Risen Lord that is stirring in their hearts.

2) The Great Commission Must Have Priority. The commission Jesus gave to Mary “Go and tell” is the essence of the Great Commission. Sadly, much of the Church today—including the Evangelical church—does not know what the Great Commission is. The Great Commission is Jesus’ final words to His disciples—both men and women—to go into all the

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world and make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-17).

So, let's move beyond our self-centered doctrines that are all about “me” and how I can be happy and blessed, and let's remember the words of Jesus to His disciples when He said, Do you not say, “There are still four months and then comes the harvest”? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields, for they are already white for harvest (John 4:35).

May we all embrace the power of His Resurrection and obey Our Lord's command.

After His resurrection, Jesus appeared first to a woman, Mary Magdalene, and sent her forth as the first witness and preacher of the Good News of His resurrection. His instructions to her were to “Go and tell My brethren” (Mathew 28:10). In other words, He required that His male disciples hear the Good News first from the mouth of a woman.

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Death

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

Now there are many churches out there in the world today, but only one true church. That church is defined as: “The Pillar and Ground of the Truth” (1Timothy 3:15.)

If we want to find that church, we have to find the Truth, because Truth and Church go hand in hand.

If we want to be a member of the True church, we have to Walk in Truth.

Truth is also of utmost importance to us because Truth is how our Heavenly Father wants us to worship Him. (John 4:23 – 24.)

Yes, our Heavenly Father wants us to worship him in “Spirit” and in “Truth.”

Now in order to have truth, we have to collect it, because Truth is something that has to be “fetched.”

If we want to have water in our house to bathe, and drink our tea, we have to go and fetch it at the river.

If we want to have firewood to cook our food, we have to go and fetch kindling in the forest.

And if we want to have Truth, we also have to go and fetch it. And there is only one place where “Truth” can be fetched or found: (John 17:17.)

Yes, Truth is found in only one place, the Scriptures. And it is Truth that sanctifies us or sets us apart. So let us move forward in our quest for Truth.

In today's Bible study we are going to see what the Scriptures tell us about “death”.

I'm sure all of us have been touched in one way or another by death. Some have lost their parent, or siblings, or maybe we had a friend who has died. But where are they now? Are they up in Heaven with God?

Just what is death? Is there a resurrection? Do our loved ones know what we are doing? Will we see them again?

Many preach and teach that when a person dies (especially a good person) that he is taken up to heaven and is living with our Creator. But is that true? Does God's Word, the Holy Scriptures support that, or does God have a better plan?

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The Scriptures are very clear concerning what happens when a person dies. No one goes directly to heaven at death. Let us not be led astray by fables of men, let us hear what God's Word says about death.

Our Lord and Savior tells us that "No One" Yes, No One has gone to heaven after death, but He Himself. (John 3:13.)

Well, if the dead are not up in heaven, where exactly are they?

Our Bibles speaks much about a resurrection of the dead.

Job was inspired to say. "O that thou wouldest hide me in the grave, that thou wouldest keep me secret, until thy wrath be past, that thou wouldest appoint me a set time, and remember me! If a man die, shall he live again? All the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come" (Job 14:13-14).

Job knew the resurrection of the dead was coming. And so does anyone who knows the promises of God. The Bible speaks much of a resurrection of the dead.

Daniel was inspired to write: "And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to ever-lasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt" (Dan. 12:2).

Later, Christ quoted these same words. Read John 5:21 through verse 29.

Yes, all that are dead and buried, are still in the grave waiting the resurrection. They are asleep in the grave. But the time is coming (and soon) when all that are in the graves (all that have died and are asleep in the grave) will hear His voice and will be resurrected.

Peter preached the resurrection. He said nothing about man's fable of going to "hell" or "heaven" when one dies. Peter even told how David, a man after God's own heart, was dead and buried (Acts 2:29) and showed the believers (one has to be a Believer to see these things.) that David had not gone to heaven (Acts 2:34), but was waiting in his grave, just as the Bible says, until a resurrection of the just.

Soon, all of our deceased relatives and friends who have died will be resurrected. Some men teach (and many believe) that that resurrection will take place at a distant future time. But if we read the many simple and clear Scriptures concerning this, we might find that our deceased may be around a bit sooner than we might think.

Scripture is for "Proof" and maybe more importantly, Scripture is for "**Reproof**" reproof is a very important step when it comes to knowing and walking in Truth. It eliminates walking in error. There are many churches out there, but there is only one true church. And remember, it is distinguished by having and walking, in Truth.

Scripture tells us that all nations will be judged. What is most important to comprehend (or understand) is that those who live properly, and keep His commandments, will fair well at the judgment, and will enter into His Kingdom. But those who don't live properly, if we fail to change our evil & bad ways, but continue to lie, steal, cheat etc. Will Not enter into His coming Kingdom.

(1 Corinthians 6:9-10.) (Galatians 5:19-21.) (Matthew 25: 31-46.) Let us believe the Bible, it's God's Word. And let us be Sheep and not goats.

An Orwellian America is Defining the Nation (Copyright) by Richard Markland (London, Ohio)

For decades Americans have been warned of a time in which George Orwell's Novel "1984" would become a reality. The American people cannot say they have not been put on notice.

Irreplaceable freedoms are being eliminated. The tactics used are invasive, immense in size and scope and without consideration for anyone or anything.

The American people should be alarmed by what is taking place but there is not an understanding of what has become a frightening reality. There is a lack of foresight about what the future holds and a careless indifference towards how each and every person is going to be impacted.

People are of two extreme mind sets. They are either at a loss of how to deal with what is an evolving two headed Frankenstein Monster with outstretched tentacles and known as Big Brother or oblivious to the dangers that now exist.

A Tailor-Made Crisis

Covid-19 has been holding the nation hostage for months. It is controlling once taken for granted daily routines. Federal, state, and local governments have become overseers who are dictating what people can and cannot do. Livelihoods have been destroyed or severely impacted by the abuse of power from officials elected to office. They are to serve the people but instead have made the people subservient to them. What the American people were told would be short-term inconveniences have turned out to be long-term difficulties for the nation, yet justified as necessary in order to get through a crisis that in all actuality is benefiting those in power. By the time Americans wake up, it will be too late. Without the Covid-19 crisis Big Brother would not be able to mature and grow in size and scope.

A Messianic Cure All

For months emphasis has been placed upon the need for a vaccine. Under the Trump administration the creation of a vaccine was called "Operation Warp Speed". Even though every vaccine ever created has taken an average of four years to develop, test and market Moderna and Pfizer were able to "successfully" develop, test and market their vaccines in mere months.

The creation of a vaccine has taken on messianic overtones and presented as a cure-all savior in the way the mainstream media has inundated the American people with endless hours of reporting. The message has been one in which, if the American people are vaccinated the country can return to a sense of normalcy. What, however, is a sense of normalcy when abnormal and devastating restrictions will remain in effect for months to come?

The majority of Americans are convinced vaccinations are an absolute must. They are willing to drive long distances and wait in line for hours in order to be tested or vaccinated. It is a herd mentality accepted without question as people blindly place trust in what they are told.

An Uncertain Future Presents Problems

The Corona crisis has stifled freedom of speech. To question the actions of officials in power is considered an act of defiance. To question what is in a vaccine and express safety concerns raises suspicions. Refusing to be vaccinated is viewed as a health risk to yourself and others.

An increasing number of companies are requiring vaccinations for all employees. It is now a requirement for various airlines and cruise ships will soon follow. It is only a matter of time until other companies follow suit.

In an interview with "60 Minutes" a few months ago, the Chairman of the Federal Reserve stated, "The United States economy can't fully recover until everyone is vaccinated." It is what he didn't say that deserves questioning.

It is a future with minefields if a person is considered a risk to others and a pariah in the eyes of employers and business establishments. Will Washington and state governments require vaccinations and anyone who refuses will be marked as

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a risk?

What is the Mark of the Beast?

To many professing Christians, the Mark of the Beast has been an implantation of a computer chip under a person's skin, but the Corona crisis has without a doubt broadened the interpretation of what the word “Mark” means.

According to Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary Tenth Edition: Mark- (1) A boundary with limits (2) To make or leave a mark (3) To characterize and distinguish (4) To observe (5) A symbol used for identification.

- (1) A boundary with limits- What people can and cannot do varies from state to state. States have placed restrictions upon how many people are able to gather in group settings with social distancing requirements.
- (2) To make or leave a mark- Federal, state and local governments are leaving their mark or imprint by enforcing mandates and issuing guidelines of what is and isn't permitted. If not obeyed, it can result in fines or arrest.
- (3) To characterize and distinguish- People who attend a church, wedding or who gather in a social setting are characterized and distinguished as a danger to others if not limited in numbers and not social distancing.
- (4) To observe- Drones are being used in various cities to observe the activities of people. Authorities are being notified by residents of neighborhoods if anyone is seen violating restrictions put in place. Businesses are also being closely watched and monitored.
- (5) A symbol used for identification- Who is and is not vaccinated will become a greater issue. Various airlines are already requiring proof from passengers before they are permitted on flights. Smartphones are being used with the required information by passengers.

The Chairman of the Federal Reserve also stated, “In all likelihood proof that a person has been vaccinated will have to be provided before being granted permission to eat at a restaurant.”

Revelation 3:16-17- “And he causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand (symbolizing the ability to purchase) or a mark in their foreheads (symbolizing free will): verse 17- And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark or name of the beast or the number of his name.”

The year 2020 was when federal, state, and local governments began to place their mark upon the American people. The Corona crisis shows how easily people can be restricted from buying and businesses restricted from selling. As with any crisis the abuse of power does not diminish but only grows.

Most people will be caught by surprise because they do not see what's coming. Luke 21:35- “For as a snare (trap) shall it come on all of them that dwell on the earth.”

There is a way to be spared from what's ahead, however, for those who are watching, praying and obeying God on his terms, Luke 21:36- “Watch therefore and pray always that you may be worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass and to stand before the Son of Man.”

Holy Days 2021

Passover - March 28, 2021 (Observed at Sunset the Evening Before)

Unleavened Bread - March 28, 2021 to April 3, 2021

Pentecost - May 17, 2021

Trumpets - September 7, 2021

Atonement - September 16, 2021

Tabernacles - September 21 to 27, 2021

Last Great Day - September 28, 2021

Iron Sharpening Iron

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

After Pentecost, Then What?

by Laura Lee (Bismarck, North Dakota)



The Sinai Peninsula was part of Egypt at the time of the Exodus. The Israelites crossed the Red Sea as the Days of Unleavened Bread were ending and after they crossed to the other side of the Sinai Peninsula.

Check your bible for details: "**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." (KJV) The rest of the article was excellent.

Response to: After Pentecost, Then What? by John W. Ritenbaugh (Issue #21)

https://church-of-god-bismarck.org/articles/linked/after_pentecost_then_what.pdf

Can We Prove that Christ Could or Could Not Sin?

by Alfio La Spina (Victoria British Columbia)

Jesus Came in The Flesh

To say that Jesus could not have sinned is the same as saying He did not come in the flesh which is the spirit of Antichrist.

Jesus came in the flesh, which is corruptible, so He was very capable of sinning however He did not sin because He was obedient and did everything the Father instructed Him to do. He also stayed very close to the Father which strengthened Him and made Him able to overcome.

Once we receive the Holy Spirit and we are obedient and do all the Father asks of us we can also be without sin and proceed to perfection as the Father requires us to do in order to enter His Kingdom.

Matthew 5:48 (ESV)

48 You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

God knew that Jesus would be successful that is why He made those statements concerning our salvation through Christ.

Hebrews 2:14-17 (ESV)

14 Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. 16 For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. 17 **Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect**, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

I believe verse 17 says it all.

Editor's Note: Thank you Alfio for your response. You are absolutely correct. After looking at Rhoda's article again I can see how the flaws were overlooked. On the one hand it looks like she could see that Christ had a choice whether to sin or not but then she crashes by saying:

"Note: If Jesus had the choice to sin, all of these promises would have hinged on his decision "to sin, or not to sin"! This would have been "THE GREATEST GAMBLE" of all time. Had Jesus chosen to sin the whole plan of God would have been defeated and proved that God's word was NOT IMMUTABLE."

So here she is concluding that Christ could not sin and that is what makes the conclusion of this article false. When Christ came in the flesh, He always had the choice to sin or not just like all of us do. Thank you for catching this. Laura Lee

Response to: Can We Prove that Christ Could or Could Not Sin? By Rhoda Foust (Issue #13)

https://church-of-god-bismarck.org/articles/linked/can_we_prove_that_christ_could_or_could_not_sin.pdf

Fat Cats, Fat Cats

by Ray Daly (Lincoln, North Dakota)

Enjoyed the "Poem" by Tawanda Ray.

Response to: Fat Cats, Fat Cats by Tawanda Ray (Issue #20)

https://church-of-god-bismarck.org/other-items/linked/fat_cats_fat_cats.pdf