#### WHO ARE WE?

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

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

Country: USA Phone: (701) 258-7172 FAX: (919) 640-1806

E-Mail: Darwin-Laura@Juno.com

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

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

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

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

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

Distinctive Doctrines: John 13:34-35

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

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

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

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

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

<u>Parent Group:</u> The greater Church of God--The Ekklesia. <u>Language:</u> English <u>Other Language:</u> None <u>Country:</u> USA

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

City: Bismarck State: North Dakota Zip Code: 58501

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

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

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

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**--The deadline for submitting articles and letters for possible inclusion in our November/December 2004 Newsletter is October 15, 2004. Thank You. Laura Lee (Editor)

**SABBATH SERVICES--**Every Saturday unless stated other wise on page 2. We generally do a phone hookup, video tape, or cassette tape, service with various speakers. If you have a video or audio tape you think we should hear, please send it.

We also welcome live speakers, and special music, by others on a volunteer basis. Please ask us about hosting.

Sabbath Schedule is as follows: 12:00 Noon--Open Fellowship (Door Open, Come In)

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

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

Bible Study Schedule is as follows: 6:30 PM----Open Fellowship

(Door Open, Come In)

7:00 PM----Pot Luck Meal

(Bring Food)

8:00 PM----Bible Study

9:00 PM----Open Fellowship

Bible Study Dates are as follows:

Friday, August 20, 2004

Friday, November 12, 2004

Friday, December 24, 2004

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

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

**AD SECTION**--If you have an ad that you would like to have us print, please write it up and send it to: **Newsletter-Only-Darwin-Laura@Juno.com** We may not print all ads, but we will read them for consideration of inclusion in this newsletter. Some ads will also be posted on our Web Site. We print ads and post them on our web site as a courtesy to others and not because we agree with everything said in them.

#### SABBATH SCHEDULE--BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA

August 21, 2004----Open for Hosting--Please sign up

August 28, 2004----Teaching the Law--Lesson #41--The Identity of the True Church (Part 15) Restoration of "church" of God;
Restoration of Israel & Kingdom of God/Christ

Teaching the Law--Lesson #42--The Identity of the True Church (Part 16) God places "Holy Seed" on shelf for 2800 years; Coming of Christ to Israel; Israel chosen again, gentiles cleave to them.

September 4, 2004----Open for Hosting--Please sign up

September 11, 2004----Teaching the Law--Lesson #43--The Identity of the True Church (Part 17) The false church: Re-gathering First fruits of Israel; Assyria becomes God's people; Destruction of Satan's system, Israel completes her commission.

Teaching the Law--Lesson #44--The Identity of the True Church (Part 18) Redemption of Israel; Grace/Healing/Deliverance of Israel; Reign of Christ; God never cast Israel away.

September 16, 2004----Feast of Trumpets (See ad in this Issue)

September 18, 2004----Open for Hosting--Please sign up

September 25, 2004----Day of Atonement (See ad in this Issue)

September 30, 2004----Feast of Tabernacles--No Services Here

October 2, 2004----Feast of Tabernacles--No Services Here

October 7, 2004----Feast of Tabernacles--No Services Here

October 9, 2004----Open for Hosting--Please sign up

October 16, 2004----Teaching the Law--Lesson #45--The Identity of the True Church (Part 19) Christ first/second coming; Israel is God's witness; God pours Spirit on Israel; Deliverance of the elect, all Israel justified.

Teaching the Law--Lesson #46--The Identity of the True Church (Part 20) Judah called out of Babylon; Jacob/Christ, the servant of the Lord; Israel-the light and covenant to the nations; Israel delivered from Babylon: Holy city delivered from uncircumcised.

October 23, 2004----Open for Hosting--Please sign up

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October 30, 2004----Teaching the Law--Lesson #47--The Identity of the True Church (Part 21) Israel's redeemer dies for his wife, Israel and humanity; Israel to inherit nations; Israel's maker is her husband/redeemer; Spiritual restoration of Israel; God will forgive Israel.

Teaching the Law--Lesson #48--The Identity of the True Church (Part 22) Israel's sins; Zion's redeemer to come back for her; Gentiles bring offerings and restore Israelites to land; Gentiles serve Israel; Royal priesthood.

November 6, 2004----Open for Hosting--Please sign up

November 13, 2004----Teaching the Law--Lesson #49--The Identity of the True Church (Part 23) Israel to be married to God and rebuilt; Judgment of false church, beast; Isaiah bemoans Israel's punishment, prays to restore her.

Teaching the Law--Lesson #50--The Identity of the True Church (Part 24) God's response to Isaiah's prayer; God promises to punish wicked, restore wife/Israel, and make new heaven and earth.

November 20, 2004----Open for Hosting--Please sign up

November 27, 2004----Teaching the Law--Lesson #51--The Identity of the True Church (Part 25) God is married to Israel, will redeem her; Reunification of both kingdoms of Israel; Restoration of Israel out of the north; Resurrection of David; Jacob's trouble and restoration.

Teaching the Law--Lesson #52--The Identity of the True Church (Part 26) Captivity and redemption; The Savior, Israel's God; God's eternal love of wife Israel; New marriage covenant with Israel/Judah.

If you want to host Sabbath Services and need 2 Sabbaths in a row for your presentation and/or would like to have your presentation listed on our Sabbath Schedule in our newsletter which is sent out to the public, the next deadline for that would be: October 15, 2004. On those Sabbaths of Open Hosting where no one signs up, we will just play a cassette tape by any of various speakers. All Sabbath Services are Hosted by Darwin & Laura Lee unless otherwise stated.

#### FEAST OF TRUMPETS--SEPTEMBER 16, 2004

Come join us at 1:00 PM at 320 N. Griffin St. in Bismarck, North Dakota (Fellowship starts at 12:00 PM)

Join us for a 5:00 PM meal at: Bonanza Family Restaurant in Mandan, North Dakota

ATONEMENT--SEPTEMBER 25, 2004
Come join us at 1:00 PM at 320 N. Griffin St. in Bismarck, North Dakota (Fellowship starts at 12:00 PM)

Join us for a meal at sunset at: North American Steak Buffet in Bismarck, North Dakota

#### **E-MAIL & SNAIL MAIL:**

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Prayer-Requests-Darwin-Laura@juno.com For Prayer Requests & Updates and things in regard to them.

Newsletter-Only-Darwin-Laura@iuno.com For items meant for print in our newsletter or on our web site.

Questions-Section-Darwin-Laura@juno.com For Biblical Questions Only (50 words or less).

Answer-Me-Darwin-Laura@juno.com For personal letters or letters with non specific biblical content.

Darwin-Laura@juno.com If you don't know where to send it, send it here and we will sort it.

Archeology-Exchange-Darwin-Laura@Juno.com For the exchange of Archeological Information.

**FAX**--Our Fax number is: (919) 640-1806

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

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

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#### FINANCIAL DISCLOSER:

We do not charge for the services that we provide to the brethren. We also do not take any wages from the gift donations we are sent. The services we provide do however cost us money. From 2001 to 2003 our total balance left owing for expenses for services provided was -\$5434.36.

Donations for 2004 total +\$1185.00. Expenses for 2004 are as follows: Postage -\$782.32, Telephone -\$87.99, Internet Services -\$273.52, Printing Charges -\$188.75, Local Services -\$156.65 and Research Materials -\$146.42. Total balance for 2004 is:

If you need a year end receipt, please request one. We truly appreciate the help we receive in helping others. Please make all checks out to Darwin and/or Laura Lee. Thank you Darwin & Laura Lee.

INFORMATION SECTION -- This section is meant for various items which should be of interest to the general public. If you have an item to be considered for inclusion in this section, please send it **Newsletter-Only-Darwin-**

Laura@Juno.com We are not always in total agreement with all things we print.

**FEAST OF TABERNACLES AT BULL SHOAL LAKE IN MISSOURI** 

Sent by Doyle Carter Tulsa, Oklahoma

We are inviting you to join us for the Feast of Tabernacles in the Heart of the Ozark Mountains with its beautiful fall colors and outdoor activities such as boating and fishing. This site is located around Bull Shores Lake in southern Missouri and it is only an hour away from Branson Missouri.

This site is sponsored by Mr. Johnny

Orr of the Church of God 7<sup>th</sup> Day which is a small independent church in the area. This group is proud to sponsor this site for churches of God members and individuals who wish to experience the joy of the Feast.

> There are a variety of resorts and lodges that you and your family can stay at during the Feast. Plus, if you inform many of the resorts and lodges as you place your reservations that you are with the Church of God 7<sup>th</sup> Day, you may receive a discount or special offers.

> We are in need of various services such as song leaders, general volunteers for setting up the hall, special music, and so forth. If you wish to assist in these areas and many others, we welcome your talents and assistance.

> If you plan to attend, contact this church at their address so that they can send you a schedule of sermons and activities that are being planned and that they may know about how many individuals are planning to attend. This would be appreciated.

> If you are interested in attending or if you wish to request more information, contact Mr. Orr at Church of God 7th Day,

Box 15, Theodosia, Mo 65761.

Information presented by Mr. Johnny Orr For more information, you may also contact me at: Biblical Fellowship Group

c/o Doyle Carter P.O. Box 690592 Tulsa, OK 74169-0592 photocrazy88@cox.net

#### **CHARISMATIC FEAST OF TABERNACLES**

by Alfred Green Lakeside, Oregon

We are asking for much intercession, and we will need much prayer coverage to step out and do what has not been done in the past.

We just returned from the weekend with the group in Spokane, WA. where we experienced a move of the Spirit and of God's power. The folks there are so hungry for the power of God in their midst. it reminded me of the hunger we felt in our "new love", when we were first converted.

We had a small Bible study meeting Friday evening at the beginning of the Sabbath, which turned into a signs and wonders meeting before we could get to much of the study.

Brothers and sisters praying for one another WITH SIGNS FOLLOWING. Lots of prophetic utterances, and healings.

Sabbath, about 35-40 attended as we held services in a small church building in Spokane, and many learned the lesson of the First Fruits, presentation by Bob Gentry, and about the signs and wonders that were an integral part of Pentecost throughout history, Al Green presenting.

Saturday evening at the beginning of the Day of Pentecost, at Steve and Rickie Weineger's house, the Holy Spirit presented and changed our format, and turned the house upside down showing the power of God through signs and wonders, healings, prophecy, filling with the Spirit, it was just great, it went on until the wee hours of the morning.

On Sunday Steve Weineger and I presented and shared the happenings of the night before with all who could receive.

Many who attended were touched by the Holy Spirit and experienced God's presence.

All in all, we had a wonderful and encouraging Feast of Pentecost.

During the weekend we also discussed the Feast of Tabernacles and asked God in prayer where He would place His name for the Feast, and unanimously the Holy Spirit spoke to each one of the same area, Sand Point, Idaho, a small resort community just outside Courdlaine, Idaho.

We are now gearing up to the end of a fully Spirit led, Charismatic Feast of Tabernacles in Sand Point.

We are expecting about 30 just from the Spokane area, and we have been asked to present in Seattle over the weekend of the 19th of June.

And it sounds like we will also be invited to Grand Junction, Colorado, before June is past.

Pray for those who are beginning the planning and arrangements.

Pray that we can effectively present the truth to the Churches.

WE HAVE LIMITED SPACE FOR PRINT, SO IF WHAT YOU SUBMITTED DID NOT MAKE THIS ISSUE, PLEASE LOOK FOR IT IN ISSUE #24 AND BEYOND.

#### **FEAST OF TABERNACLES 2004**

by Norman Edwards
Port Austin, Michigan

Everyone is invited to attend the Feast of Tabernacles 2004 at the Port Austin Community Church campus (which also supports the Sabbatarian Educational environment). The traditional Hebrew calendar dates of Sept 30 to Oct 7 will be kept, but those observing other calendar dates are equally welcome.

This Feast will again focus on Leviticus 23:42-43 "You shall dwell in booths for seven days. All who are native Israelites shall dwell in booths, that your generations may know that I made the children of Israel dwell in booths when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God."

This is a time to get away from the world (Egypt), to learn from God and to fellowship with His people. We will have similar activities to previous years: services, music, recording a song, sports, Bible bowl, family activities and a variety show. Anyone who would like to organize a study or an activity is encouraged to do so. Meals will be prepared in our own kitchen. Anyone who would like to prepare a specialty dish for the group or bring the produce from their farm or garden is more than welcome.

The Feast of Tabernacles is a time to share our personal harvests, both physical and spiritual. We will rely on our and your gifts and offerings to pay for the food and room, as well as our and your spiritual gifts to edify one another.

The campus has numerous dormitory rooms available for singles (a shared bathroom on each floor), and some motel-like accommodations for couples and families. Tent and trailer spaces are also present with water, electricity and a nearby dump station. There are ample motels of varying price ranges one mile away in town.

Port Austin is located at the tip of the "thumb" of Michigan. The campus is about a mile south of Port Austin on M-53. The tall buildings are visible for miles around. It is about two and a half hours away from Detroit or a little over an hour away from Saginaw. If you want to be assured of a place to stay and food to eat, please notify us how many are coming as soon as practical. We need at least two weeks to be ready for you. For more information or to reserve a place, contact PASCC, PO Box 610, Port Austin, Michigan, USA 48467; 989-738-7700; info@see

-seal.com.

--Norman Edwards Church Bible Teaching Ministry snail: PO Box 107, Perry, Michigan 48872-0107

e-mail: info@cbtm.info tel:517-625-7480

#### **HEALTH INFORMATION**

Sent by Ken Anderson Central Point, Oregon

#### www.MakeMeYounger.com 1-800-645-888

- 1. "The Road to Recovery A Cancer Survivor's Story" CD & audio tape.
- 2. "Healing of a Healer" audio tape or CD, Dr. Ben Carson tells his story.
- 3. "Nutrition and Cancer" by Hyland, Glen MD audio tape.
- 4 "Cancer Who's Next?" Video & Book by Stan Lefkowitz.
- 5. "A Common Sense Approach to Optimal Health" CD & audio tape by Jeff Allen he tells his wife's story.
- 6. "Cancer Syllabus" Fisher Institute, www.FisherInstitute.org

Vol. 1, No. 1, Green "Proceedings of the Fisher Institute for Medical Research" Nov. 1997.

- 7. "The Cancer Video" Video by Dr. Reg McDaniel, M.D.
- 8. **GlycoScience.com** you can print out or send people to the web site to get the journal on cancer. There are 59 approved journals and 1 of them is on cancer.
- 9. Las Vegas Magazine reprint, On the back side, there is a story of a man's testimonial on cancer.
- 10. www.Glycostory.com/life, Then click on the tab "STORY" then click on "CANCER" 20 people have given the story.
- 11. "In Search of Manna" Book by M. Schlachter M.D. Page 75
- 12. "Sugars That Heal" Book by Emil Mondoa, M.D. Has over 31 pages with a Cancer reference.

- 13. "The Miracle in Aloe Vera, Polymannans" Book By DR. Neecie Moore. Pages 57-61 on Cancer
- 14. "Miracle Sugars" Book by Rita Elkins M.H. Pages 27 29 (Four Ways Glyconutrients Fight Cancer)

## PROVERBS WITH A PURPOSE...

#### Sent by Alfred Green Lakeside, Oregon

- 1. The best way to get even is to forget...
- 2. Feed your faith and your doubts will starve to death...
- 3. God wants spiritual fruit, not religious nuts...
- 4. Some folks wear their halos much too tight...
- 5. Some marriages are made in heaven, but they ALL have to be maintained on earth
- 6. Hurt people...Hurt people. (People who have been hurt, and not healed, Hurt other people)
- 7. Sorrow looks back, worry looks around, and faith looks up...
- 8. Standing in the middle of the road is dangerous. You will get knocked down by the traffic from both ways.
- 9. Words are windows to the heart.
- 10. A skeptic is a person who when he sees the handwriting on the wall, claims it's a forgery.
- 11. It isn't difficult to make a mountain out of a molehill, just add little dirt.
- 12. A successful marriage isn't finding the right person; it's being the right person.
- 13. The mighty oak tree was once a little nut that held its ground.
- 14. Too many people offer God prayers with claw marks all over them.
- 15. The tongue must be heavy, indeed, because so few people can hold it.
- 16. To forgive is to set the prisoner free and then discover the prisoner was you.
- 17. You have to wonder about humans, they think GOD is dead and Elvis is alive!
  18. It's all right to sit on your pity pot every now and again. Don't sit there long enough to get a ring and just be sure to flush when you are done.
- 19. You'll notice that a turtle only makes progress when it sticks out its neck...
- 20. If the grass is greener on the other side of the fence, you can bet the water bill is higher.
- 21. Some people's largest mark in life is their headstone.
- 22. By perseverance, the snail reached the ark.
- 23. A candle loses nothing by lighting

another candle.

- 24. The hardest things to do in life are the things I have to QUIT doing.
- 25. Adversity introduces us to ourselves.
- 26. The ears of barley that bare the richest grain always hang the lowest.
- 27. Even a butterfly gets it's wings wet occasionally and cannot fly.
- 28. Wherever I go, there I am.
- 29. Don't whine, but shine.
- 30. I have wasted a lot of time wishing for a better past. Not even God can change the past.
- 31. Everything makes sense from someone's point of view.
- 32. God loves me so much He accepts me where I am. He loves me too much too let me stay there.
- 33. Unless you can create the WHOLE universe in 5 days, Then perhaps giving "advice" to God, isn't such a good idea!
- 34. Never complain about what you permit.
- 35. What I am to know will come to me by no action on my part.
- 36. The power of positive pause.
- 37. The will of God will never lead me where the grace of God cannot keep me.
- 38. Sometimes God calms the storm and sometimes He calms the child.
- 39. The ones that love me the most, tell me the truth.
- 40. I don't have the power to ruin God's plan. His plans are always good. He would never take something away from His children that He dearly loves that He doesn't have plans of replacing with something even greater.

You are richer today if you have laughed, given, or forgiven. To have a friend, BE a friend.

### THE CALENDAR CRISIS AND THE WAY I SEE IT

by Phil Griffith Delight, Arkansas

In my opinion we have a limited number of options, and I do not consider my opinion of greater value than yours.

#1. We could completely rethink the Jewish Feast Day Issue as to whether or not they are required for salvation? I might mention that the format used for keeping these feast days as well as the Sabbath by the WCG has been the Catholic Church format, that being, an elect group making all decisions and speaking, and all others muzzled or facing the wrath of the Jesuits. It is my understanding that the NT format for fellowship is a gathering of equals in Christ, to mutual edification, not

bickering over issues that have no solutions and or possibly no relevance.

#2. We could decide that our Heavenly Father has asked us to do something that can't be done and just give up on Christ. I personally do not like this idea. Remember, Christ is not an option, He is our only Hope.

#3. We could abandon the idea of Jewish Feast Days and have Spring and Fall Festivals as some other groups do, or assemble together at the convenience of the group. I use the phrase, Jewish Feast Days, because many that observe these days feel that they have more in common with The Christ Rejecting Jewish Community than with other Christians.

#4. We could give the Elect Scholars the authority they seek to determine when and how these days should be kept; however this would be paramount to giving them the same authority claimed by the Catholic Church. How can we claim such authority and say the Catholic Church can't have that authority?

Comments: Is it reasonable to say we are doing what the scriptures teach, when we cannot find scriptures to tell us how to do it? We may deceive some that are as dumb as we were, but anyone with their head on straight is going to laugh at us. Do we want the fellowship of Christ filled only with dumb people?

If we carry this dialogue about the keeping of days too far, we might find ourselves in the realm of sun and moon worship and the priorities of Christ may get lost in the shuffle. Do we keep the feast days in order to create divisions in the congregation? Apparently none of these divisions can be totally supported scripturally, apparently, only supported by endless dialogue and rhetoric.

We are told that Christ's followers will be know by their love for one another. The scriptures don't say that Christ's followers will be known for their proper institutionalizing of activities determined by the physical sun and moon. Are we willing to give up unity in Christ for physical ordinances? I am not so naive as to think that most of you will not say yes, most seem more concerned with their power base in the physical realm, or the possibility of having a part in a physical power base and believe that may give them a place of superiority in Christ. I do not see it that way.

If something is wrong, it is wrong even if one person does it and it is also wrong if everyone does it. Numbers will not give us protection from being penalized for wrong priorities and mistreating other people. Just because seven or seventy thousand people agree

on something, doesn't mean that Christ is bound by our decisions. Christ is our Master; we are not Christ's masters. It is my opinion that this issue as well as D&R and many other issues may become issues of intellectual vanity that may become a form of idolatry.

You may find it difficult to consider me your equal, on the other hand, I may find it difficult to consider you my equal. This is only because we may not have learned proper respect for other people. We have been called out of a self-serving culture and ought not to bring this self-serving mentality into the fellowship of Christ. Shouldn't we be constantly on the alert seeking Christ's Glory and not our own Glory?

#### **CGOM CONFERENCE**

by Doyle Carter Tulsa, Oklahoma

On March 28-30 of 2004, the Church of God Outreach Ministries (CGOM) had their eighth conference in Tulsa, OK at the Tulsa Church of God church building. It was a three day conference to discuss the agendas and guidelines of this group.

On Friday night of March 28, the primary goal was to set up the schedule for the entire weekend. From 6pm to 8pm, it was time to fellowship and have dinner. Many members met for the first time that night and for that period of time were able to get to know one another. Then from 8pm to 9pm, Mr. Cruz, coordinator of the conference, presented the outline of the weekend.

On Sabbath morning, the Tulsa Church of God served a breakfast to the group and at 8:30am the morning session started with Mr. Cruz as chairman and coordinator for the day.

Just before the session topics were discussed, the members and Guests were requested to introduce themselves to the group. Among the members that attended were Mr. Justus and wife from Springdale, AR, Jeff Henderson from California, Steve Kieler, John Prescott, and others in the local areas and near by states. About 32 people attended the conference.

Various topics were discussed that morning such as how to best preach the Gospel to the world and what is the purpose of the CGOM.

What was unique about these sessions was that the group was divided into five individual groups for about one hour each session to discuss the topic at

hand and then each individual group appointed one of their members to present the ideas that their group had on the topic. This was a unique experience and allowed open discussion among the members, plus assisted in presenting new and fresh concepts that might not have been presented.

I will not state all the topics presented during the weekend, because this information can be retrieved from the CGOM newsletters and the website that they operate. The highlights of the conference were how to promote team work among independent churches, what is the definition of the CGOM, and how to spread the gospel to others in the world at large.

At 1pm on Sabbath of that weekend, church started with two hymns and then the prayer.

The first message was by Steve Kieler entitled "Take it Easy." Many people make various things in life and religion harder then they are such as Sabbath or Faith which means just "trust."

Then after this message and announcements, the Fellowship Choir directed by Pastor Ray Kurr preformed four songs. In the order that they were preformed, the songs were "Blessed and Happy", "All Hail, King Jesus", We Will Glorify", and "Majesty".

The final sermon was by Julian Cruz entitled "Purpose Driven Life" which was based on the book written by Rick Ward. The topic that he covered in the sermon was worship. He stated that your life should start with God: for God is the purpose of life and the reason why the entire creation exists.

After services, the Tulsa church of God sponsored a lunch/potluck for all who attended services and the fellowship was great. Over 100 people attended services and almost all stayed for this lunch.

I felt that it was a great experience to attend this conference and much was accomplished during the entire weekend.

#### A WORD FROM THE LORD

by Alfred Green Lakeside, Oregon

Rise up O' sleeping giant. Rise up and be affective to the ends, which I have called you. Rise up and stand in the gap, Rise up and "DO THE WORK."

Arise O' slumbering one and hear the word of The Lord. Be not complacent but become God's warriors.

Stand as the ARMY of God against

the deceivers.

I have freed you from the religious bondage of your past and have brought you into a land filled with blessings and with power.

I have freed you from the bondage of control and manipulation, Practiced in your time of bondage. (Egypt)

But you have said there is no God of power and of glory, I am not worthy of his blessings.

You have said God's voice frightens me, Place a king over us that we do not have to hear God's voice.

As I have told the patriarchs, I will tell you, It is your calling to "TAKE DOMINION OVER THE EARTH" It is your duty to "PREACH THE GOSPEL."

(Tell others of "THE WAY") It is your job to LAY HANDS ON the sick, To feed my flock, To feed my lambs, To feed my sheep.

If you truly LOVE me you will do these things without fear or hesitation.

Take up the sword of the Spirit (1Cor 12:7-11)

All are asleep and are fearful to awake and stand, The oil is available and is free.

All are fleeing from the WORD OF GOD, All have gone astray and sought comfort and rest. But I am calling you to do battle, and to be strong.

You are my ministers and my servants and my soldiers. Arm yourselves and stand for the battle is about to begin, And we are called to enter the fray.

Only those who are faithful will survive and overcome the enemy's plan of destruction, all are called to the battle, Those who will not fight will be the first casualties in this end time war.

O' My little children, do not fear the Lord of hosts is your rear Guard, and your might.

Go forward and be strong for I am with you to lead and to comfort and to heal you.

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Questions Section--Send your Questions Biblical to anonymously. We do not need to know your name for this section, no name's will be printed in this section, only the question and the answer. Questions submitted should be 50 words or less. Please send your questions to us snail mail at: Darwin & Laura Lee, PO Box 2333, Bismarck, ND 58502 (Make sure you identify your correspondence writina by "Questions Section" on your letter someplace where we will see it.) or email your questions to: **Questions-Section-Darwin-**Laura@Juno.com

#### **QUESTION #15**

If a murderer is <u>not</u> going to make it to heaven, you and I who have been breaking the 4<sup>th</sup> Commandment all our lives certainly are <u>not</u> going to heaven, is that correct?

No one is going to heaven. No one is in heaven, that is no one that was a man except Jesus the Christ. The subject of Heaven and Hell is also a long one. The Bible speaks of resurrections and the Kingdom of God which will be on earth. When Christ returns to earth for the second time, this is what happens:

- Thessalonians 4:16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:
- Thessalonians 4:17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

This is not speaking of a rapture where the elect will be taken up to heaven. Other scriptures show the 1000 year millennium will take place on earth.

Revelation 20:9 is a scene which takes place at the end of the 1000 years:

Revelation 20:9 And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.

In other words, Christ and his elect

will rule on earth for a thousand years when Christ returns.

The rest of the dead (those that were not part of the first resurrection Rev. 20:4-6) are resurrected to physical life.

- PRevelation 20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.
- Revelation 20:5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.
- ➤ Revelation 20:6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

The rest are given a period of time of judgment for their one and only chance to salvation Rev. 20:12-13.

- Revelation 20:12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.
- Revelation 20:13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

All those in this time period of judgment who refuse to keep the Sabbath or any one of God's laws are cast into the lake of fire, Rev. 20:15; Rev. 22:14-15.

- Revelation 20:15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.
- Revelation 22:14 Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.
- Revelation 22:15 For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.

Sunday rest and worship instead of the 7<sup>th</sup> day Sabbath is loving and practicing a lie that has been foisted upon the masses who claim to be Christian.

Answered by: Darwin Lee Bismarck, North Dakota

#### **QUESTION #16**

Why do you follow the clean and unclean meat law when Peter was on the roof and was instructed to eat because everything God made is good?

Read Leviticus 11, the whole chapter. God clearly spells out what meats are to be eaten and which ones are not to be eaten. It is part of the Law of God.

If you research some of the animals which are commonly eaten today, such as Pig (pork), you will find that Pigs are garbage eaters and the meat from Pigs is known to cause cancer, however people eat it anyway. God says don't eat it. Snails and Shell Fish are garbage eaters and they cause people to become sick and there are many cases reported yearly where people died from eating them. God says don't eat them. This is a command from God for our own good.

You don't give me a scripture in your letter so I had to guess which one you are using. In this case it wasn't too hard to figure out because it's the one that most people go to, to say that all meat is good to eat. Read the following in context paying attention to my highlighted areas. Back in those days a Jewish person dare not be seen even speaking to a gentile. God is showing Peter that a Gentile should not be looked at as unclean and that it is okay to speak to them. Remember Gentiles are to be grafted in. This is about the grafting in process. Peter was in a trance, so we are talking about a vision from God here. After the trance. Peter is pretty clear on explaining what this vision was about. The vision had nothing to do with animals, but was to show him that Gentiles could now be grafted in, and become spiritual Jews. The vision is the underlined part.

- \* Acts 10: 9. On the morrow, as they went on their journey, and drew nigh unto the city, Peter went up upon the housetop to pray about the sixth hour:
- \* 10. And he became very hungry, and would have eaten: but while they made ready, he fell into a trance,
- \* 11. And saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending unto him, as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth:
- \* 12. Wherein were all manner of fourfooted beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls

- of the air.
- \* 13. And there came a voice to him, Rise, Peter; kill, and eat.
- \* 14. <u>But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean.</u>
- \* 15. And the voice spake unto him again the second time, What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common.
- \* 16. This was done thrice: and the vessel was received up again into heaven.
- \* 17. Now while Peter doubted in himself what this vision which he had seen should mean, behold, the men which were sent from Cornelius had made inquiry for Simon's house, and stood before the gate,
- ★ 18. And called, and asked whether Simon, which was surnamed Peter, were lodged there.
- \* 19. While Peter thought on the vision, the Spirit said unto him, Behold, three men seek thee.
- \* 20. Arise therefore, and get thee down, and go with them, doubting nothing: for I have sent them.
- ★ 21. Then Peter went down to the men which were sent unto him from Cornelius; and said, Behold, I am he whom ye seek: what is the cause wherefore ye are come?
- ★ 22. And they said, Cornelius the centurion, a just man, and one that feareth God, and of good report among all the nation of the Jews, was warned from God by an holy angel to send for thee into his house, and to hear words of thee.
- \* 23. Then called he them in, and lodged them. And on the morrow Peter went away with them, and certain brethren from Joppa accompanied him.
- \* 24. And the morrow after they entered into Caesarea. And Cornelius waited for them, and had called together his kinsmen and near friends.
- ★ 25. And as Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him, and fell down at his feet, and worshipped him.
- \* 26. But Peter took him up, saying, Stand up; I myself also am a man.
- \* 27. And as he talked with him, he went in, and found many that were come together.
- \* 28. And he (Peter) said unto them, Ye know how that it is an unlawful thing for a man that is a Jew to keep company, or come unto one of another nation; but God hath shewed me that I should not call any man common or unclean.
- \* 29. Therefore came I unto you without gainsaying, as soon as I was

- sent for: I ask therefore for what intent ye have sent for me?
- \* 30. And Cornelius said, Four days ago I was fasting until this hour; and at the ninth hour I prayed in my house, and, behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing,
- \* 31. And said, Cornelius, thy prayer is heard, and thine alms are had in remembrance in the sight of God.
- \* 32. Send therefore to Joppa, and call hither Simon, whose surname is Peter; he is lodged in the house of one Simon a tanner by the sea side: who, when he cometh, shall speak unto thee.
- \* 33. Immediately therefore I sent to thee; and thou hast well done that thou art come. Now therefore are we all here present before God, to hear all things that are commanded thee of God.
- \* 34. Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:
- \* 35. But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.
- \* 36. The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all:)
- \* 37. That word, I say, ye know, which was published throughout all Judaea, and began from Galilee, after the baptism which John preached;
- \* 38. How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.
- \* 39. And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree:
- ★ 40. Him God raised up the third day, and shewed him openly;
- \* 41. Not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before of God, even to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead.
- \* 42. And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead.
- \* 43. To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.
- \* 44. While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.
- \* 45. And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because

### that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.

- \* 46. For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter,
- \* 47. Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?
- \* 48. And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.

Cornelius and his family were gentiles, who as they repented were grafted in. These scriptures have absolutely nothing to do with abolishing the clean and unclean meat laws as commanded in Leviticus 11. We here as we understood this all gave up the eating of Pork Chops and Ham. You can buy very good beef bacon in most area of this country and if one needs ham, there is Turkey Ham, which is pretty close in texture. It's not that bad and when one observes the clean and unclean meat laws, one is far healthier by far in the long run.

Answered by: Laura Lee Bismarck, North Dakota

The ultimate
goal of true
Christians is
to live a life so
rich in love
that their
names in the
heavenly
Book of Life
are written in
bold.

by Alan Ruth Farmington Hills, Michigan

**LETTERS SECTION--**This section can contain letters to the editor, to the brethren, or from the editor. Please keep in mind while reading these letters, that just because we print them does not mean that we agree with everything people say in these letters. Letters many times are filled with opinion and emotion and sometimes factual and unfactual information. This section is interactive. If you agree or disagree with a letter or an article in this newsletter and want others to know, this is the section for you. Send your letters to: Newsletter-Only-Darwin-Laura@Juno.com We do not print all letters that we

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Letter Received: April 21, 2004

receive.

Subject: SAME SEX "MARRIAGE", OPEN LETTER TO **UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS** 

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by Jeffrey Caldwell Cupertino, California

Marriage since ancient times is a solemn sacred bond between a man and a woman. Its vows are public and fraught with religious implications -- the ceremony usually performed, in this country, by a Christian minister.

Marriage is a divinely ordained covenant much older than any human government. For any governmental entity in this country to decree that a 'committed homosexual relationship' is "marriage" is a severe governmental infringement of our historic Christian religion.

For any human society to presume to "redefine" this ancient divinely ordained heterosexual covenant as including homosexuality delights those who favor homosexuality while despising Scriptural basis of ancient values of marriage and family and gaily influence society to despise it -- agitating to set up a competing government institution perversely contrary to that basis, deceptively billed as equal to it and bearing the same name: "marriage"!

National governments in Denmark and Scandinavia instituted homosexual "marriage" some years ago. Results: relatively few homosexuals get "married" and more heterosexual couples don't bother to get married. More women have children out of wedlock. Governmental institution of "gay marriage" devalues marriage itself, helping those who hate marriage.

If you want God to bless America -and yourself -- don't make a mockery of His ancient sanctification of marriage as a heterosexual covenant by sanctioning a governmental institution of "gay marriage" that is merely a modern counterfeit! Defining "marriage" is His right, not yours! Mere human sanctions cannot begin to equal His sanctification!

Letter Received:
April 23, 2004

Subject: IN REGARD TO
QUESTIONS

by Kenneth Anibuisi
Nigeria

The page of Jesus

Greetings in the name of Jesus, Some of the articles I included in my last mail before this most recent one did not appear in your newsletter. Not all of my questions were attended to, like sword, purse and bag. If you didn't receive it please tell me so that I can send it in for print.

#### **Editors Note:**

We have received your questions. We have a limited amount of space in which to print "Questions & Answers". Due to the limited amount of space and the fact that we have received questions from others also, it may be awhile before your question and your answer appear in this newsletter. It will eventually get answered. Laura Lee

Letter Received:
April 24, 2004

Subject: "WHEN IS
PENTECOST?"

by Jeffrey Caldwell
Cupertino, California

Jeffrey is responding to my responses to a letter he wrote which was printed in Issue #20 of this newsletter.

#### Jeffrey writes:

Dear Laura,

You make much of my saying "I think I saw reference to the idea"! I think we agree that Christ is not a Pharisee, regardless of any intersection between his doctrine and theirs.

#### Darwin writes:

If you know that we agree with you that Christ is not a Pharisee, then why make reference to such a statement when nothing of the like was said? We comment on statements we see as being out of context, because we strive to inform our readers, not confuse them.

#### Laura writes:

Your reference to Christ being a Pharisee was only mentioned by me as many times as you, yourself brought it up in your letter of December 31, 2003, which was printed in Issue #20 on page 10. Yes it does appear that we both agree that Christ was not a Pharisee.

#### Jeffrey writes:

But you seem to be saving that the Pharisees controlled temple practice in New Testament times and that Christ and his disciples conformed to the Pharisees' "always Sivan 6" Pentecost, regardless of the day of the week. I'm sincerely unwilling to rely on your extra-biblical references that "prove" the Pharisees controlled the temple and mandated for the masses an "always Sivan 6" Pentecost as the standard for temple worship.

#### Laura writes:

Yes, I am saying that the Pharisees controlled temple practice in New Testament times. You do not have to believe anything that I say. I only referred you to the article "Who Were the Pharisees and the Sadducees?" by Bryan T. Huie (Issue #18) to read because Bryan gave his sources for what he wrote about in the article. If you do not like Bryan T. Huie's historical sources, then I suggest that you do your own study on the subject from scratch.

As I tried to tell you before the Sadducees did not even believe in a resurrection, and yet you seem to want to follow them, rather than to follow Christ who clearly said:

- ⇒ Matthew 23:1 Then spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples,
- ⇒ Matthew 23:2 Saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat:

⇒ Matthew 23:3 All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not.

So yes, we do believe that Christ kept Sivan 6 on what ever day of the week it fell, just like the Pharisees did. After all Christ certainly seems to have given them the authority to tell people what to observe and what to do as they read from the law of God. Moses seat was the seat of authority in the temple as it was where the law of God was read from.

#### Jeffrey writes:

I'm aware of Paul's exploiting the differences between the Sadducees and Pharisees on the resurrection, since the New Testament plainly speaks of it. But I haven't noticed the New Testament plainly saying who controlled temple practice --nor how, precisely, "the calendar" was reckoned. The words "Sivan 6", I'm sure you agree, are not mentioned there with regards to Pentecost.

#### Laura writes:

Again according to Matthew 23:1-3, Christ himself told the disciples and the multitudes who to listen to as the authority in regard to the law of God. What Christ warned the disciples and the multitudes not to follow the Scribes and Pharisees in was their (the Scribes and Pharisees) own works (in other words those things which they made up of their own thoughts such as heavy burdens they bound on the people etc.).

In Leviticus 23, God very clearly tells us on what days of the year to keep the Holy Days. So I would assume the calendar was precise. Why would Christ tell the disciples and the multitudes to follow the Scribes and Pharisees as they followed God if they were keeping different holy days than God ordained? God after all is not going to break his own law nor will he be found telling others to break his own law.

The month of Sivan is only mentioned one time in the whole Bible and that is in the book of Esther, chapter 8 and verse 9, where it is definitely said to be the 3<sup>rd</sup> month of the year. Since they even list days of Sivan in this verse, I would assume that they had a calendar which was just as precise as ours is reckoned today.

I am sure that you would probably agree that Pentecost does fall in the month of Sivan, you just don't believe it always falls on Sivan 6. There is however no place in the entire Bible where it is

stated that even the month of Sivan is the month that Pentecost falls in. If the word Sivan is not ever used in the same set of verses when speaking of Pentecost, does this invalidate the fact that Pentecost does fall in the month of Sivan, the third month?

#### Jeffrey writes:

It seems to me that Christians worshipped at the temple on the same "holy days" as the masses. You seem to support that concept, but say those days were determined by the Pharisees, as in the case of an "always Sivan 6" Pentecost, regardless of what the Sadducees believed. I suppose you know there are those who argue that an "always Sivan 6" Pentecost won out in Jewish belief over the last 2000 years in part because Christians -- hated Christians -- historically did not adhere to such a practice.

#### Laura writes:

It looks to me like Christ told the masses to follow the Scribes and Pharisees as they taught from the law of God (Matthew 23: 1-3).

In Matthew 22:23 we find Matthew recording that the Sadducees who came to Christ asking questions, did not believe in a resurrection. Matthew 22:23 The same day came to him the Sadducees, which say that there is no resurrection, and asked him....

Do you even understand the implications of such a statement being recorded? If a person does not believe in a resurrection then they also do not believe that Christ was ever resurrected. With out a resurrection we are all lost and there is no Christ.

Instead of listening to the arguments of others, do some in depth research of your own in regard to this subject.

#### Jeffrey writes:

You say the Sadducees had a method of counting to Pentecost which most of the WCG tradition adheres to [which doesn't always lead to Sivan 6] ... but you say the Pharisees actually determined the dates of the holy days in the practice of the temple in New Testament times -- even though you say the Sadducees had higher authority in the temple. Your "authority" for asserting the primacy of an always Sivan 6 Pentecost is what I frankly suspect to be "party-spirit" influenced 'history' spread by those seeking to carve out a calendric following. I could be wrong -- but how reliable, really, are your 'history' sources?

#### Laura writes:

If in deed you were taking the time to read what people actually say rather than to misquote them much of the time, perhaps you wouldn't get so upset where you feel you have to accuse people of having a party-spirit or needing a calendric following.

Let's set the record straight. Darwin and I have never said you or anyone else must agree with our conclusions on any matter and that includes the Holy Days and the Calendar. What we tell people is to study these matters for themselves. However that mostly falls on deaf ears, because research takes up a lot of time that most people would rather spend watching TV, boating, swimming, skating or generally just spending for their own gratification.

We have based our conclusions in regard to Holy Day Dates and Calendar Issues totally on what the scriptures say and generally use very little historical information for anything except as it backs up the scripture. If you were reading this newsletter, you would know how much scriptural evidence we have presented on any number of issues.

In regard to the Sadducees, I said they held the high positions, I did not say they were in authority. For the most part the historical evidence shows that the Sadducees bought their way into the high positions, similar to how politicians do it in our day and age. In other words they are yes men in accordance to who paid their way into office.

Many people who are of a Worldwide Church of God background, understand that they keep Passover and Pentecost according to the method of the Sadducees. Similar to how many people understand that Christmas and Easter are Pagan holidays, but keep them anyway.

**TO BE CONTINUED IN ISSUE #24** 

The only two methods
by which the greater
church of God will
finally get together
to preach the gospel
is either during a
Tribulation or by
Medication!

by Alan Ruth
Farmington Hills, Michigan

This letter is continued from Issue #22, pages 11 & 12.

#### **Carol writes:**

Inconsistency #5: <u>You say</u>: that the meal was eaten and the death angel "passed over" on the night of the 15<sup>th</sup>, and they left the day of the 15<sup>th</sup>.

God says: Num. 33:3 "they departed ...on the **morrow after** Passover."

You placed the events that actually put the meaning into the 1<sup>st</sup> Passover to occur the <u>day after</u>. God does not. Again, Ex. 12:42; Deut. 16:1; God says they went out **in the night** of the 15<sup>th</sup>. Think about it, Laura, if the death angel "passed over" on the 15th then why does God name the 14<sup>th</sup> the Passover, as you acknowledge????

#### Laura writes:

We have already covered this territory so all I will say here, is that God names the Passover sacrifice to occur on the 14<sup>th</sup> at even. Exodus 12:6. The Hebrew word "ben ha arbayim" was translated in English as the word "even", which in English does not do justice to the original Hebrew word. This pivotal understanding shows us that the meal was to be eaten at sunset at the end of the 14<sup>th</sup> and not at the beginning of the 14<sup>th</sup>.

The death angel passed over on the same night that they ate the Passover Lamb. Since the sacrifice occurred on the latter part of the 14<sup>th</sup>, they would not have had the blood to daub on the door posts until after the sacrifice. The whole reason for daubing the blood on the door posts, was so the death angel would pass over without killing anyone. Since the meal was eaten at the very beginning of the 15<sup>th</sup>, that would then mean that the death angel passed over on the 15<sup>th</sup> at midnight (Exodus 12:29).

To quote directly from you, you say, "God says they went out in the night of the 15<sup>th</sup>." Yet I can't find any proof of that in the scriptures that you used.

Numbers 33:3 And they departed from Rameses in the first month, on the fifteenth day of the first month; on the morrow after the passover the children of Israel went out with an high hand in the sight of all the Egyptians.

Numbers 33:3 only says that they left Rameses (Not Egypt), on the morrow after the Passover. For example, I might say on Friday night, that tomorrow we have services at 10:30AM. On Saturday at 10:30AM, it is now the morrow after Friday night. If I say I left Bismarck, it does not mean I have yet left North Dakota. Just like when you leave St. Joseph it does not mean you have left Minnesota.

Ex. 12:42 and Deut. 16:1 were already covered in Issue #22 on page 12.

#### **Carol writes:**

Inconsistency #6: <u>You say</u>: you clearly see the Passover is the 15<sup>th</sup>.

God says: the Passover is  $\mathbf{ON}$  the  $14^{th}$ . (Lev. 23:4-5; Num. 9:2-3).

#### Laura writes:

- Leviticus 23:4 These are the feasts of the Lord, even holy convocations, which ye shall proclaim in their seasons.
- Leviticus 23:5 In the fourteenth day of the first month at even is the Lord's passover.

The word even in Lev. 23:5 is in Hebrew "ben ha arbayim", showing us that the Passover Sacrifice was at the end of the 14<sup>th</sup> and not at the beginning.

- Numbers 9:2 Let the children of Israel also keep the passover at his appointed season.
- Numbers 9:3 In the fourteenth day of this month, at even, ye shall keep it in his appointed season: according to all the rites of it, and according to all the ceremonies thereof, shall ye keep it.

The word even in Num. 9:3 is in Hebrew "ben ha arbayim", showing us that the Passover Sacrifice was at the end of the 14<sup>th</sup> and not at the beginning.

#### Carol writes:

Inconsistency #7: <u>You say</u>: your prayer would be that all people quit following men and study scriptures for themselves. Correctly so. But then you finish by listing several articles written by men encouraging me to study what men write. Which is it, Laura? Scriptures or men's writings?

God says: Is. 3:12, "...those who lead you cause you to err and destroy the way of your paths." Is. 41:29, "Their works are nothing; their molded images are wind and confusion." Men's reasoning's on this age-long controversy of the 14<sup>th</sup> vs. the 15<sup>th</sup> is a very good example of the confusion men cause. God makes it

simple, but men have to get into picky, confusing, man-made ideas, to cloud the issue and end in defying God's simple basic instructions. Why? They are carnal and rebellious and unwilling to be taught Truth. Or could it be they would rather continue to live in error than admit they've been wrong??

#### Laura writes:

Carol, I didn't tell you to follow any men. I simply said that if you would truly want to study Passover and Pentecost that there were some other articles you might want to read/study and then I listed them.

If I want to learn about something, such as beading with very small beads. I will educate myself. I will read everything and anything in regard to the subject until I am able to do it and do it right. It doesn't matter who wrote what I read in regard to the subject, what matters is am I learning how to do it and do it right?

The same principal applies to the study of Passover and Pentecost. I can see that you are not only unwilling to study the subject on your own, but you also seem to believe yourself to be an expert on the subject.

In this newsletter, you are being used to teach just the opposite of what your arguments portray as your arguments for an early 14<sup>th</sup> Passover are very weak. Everything which you speak for the most part shows your lack of self education on the subject and your attitude portrays an unwillingness to even look into the matters being presented to you.

On the one hand you accuse me of following men or leading others to follow men. However the bottom line is that during our lifetime, Herbert W. Armstrong to my knowledge is the only one who ever taught Passover and Pentecost in the manner that you keep them. Herbert W. Armstrong is only a man and you and many others have followed him right in to error in some areas and then teach this error to others.

All of our newsletters are now on our web site, so I won't know whether you read any of those articles. If you have a willingness to learn what God wants you to learn you will be reading whatever you can get your hands on and that does not just include those things we have printed but other peoples stuff as well and you will be really digging into the original languages of the Bible.

#### Carol writes:

Inconsistency #8: You say: Num. 9:2-3 "at its appointed time" is speaking about a Holy Day and HWA taught that

Passover was not a Holy Day. Are you then implying that **God** is confused here???

God says: "Let the children of Israel keep the Passover at its appointed time. ...on the 14th day of this month, at twilight, you shall keep it at it's appointed time." Whether you or HWA think it's a Holy Day or not - you ARE to keep it at its appointed time, **God says so!** But, incidentally, you did call Passover a Holy Day in your ending summary of your response.

#### Laura writes:

God is definitely not confused, only those who do not understand are confused. God himself calls Passover a Holy Day in Leviticus 23:4-5. See Leviticus 23:1 to see who is speaking.

- Leviticus 23:4 These are the feasts of the Lord, even holy convocations, which ye shall proclaim in their seasons.
- Leviticus 23:5 In the fourteenth day of the first month at even (ben ha arbayim) is the Lord's passover.

#### Carol writes:

Inconsistency #9: <u>You say</u>: it would be my opinion to state that it is a biblical error to keep Passover into the 15<sup>th</sup>.

God says: Lev. 23:4-5, "ON the 14<sup>th</sup> day of the first month AT twilight is the Lord's Passover". Is it my "opinion" or God's command, Laura???

You know, Laura, all of this aside, you do acknowledge that Christ died at 3:00 p.m. on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Therefore, He must have eaten the Passover meal the beginning of the 14<sup>th</sup> with His disciples. But you *choose* to commemorate (when you think it occurs") the death and eating of the ancient physical lambs *rather than* your Savior's. How do you account for that??

#### Laura writes:

If there is a scripture someplace in the Bible where Christ told people that they should change the day of Passover from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup>, I am not aware of it.

Stop and think very deeply for a moment Carol. If you were dead would you be able to eat anything? Christ ate the Passover meal with his disciples the early part of the 14<sup>th</sup> the year he was crucified, because he needed to introduce the new symbols of the bread, the wine and the foot washing before he died. If you check your concordance, you will find that, that early Passover meal was eaten with leavened bread. Other years Christ kept the Passover at the same time as most everyone else kept it in Jerusalem. Look

the following scripture up and read it in context:

• Luke 2:41 Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the passover.

The following scripture may help you with the timing of Passover, if you are going to believe what scripture says:

© Luke 22:1 Now the feast of unleavened bread drew nigh, which is called the Passover.

As you can see the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread are one and the same Holy Day(s).

Christ did keep the Passover perfectly the year he was crucified and right on time. He was killed on the latter part of the 14<sup>th</sup> right along with and on time with the Passover Lambs. The Passover Lambs were always killed on the "Preparation Day". The preparation day always occurs before a Holy Day, whether it be weekly as in the Sabbath or Yearly as in the annual Holy Days. Read these scriptures in context in regard to the preparation day: Matthew 27:62 Mark 15:42 Luke 23:54 and John 19:42.

The following two scriptures if read in context prove that Christ was crucified on the preparation day which occurs before the Passover.

- John 19:14 And it was the preparation of the passover, and about the sixth hour: and he saith unto the Jews, Behold your King!
- O John 19:31 The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day, (for that sabbath day was an high day,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away

#### Carol writes:

Inconsistency #10: <u>You say</u>: you keep Pentecost on Sivan 6.

God says: To count. Notice in Lev. 23:16, "Count 50 days to the day after the 7<sup>th</sup> Sabbath;" In order for one to count "to" a day, implies you are to count to when it begins-in this case it is Sunday, the day after the 7<sup>th</sup> Sabbath. It will be held on a different Sunday every year. In other words, it is not on a God-set-date as Passover and the Holy Days. Don't try to cloud the issue with HWA's date changes; do what God says. Don't use the method of counting men devised, count to an appointed day and keep it on it, don't wait until its over, do what God says.

#### Laura writes:

In Lev. 23:16, it says nothing about

counting from Sunday to Sunday or from the day after Saturday, which would be Sunday. Pentecost is known in the Old Testament as the Feast of Weeks: Exodus 34:22, Deuteronomy 16:10, Deuteronomy 16:16, and 2 Chronicles 8:13.

The word Sabbath in Lev. 23:16 is Strong's #7676 and can mean "week".

**Shabbath** (shab-bawth'); Noun, Strong #:7676 and can mean the following: Sabbath, day of atonement, sabbath year, **week**, produce (in sabbath year)

So what Lev. 23:16 says is to count 7 weeks which in days equals 49 days and then on the morrow after these 7 weeks or 49 days is the 50<sup>th</sup> day. Which gives you Pentecost or Sivan 6.

 Leviticus 23:16 Even unto the morrow after the seventh sabbath (week) shall ye number fifty days; and ye shall offer a new meat offering unto the Lord.

The command on where to start your count for Pentecost is found in the following verse:

 Leviticus 23:15 And ye shall count unto you from the morrow after the sabbath, from the day that ye brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven sabbaths (weeks) shall be complete:

The Sabbath that is being spoken of is the Passover Day/First Day of Unleavened Bread, which is a Holy Day or a Sabbath. In Joshua 5:10-11 it shows them eating the corn of their new land on the day after the Passover, something they could not have done if the wave sheaf had not been done on the day after the Passover, which is a Sabbath Day.

- Soshua 5:10 And the children of Israel encamped in Gilgal, and kept the passover on the fourteenth day of the month at even in the plains of Jericho.
- Soshua 5:11 And they did eat of the old corn of the land on the morrow after the passover, unleavened cakes, and parched corn in the selfsame day.

#### Carol writes:

I firmly believe, Laura, if you would wipe clean those "cobwebs" from the scholars and those that led you into crooked places (Is. 42:16), and ask Christ to teach you, He will make it plain for you to see the simplicity in Christ, God's Word. Look to God to shepherd you and tenderly care for you and guide you into all Truth. (Eze. 34).

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

Laura@Juno.com

#### PERSECUTION ARTICLES

(This is the 1<sup>st</sup> in a series of articles in regard to the subject of persecution. If you have an article in regard to persecution, please send it for our consideration to print.)

#### **TAKING THE STAND!**

by David Ben-Ariel Toledo, Ohio

How well do you really know your Bible? Why was Jesus crucified? Because His Gospel was highly politicized. It had **EVERYTHING** to do with **GOVERNMENT!** God's people would do well to note that fact. His enemies accused Him of sedition. They distorted His Message to make it appear He was out to overthrow the government! (Jn. 19:12). They led the rulers to believe Jesus was a dangerous individual, a real threat to public order and national security (Jn. 11:48). Jesus had to be stopped! Both the political and religious authorities turned on Christ!

Why was Stephen murdered? Should he have just kept his opinions to himself? He BLASTED THE RELIGIOUS ESTABLISHMENT for their hypocrisy. Although he spoke the plain truth, they confused the issue by taking his words out of context. He undoubtedly did tell them that Jerusalem was going to fall and the Temple was about to be destroyed - just like Jesus prophesied - if they didn't quickly change course (Acts 6:8-15). He was arrested and brought before the

Sanhedrin (their religious court). They angrily condemned him to die for being so blunt (Acts 7).

I read the Book of Acts, making it much more meaningful and relevant, during my prison stay in Jerusalem. If you examine the evidence surrounding Paul's frequent arrests and imprisonments, you'll see a pattern of trumped up charges, misunderstandings and misguided zeal. It's a miracle that Paul didn't say "enough is enough" and quit. But God used him to provide for us a very human example, since we expect Jesus to act divine (I Tim. 1:16).

Many in jail proclaim their innocence, but GOD KNOWS that I was an innocent political prisoner! The leftist government in Israel was out to crush their opposition. As a Christian member of the Temple Mount Faithful, I represent all that the secular hate. I've been involved in many televised demonstrations to remind the government of its Biblical responsibilities. Whether they listen or not is between them and God.

#### Living by Faith

The Israeli settlers whom Gerald Flurry once condemned are putting their lives on the line! By living in *Eretz Israel* (the Land of Israel) they are exercising their faith in God's Word that promises the Holy Land to Israel, not Ishmael. How cowardly for Mr. Flurry to throw rocks at their faith when he sits safe in his comfortable office in democratic America. God help him (and all the other Church leaders) to wake up to this aspect of the Bible of which too many remain ignorant. Thankfully, from subsequent articles in The Philadelphia Trumpet it appears Mr. Flurry's understanding has improved.

God's people won't suffer prophesied **PERSECUTION** (not that we're seeking it) until we take a PUBLIC STAND on religious matters that have political ramifications, just like Jesus and the apostles and prophets! It's an artificial separation between politics and religion. **ONE** government has two God's branches: Church and State (Malachi 4:4-5). Spiritual issues are fought in the political arena of men's minds (II Cor. 10:4). Whether we recognize it or not, our Israelite nations are engaged in a cultural war. Unless we join the struggle, promoting the biblical platform that pierces through the mental fog, how can we expect to be in any position to help influence our nation's direction away from the precipice (Rom. 10:14)? God's Church has a superficial understanding when they fail to put God's truth into practice and

take political action (Jas. 2:14-17)!

I was arrested for a righteous reason. I'm closely associated with those who call for a return to Biblical values. We uphold God's Law as our true Constitution. We plead with Judah (and Joseph) to obey God and not men; to put their trust in Him and not fear the UN; to restore the Temple Mount as the Temple Mount! If the Jews fail to listen to this opportunity for restoration, they'll self-destruct, falling apart at the seams. Israel faces the growing threat of a civil war and European intervention!

#### Warning the Jews

My enemies (if you don't have any, God is your enemy), knowing that I've written that the mosques must go - the Dome of the Rock and Al-Aksa mosques have falsely accused me of being in a plot to destroy those beautiful abominations! It's the serpent up to his old tricks, telling half-truths and mixing it with outrageous lies. I did tell the GSS (Israel's Secret Police) that I was thankful for the opportunity to clear the air and answer any questions. I didn't want to incriminate myself in any way - and they did try to entrap me - but I also didn't want to deny Christ the opportunity to testify before them (Mk. 12:13).

All the while during my six and a half hours of interrogation, I prayed only to speak what God would have me to say; nothing more or less (Lk. 20:12-19). I did clearly warn them that the "peace" process is a trap; that it's about to blow up in their faces, and that a German-led Europe is going to wage a new crusade to enforce the Vatican's version of peace. Catholic Europe will backstab and betray both the Arabs and the Jews. They'll push for Jerusalem to become "an international city" (Zech. 14:2).

I maintained that the only explosives that I'm involved with is the BOMBSHELL I've written, Beyond Babylon: Europe's Rise and Fall. I continually referred them to it, stating that's where my beliefs are on public record (Jn. 18:20). (Later I gave them a computer disk with my book on it to assist their alleged investigation). I told them I know that Israel won't take God's warning seriously, any more than those Jews who spurned Jabotinsky's efforts to save them from Hitler. (Ze'ev Jabotinksy warned the Jews of Hitler's fury but they thought he was just crying wolf). Nevertheless, God will intervene and save us after our worst time of suffering, and every survivor in Jerusalem will be holy.

That whole ordeal brought my name,

and the fact that I've written a book, and that I'm a Sabbath-keeping Christian member of the Temple Mount Faithful, to Israel's attention (Philip. 1:12-14). It also increases my standing in the Jewish community who know I've been willing to suffer to help try to save Israel from itself, and that I'm not bitter, but still expect Israeli citizenship! I've proven that I'm not a fair-weather friend. I plan on standing by Judah's side, even when they fall because they've refused to take the necessary actions to insure "Never Again!" (Isa. 49:5; I Sam. 12:23). Those who reject me as too radical or as an extremist would reject anyone representing God and the Bible anyway since they disagree with its "dangerous ideas" (as the Israeli prosecutor accused me of having).

#### The Perilous Truth!

An unjust deportation order was served against me, but I was able to even use that to warn that **the Germans are going to deport them!** What servant of God hasn't been rejected? Wasn't Amos told to go back where he came from; that they didn't want to hear it anymore? (Amos 7:10-17). He was also accused of being involved in a conspiracy against the State. He sounded like a fanatic, just another religious nut (to those who aren't familiar with God's voice), saying the "president" was going to be killed and the people deported!

The prophet Jeremiah wasn't too popular when he got the people all riled up. They took him to court and said he deserved **THE DEATH PENALTY!** Why? He told them that God's Temple would soon be history and Jerusalem a ghost-town! He was acquitted at the time but later thrown in jail as a **TRAITOR** (Jer. 26).

After some time he was released, but when he kept up with his "doomsday message," and wouldn't shut up, certain innocent actions were misconstrued to arrest Jeremiah again! This time the politicians had had enough with his obsession and ruffed him up before they threw him into the dungeon (Jer. 37:12-16). Not content to let him rot in jail, the prosecution wanted to see Jeremiah SENTENCED TO DEATH FOR HIS **DEMORALIZING EFFECT UPON THE** PEOPLE! His political rivals were out for blood! (Jer. 38:4). They were full of hate and anger and lies, saying Jeremiah didn't have the people's best interests at heart, but was rather damaging the State; undermining national security.

Can you relate to Jeremiah? How close do you feel to these spiritual kin?

Were they supermen or just ordinary, every day people whom God had made extraordinary? (Acts 3:12). I know that humanly they were as weak as we are, and made of the same flesh and blood (II Cor. 4:7; Jas. 5:17). **THEY WERE ONLY HUMAN** - but they had what it takes and so do we: *God's Holy Spirit!* 

God isn't a liar. I can testify to His truth. During my interrogation by Israel's secret service, I was completely confident that God was in control; that nothing could happen without His express permission! I knew beyond any shadow of a doubt that I stood before God the Father and Jesus Christ. I felt confident that as I stood up for God's truth, Christ would stand up for me just as surely as He did for our brother Stephen. Knowing that their very breath was in God's hands, their attempt to intimidate me actually amused me (Jn. 19:11). If God declares that all nations put together are still less than some dust on the scales, who were these little men something in their imaginations? (Isa. 40:15). Coincidently, I happened to be wearing one of those "No Fear" tee shirts!

#### Time's Running Out!

Why do the nations rage? Because they vent Satan's wrath! THE DRAGON'S ABOUT TO UNLEASH HIS FULL FURY! When he breathes his fire, it'll reveal what we're all about (I Cor. 3:13). God is going to use Satan's persecution to further His own goal: the creation of holy, righteous character. The good news is that we are becoming more refined, getting the finishing touch just before Jesus shows up on time (Dan. 11:35; 12:10). The Bride will be ready (Rev. 19:7). Persecution will unite us spiritually even if it divides us from one another physically.

Satan - in a jealous rage - is out to wreck our marriage. He wants to destroy our personal relationship with Christ. He hates the Royal Family of God! The Devil knows that his days are numbered and that we're instrumental in his overthrow. That's why he's targeted us. His ministers of Church and State will mark us for destruction, but God will rescue His Damsel from distress and carry us off to safety (Rev. 12).

God's Church must come out of the closet! And I'm confident that individuals will (Philip. 1:14). God's people are going to be well known. Our timely message of warning and hope will be heard everywhere. I'm sure God's scattered saints, empowered by His Spirit, will repent of our family feud and face the nations. We'll bring Beyond Babylon:

Europe's Rise and Fall to light, since it boldly proclaims GOD'S FINAL WARNING like no other. It'll become a household word (Ezek. 33:30). As a direct result of this controversial work, some of our brethren are going to get arrested, others will get beaten up, and a few will even lose their lives - BEFORE it gets so bad that God must get us out (Ex. 5:23; Lk. 21:20).

The nations only hasten God's judgment upon themselves, digging their own graves, when they persecute us. Why should they be so hateful? We're only delivering God's message of mercy that enables them to save themselves. We're only offering them good news! We're trying to protect them from an international disaster! But like Jesus, and the Two Witnesses, ours is a *thankless* task!

But should we guit and say to hell with them? No! We must continue to offer a way out even if they choose to stay trapped inside their sins. Everybody will be without an excuse. It's better to be safe than sorry. Maybe a few more will manage to escape in time (Amos 3:12; Isa. 49:24). Jeremiah didn't stop working until Jerusalem fell, and even then he kept on but shifted his emphasis to Israel's restoration! Likewise, the Two Witnesses will start out warning about the Germandominated Europe and after the war starts will comfort our captive nations with the GOOD NEWS that our NATIONAL **DELIVERER** will come and save us and reverse the roles and turn the tables on our enemies!

#### **Bold as Lions**

In 1995, on the Last Great Day, I was ARRESTED ON THE TEMPLE MOUNT. Why? For reading my Bible! (The Jerusalem Post reported my arrest, as well as publishing a letter from me about the experience; the Root and Branch Association also published an article about it). That puts me in with some pretty good company, though, because all the apostles were arrested there too! Their only "crime" was teaching God's truth (Acts 5:17-29).

The religious authorities hounded them for calling a spade a spade, indicting them for Jesus' murder. Instead of just going away and shutting up, case closed, they publicly kept Christ's "wounds" open. But what did they do to have such nerve? Earlier, on another occasion, Peter and John were the first to get arrested on the Temple Mount (Acts 4). They explained their situation to the brethren who immediately took it to God in heartfelt prayer. They appealed to the Supreme

Court of Heaven to take note of their threatening environment. They made an urgent appeal for spiritual reinforcements! They confronted their problem head on and specifically asked God to back up His message with miracles - which He gladly did. God gave them the courage to proclaim their convictions. Instead of getting beaten into silence, they became all the more bold! (Prov. 28:1). They didn't shirk their responsibilities or go run and hide. Even Paul agreed that nothing but trouble waited for him wherever he went. but he was still determined to go ahead with his travel plans, his inspired itinerary (Acts 20:23).

Are you ready to take a public stand for God's truth? Are you ready to pray for each other, as if your lives depended on it? Because they do! I'm anxious to return to Jerusalem, where I'm known by the authorities, to continue to demonstrate my love for Zion with the Temple Mount Faithful - even if it ultimately means death my imprisonment (Acts 21:13).

I've had friends express concern that I could get killed for speaking out. But I refuse to be deterred from the Work that God has called me to do by personal sins or weaknesses, angry Jews or irate Arabs, incensed Christians or petty politicians! How about you? Won't you do what you can to help promote God's truth as contained within Beyond Babylon? Such truths must get published in Israel.

If someone knows another book that makes the biblical good news/bad news plain to the general public, clearly expounding upon the Word of God, I'd like to know about and support it! This type of Work requires an "inside job" (Joel 2:1-15). What has happened to me, as a representative of God's Truth/Church in the Middle East, presents a CHALLENGE and an **OPPORTUNITY** for the brethren. Those privileged few who take part in God's Work of physical preparation for Christ's Coming are being prepared spiritually for Jesus' Return. Show your support for Jerusalem. God has a special message for the Jews (Isa. 40:9). Let's make sure that it gets delivered!

> **COMING IN ISSUE #24:** Topic of Martyrdom -- by Doyle Carter

**COMING IN ISSUE #25: Persecution of Thomas Cranmer** --by Wily Elder

### $oldsymbol{\phi}$ WHAT ARE WE TO INHERIT?

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by Doyle Carter Tulsa, Oklahoma

In Rom. 8:15-17, Paul states, "For you have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but have received the Spirit of adoption [Greek word can be translated as Sonship], whereby we cry, Abba, Father and if children, then heirs [the Greek word for "Heir" means "sharer by lots or an inheritor."]: heirs of God, and joint-heirs [the Greek word for "joint-heir" means "heir together or heir with."] with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be glorified together." What are we to inherit with Christ? These verses tell us that we are to be the heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, Let's see what the Bible tells us on this topic.

Again Paul expresses this idea in Galatians 4:5-7 which states, "To redeem them [the people who are in the world] that were under the law, that WE might receive the adoption of sons. Wherefore you are no more servants, but a SON; and if a SON, then AN HEIR OF GOD THROUGH CHRIST." The point that I wish to express here is that through Christ and only Him we have the Adoption of Sonship and are heirs with Him.

In Heb. 1:2, it states, "Has in these last days spoken unto us by a Son [Christ], whom he appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds.'

In Halley's Bible Handbook, 1985, page 648, on Hebrews 1:1-4, he writes, "This opening sentence is one of the most magnificent passages in the Bible. Jesus [is identified by] His deity, His Ineffable Glory, Creator, Preserver and Heir of the Universe." One of the identifiers as this commentary points out is that Christ is the Heir of the universe.

In light of this fact from the Bible, it would be good to review some basic facts about the universe around us to understand the scope of what we may inherit with Christ.

Our galaxy is one of 1,500 known galaxies that exist and recent research indicates that there may be millions of galaxies in our universe. Galaxies are classified using Edwin Hubble's scheme describing spiral, barred spiral, elliptical, peculiar and irregular shapes.

Our galaxy, the Milky Way, is believed to have about one trillion or thousand billion stars. That is our galaxy alone, not to mention the other 1,500

known and the possible million other galaxies that may exist in the universe.

We could go one step farther in this concept. If at least 10% of the stars in the universe have a solar system with many planets, can you image the number of possible worlds that can be out there? That is a lot of realty to inherit.

NASA has a picture on its website that shows only a very small number of galaxies in a small corner of our space. That is only a part of what is promised to us by God, if we overcome in this life and follow the Path that is set for us by God in His Word.

Is it worth it to you to endure this world for this promise? I think it is and we have even more to look forward to one day, if we become sons/daughters of God.

 $oldsymbol{\phi}$ WHO OR WHAT IS THE "GREAT

WHORE" OF REVELATION 17:1?

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by Larry Volk Valley City, North Dakota

Approximately a third of the Holy Bible is prophecy. Bible prophecy is cloaked in metaphor designed to conceal the truth from those "that are unlearned and unstable (who) wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction" (II Peter 3:16-KJV). The James Moffatt Translation clarifies II Peter 3:16 by putting it in the language of the modern world; "which ignorant and unsteady souls twist (as they do the rest of the scriptures) to their own destruction." As is the case with any biblical doctrine, the reader must let scripture interpret itself. II Peter 1:20 tells the believer that scripture is not of any one man or woman's private interpretation; "Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation." God clearly tells us that "prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Spirit" (II Peter 1:21). As we begin our investigation into the mystery of the "Woman who rides the Beast" of Revelation 17, we need to remember one of the most vital principles of Bible study as divinely inspired in Isaiah 28:9-10. Isaiah 28:10, tells us "For precept must upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little."

Comment: Most people will look no further than the book and chapter they are

reading for the answers to doctrinal and prophetic questions, leaving them frustrated and in a state of total and utter confusion.

In order to come to a complete understanding of who the woman of Revelation 17:4 is, we will examine Daniel 2, 5, 7, 8, and Revelation 13. These chapters are filled with metaphorical language that when understood properly in their biblical and historical context reveals the true identity of the woman and the beast that she rides in Revelation 17.

When properly understood, the Beasts of Daniel 2, 7, and Revelation 13 guide us through the history of man's inhumanity toward man, culminating in the return of Jesus Christ to save humanity from itself.

Now, turn to Daniel 2:31-35, which describes king Nebuchadnezzar's perplexing dream, as well as the meaning of the "great and terrible image" that haunted the king in his sleep. After the king's astrologers and magicians failed to reveal the dream to the king, Daniel was called before the great king, at which time he revealed the content and the meaning of the dream to the king, without pervious knowledge (Daniel 2:31-44).

Daniel told the king that the head of the great and terrible image was of **gold**, his breast and arms of **silver**, his belly and thighs of **brass**, and his legs of **iron** and clay.

In verses 36-41, Daniel reveals the interpretation of the great and terrible image. "Thou, O king, art a king of kings (Nebuchadnezzar): for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory (verse 37)." Verse 38, concludes with Daniel declaring to king Nebuchadnezzar that he was "This head of gold."

In verse 39, Daniel told king Nebuchadnezzar that two kingdoms "inferior" to his, symbolized by the breast and arms of <u>silver</u> and the belly and thighs of <u>brass</u> would follow his great kingdom.

In verses 40-42, Daniel tells king Nebuchadnezzar that a fourth kingdom will follow the previous three in chronological order of appearance, symbolized by the <u>feet</u> and <u>toes</u> of <u>iron</u> **mixed** <u>with clay</u>.

In verse 44, Daniel tells king Nebuchadnezzar that the forth kingdom, symbolized by the legs of iron (verse 33) feet and toes composed of a mixture of iron and clay, will continue down through history until the return of Christ Jesus, symbolized by the "stone cut out of the mountain without hands" (verse 45),

that will crush the <u>iron and clay</u>, the <u>brass</u>, the <u>silver</u>, and the <u>gold</u> (Verse 45).

Comment: Daniel 2:31-45 reveals the fact that there have been four great world ruling empires, of which Daniel revealed king Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon was the first great empire, but who were the other three great empires? For the answers to the question of who the <a href="mailto:second">second</a> and <a href="mailto:third">third</a> great empires were, we need to turn to Daniel 8:3-21.

Daniel 8:3-21, tells us of the rise of the Medo-Persian empire (verse 20), symbolized by the <u>ram with two horns</u> in verse 3, which was to be followed and subdued by the empire of Alexander the Great (Grecia or Greece), symbolized by a <u>he-goat</u> with <u>one "great horn"</u> (verse 21), which was broken (killed) and out of this one great horn, "<u>four horns or kingdoms shall stand up out of the nation, but not in (not with his power) <u>his power</u>" (verse 22).</u>

Note: The higher horn, which came up last is Cyrus the Great, the other horn was "Darius the Mede." Alexander the Great later followed these two great leaders. Alexander's vast empire was divided into four militarily inferior kingdoms about 300 BC. They were Greece and Macedonia, Asia Minor, Babylon to Syria, and Egypt.

Antiochus Epiphanies ruled Syria, one of the "four kingdoms" to emerge out of Alexander the Great's empire. He desecrated the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem (175-170 BC) by dedicating the temple to his Greek gods.

#### King Nebuchadnezzar's Great and Terrible Image Revealed (Daniel 2:31-44)

<u>First Empire</u>: The Head of Gold is king Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon (605-539 BC) **Bible: Daniel 2:32, 38, Daniel 7:4, Revelation 13:1-5** 

<u>Second Empire</u>: The breast and arms of silver are the Medo-Persian Empire (558-330 BC) **Bible: Daniel 2:32, 39, Daniel 7:5, Daniel 8:3-4, 20** 

<u>Third Empire</u>: The belly and thighs of brass is Alexander the Great's empire and its four-way division after his death. (336-323 BC) **Bible: Daniel 2:32, 39, Daniel 8:5-8, 21-22, Revelation 13:2** 

Comment: By studying the prophecies in Daniel chapter two and eight collectively, the Bible clearly identifies the <u>first</u> great Empire as king Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon, the <u>second</u> as the Medo-Persian Empire, and the third is clearly identified as Alexander the

Great's Empire, followed after his death, by the division of his Empire into four separate militarily inferior kingdoms ruled by his four leading generals; Ptalemy, Seleucus I, Cassander, and Lysimachus. But the fourth kingdom, symbolized by legs of iron and feet and toes of iron and clay, has not yet been revealed to us through the principle of proper Bible study-"precept upon precept, line upon line, here a little, and there a little" (Isaiah 28:9-10).

For a more detailed explanation of this fourth, as of yet, unidentified kingdom turn to Daniel chapter 7, where we'll pick up the story of the fourth kingdom yet to be identified world ruling empire.

Note: Daniel 2:40-45 introduces us to this fourth world ruling empire, but does not identify it. For the identity of the fourth empire, we need to turn to Daniel 7.

Daniel 7:1 begins in the "first <u>year of Belshazzar king of Babylon</u>." In his vision, by night, Daniel saw <u>four great beasts</u> come up out of the great sea (vast multitude of people through out the world), diverse one from another. (Verse 2-3)

In verse 4, Daniel saw a "<u>lion</u>" with "<u>eagle's wings</u>" that stood upon the feet like a man, "<u>and a man's heart was given to it</u>." All Bible scholars identify the "lion" as Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon.

In verse 5, Daniel saw a second beast "<u>like a bear</u>" that went forth "<u>devouring much flesh</u>." All Bible scholars identify the "<u>bear</u>" as the <u>Medo-Persian</u> Empire.

In verse 6, Daniel saw a third beast, "like a leopard" which had four wings a fowl, and four heads, and dominion was given to it. All Bible scholars identify the leopard with Alexander the Great, because his armies conquered with the swiftness of a leopard.

In verse 7, Daniel saw a fourth beast, "dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly." It had "great iron teeth" to devour and break in pieces the nations of the world. This fourth beast is "diverse from all the beasts that went before it; and it had ten horns. All Bible scholars identify this fourth beast as Rome. Most scholars believe that Rome enjoyed numerous political, social, and economic restorations (resurrections) over the past two thousand seven hundred years, culminated in a final restoration that will be crushed by Christ himself at his return.

Comment: Daniel 7:15-28's focus is on the <u>fourth beast</u> that is described as "<u>diverse from all the others and dreadful</u>." The end time restoration of the Roman political, social, economic, and

religious system will "make war with the saints" (verse 21) and the "little horn" (religious/political leader) will "speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they (saints) shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time." Notice how the little horn (religious leader) seeks to "change times and laws." The Roman Catholic Church did just that; it changed the Ten Commandments, dropping the second commandment all together, changing the seventh day Sabbath of God to Sunday in honor of the sun-god, and it divided the tenth commandment into two in order to maintain the number ten. The Roman church also changed the times or holy convocations instituted by God in Leviticus 23:1-44, notice verse two. "Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, Concerning the feasts of the Lord, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations, even these are my feasts." Notice how God clearly defines the seven annual feasts of Leviticus 23 as "his feasts?" They are convocations." And what God has "sanctified" NO man has the right to change. History helps us identify the "little horn" that rose up among the ten horns (kingdoms) just before the return of Jesus the Christ as King of kings.

Daniel 7:1-28 Vision. Daniel saw in the first year of Belshazzar, king of Babylon.

First Beast: The "lion" is identified as the world-empire of Nebuchadnezzar. (605-539 BC) Bible: Daniel 2:32, 37-38, 7:4, Jeremiah 4:7, 25:9 and Ezekiel 17:3, 17:12 and Revelation 13:2

<u>Second Beast</u>: The "bear" is identified as the world-empire of <u>Medo-Persia</u>. (558-330 BC) <u>Bible</u>: Daniel 2:32 & 39, 7:5, 8:3-4. 20, Revelation 13:2

<u>Third Beast</u>: The "<u>leopard</u>" is identified as the world empire of Greece under <u>Alexander the Great</u>. (336-323 BC) <u>Bible</u>: Daniel 2:39, 8:5-8, 21-22, 10:20, 11:2-4, Revelation 13:2

Fourth Beast: The "dreadful and terrible" is the Roman world-empire. (31 BC-476 AD) Bible: Daniel 2:33, 40-43, 7:7, 23-24, Revelation 13:1

Ten horns (kings) are without question, the end time resurrection of the social, political, economic, and religious system of ancient Rome. Daniel 7:24, reveals the identity of the "little horn" (religious leader) 7:24-27.

The "little horn" of Daniel 7:8 is none other than a religious leader who

wheedles ecclesiastical power as well as secular power. Through the use of his secular authority, he will "pluck up three of the first ten horns (Verse 8)," while he is given the authority to "speak great (terrible) things" (verse 8).

Daniel 7:9-11 tells us the "Ancient of days (Jesus the Christ), will cast down the ten horns (earthly kings) and destroy them with the "burning flame."

The interpretation of Daniel 7:1-11 is found in Daniel 7:15-28.

Daniel 7:17 tells us that the "great beasts" that he saw were "four kings" which were to be given dominion over the earth for a season.

Daniel 7:18 jumps ahead to the return of Jesus the Christ, where it tells us "the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever."

It is time to examine Revelation 13:1-18 to bring some clarity to the interpretation of the <u>fourth beast-pagan Rome</u> and its various restorations culminated in the return of Jesus the Christ. It is important to understand that the beast of Revelation 13:1-2 is a composite of the four beasts of Daniel 7:1-8

Revelation 13:1, "And I stood upon the sand of the sea (vast multitudes of people), and saw a beast (king or kingdom) rise up out of the sea, having seven heads (heads symbolizes kings or kingdoms) and ten horns (horns symbolizes kings), and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy."

Comment: The Babylonian system marked by political and religious confusion has had <u>seven successive</u> <u>restorations</u> (resurrections) beginning with Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon culminated in the final restoration of the Romanish system of "<u>Babylon the Great</u>." They are as follows:

- The <u>first head</u> of Babylon was the Babylonian or Chaldean empire of Nebuchadnezzar. (605-539 BC)
- ➤ The <u>second head</u> of Babylon was the Medo-Persian Empire. (558-330 BC)
- The third, fourth, fifth, and sixth head of Babylon was the Hellenistic Empire of Alexander the Great and its four divisions under his generals. (333-31BC)
- The <u>seventh head</u> of Babylon was the Roman Empire. (31BC-476 AD)

Remember, the beast of Revelation 13:1-2 is a compilation of the previous Babylonian world political and religious systems which the seventh head, Rome,

absorbed through military conquest, thus making them a part of the seventh and final head of the Babylonian "Mystery of Iniquity."

Revelation 13:2 "And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard (Alexander the Great's Empire), and his feet were as the feet of a bear (Medo-Persian Empire), and his mouth was of a lion (Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon): and the dragon (Satan the Devil) gave him his power and his seat, and great authority."

Revelation 13:3 "And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast." The deadly wound of Revelation 13:3 was fulfilled with the subsequent murder of the last Roman emperor of the West, Romulus Augustulus, by the Germanic barbarians, which led directly to the fall of the western empire in 476 AD. Thus the beast was "wounded to death," but then the deadly wound was healed and the world marveled at the beast.

Comment: Many religionists, and scholars believe the "deadly wound" of Revelation 13:3 refers to the murder, and resurrection, of a king who will lead the ten nation European empire against Christ. Scripture does not support this man-inspired tradition that Satan will raise a man from the dead to lead the resurrected end-time revival of the Roman Empire. If we let the Bible interpret itself, it reveals a very different but more rendering historically accurate of Revelation 13:1-18 and Revelation 17:1-

Question: Who was responsible for the deadly wound inflicted on the beast with the body of a leopard, the feet of a bear, and the mouth of a lion, with seven heads?

Comment: I know of no such man who ever existed who had seven heads. Revelation 13:3 tells us "one of his heads was wounded unto death." Scripture does not record one incident in which Satan had the power to resurrect anyone from the dead; contrast that with the numerous times Christ raised the dead throughout his three and half year ministry on earth.

The deadly wound came in 476 AD, at the hands of pagan Germanic barbarian invaders-the Vandals (429-533 AD), the Herulii (476-493 AD) and the Ostrogoths (493-544).

At the request of the bishop of Rome, General Belisarius, marched west from Constantinople in 533 AD in order to rid the western empire of the barbarian hordes. In 554 AD, the first three "horns" (pagan kings) were plucked up at the

behest of the bishop of Rome, the "little horn" of Daniel 7:8. History refers to this newfound cooperation between the "bishop of Rome" (Pope John II: 2 January 533-8 May 535) and the Emperor Justinian as the "Imperial Restoration" (554-800 AD), marking the 1st head of the scarlet beast ridden by the Harlot of Revelation 17.

After the deadly "wound is healed" in Revelation 13:3, by the "Imperial Restoration" (554 AD) it continued for forty and two months (Revelation 13:5). In biblical prophecy there is the day for a year principle, which means you would take 42 months times 30 days and it comes out to 1260 prophetic years, ending in 1814 AD.

To unlock the key to understanding prophetic time, turn to <u>Ezekiel 4:6</u> and <u>Numbers 14:34</u>. These verses reveal the "one day for a year" principle found in prophecy. From the "Imperial restoration" of 554 AD through the fall of Napoleon's Empire in 1814 AD you have precisely 1260 years.

The First Five Restorations after the Deadly Wound is healed. The First Five of the Last Seven Horns

1st: Imperial Restoration under Justinian in 554 AD and Pope John II.

**2nd:** Carlingian Empire under Charlemagne the Great and Pope Leo III (Charlemagne was crowned king by Pope Leo III on 25, December 800 AD)

**3rd:** Holy Roman Empire of Otto the Great, crowned on 31 January 962 AD, by Pope John X.

**4th:** Hapsburg Dynasty, Charles V crowned 24 February 1530 AD, by Pope Clement VII.

**5th:** Napoleon's Empire (1804-1814). Pope Pius VII came to Paris 18 May 1804 AD to consecrate Napoleon Bonaparte emperor of the "**Holy Roman Empire**."

Note: On the 6 August 1806 AD, Francis II renounced his now-empty title as emperor of the Holy Roman Empire. Napoleon's European empire now stretched from the Atlantic to the Elbe. Spain, France, Holland, Belgium, western Germany and eventually all of Italy formed his renewed "Holy Roman Empire."

Comment: Notice that in each case, the new emperor was crowned king of the "Holy Roman Empire" by a pope. Is this a coincidence or prophetic truth? In Daniel 2:33, the "legs of iron" are a direct reference to the division of the ancient Roman Empire, in 286 AD, by emperor Diocletian, into East and West for administrative purposes.

Note: This administrative division

would eventually lead to a split in the Holy Roman Empire between the Roman or Latin kingdom in the west and the Byzantium kingdom in the east.

Revelation 13:7 tells us "it was given unto him (beast and false prophet) to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues and nations."

Comment: The Inquisition was started in 1231 AD, by Pope Gregory IX, and it continued "to make war with the saints" until 6 June 1869 AD. The Inquisition took the lives of millions of people, saints and sinner alike. The "Holy Roman Catholic Church" pronounced judgment and the secular authorities carried out the proscribed sentence, which was burning at the stake. It should also be noted that the office of Inquisition was never abolished and continues to function down to our day under the title of "The Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith." This reformed Inquisition looks after matters directly or indirectly "concerning catholic doctrine threatening orthodoxy."

Source: Edward Burman. <u>The Inquisition: Hammer of Heresy</u>. Dorset Press, New York, copyright 1992-page 213.

Revelation 13:11-18's subject matter deals with the rise of the end-time false prophet who is described as a lamb with two horns (Revelation 13:11). The two horns symbolize the <u>ecclesiastical</u> and <u>secular power</u> that he will enjoy in the time of the last restoration of the "Holy Roman Empire" under the direction of the Beast power who receives his authority from ten sitting kings.

Revelation 13:13, tells us the false prophet will have the power to work great wonders (miracles).

Revelation 13:14, tells us that he will deceive them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast. (Revelation 13:4 and Revelation 12:9 identify Satan as the power behind the beast and the false prophet).

Revelation 13:15, tells us that there will be another round of persecution for the faith. So terrible, that it will dwarf the Roman Catholic Inquisitions (1231-1869), also known as "the time of Jacob's trouble". (Revelation 6:9-10, and Jeremiah 30:7)

Revelation 13:16 tells us "that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name." (The mark of Rome's authority has always been its

claim to have the power to change laws and times, Daniel 7:25). Rome did just that when it changed the Sabbath of God to the day of the sun-god, Sunday. Compare and contrast <u>Daniel 7:25</u> with <u>Exodus 31:13-26</u>, which tells us God's annual Holy Days and weekly Sabbath are to be kept by his people as a "<u>perpetual covenant.</u>"

Revelation 13:4 picks up were Daniel 7:8 finishes. Revelation 13:4-18 deals with the various restorations (resurrections) of the "Holy" Roman Empire from 554 AD, under Justinian down through the German/Italian Axis (Empire) 1870-1945 AD. It also introduces the false prophet and beast power of Revelation 17:1-18.

In order to understand the biblical symbolism associated with the "great whore that sitteth upon many waters (Revelation 17:1)," we need to turn back to Revelation chapter 12 for the prophetic explanation for how the term woman is used in prophecy.

Revelation 12:1 the "woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars" refers to the ancient twelve tribed nation of Israel. (Genesis 37:9-10)

Revelation 12:2 speaks of the birth of Christ, which was to come out of the tribe of David (Matthew 1:21-23).

Revelation 12:3, is the description of the "seven headed scarlet beast" (Rome) that "wears out the saints of the most high" (Daniel 7:25) down through the ages, beginning with the attempted murder of Jesus the Christ as an infant (Matthew 3-18).

Revelation 12:4-6 deals with Satan's use of Herod, a hellenized Jew, to try to destroy the Christ child in order to secure his eternal reign as the "god of this world" (II Corinthians 4:4).

Revelation 12:13-16 deals with the unrelenting war Satan has waged against the children of God through out the ages (in the ancient world against the twelve tribed nation of Israel and after the creation of the "Church of God" on the day of Pentecost, spiritual Israel, Acts 2:1-47).

Revelation 12:17 tells us that the "dragon" (Satan) "went to make war with the remnant of her seed," (spiritual Israel) who "keep the <u>commandments of God</u>, and have the **testimony of Jesus Christ**."

#### Revelation 17:1-14 (JKV)

"And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me (John), saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the GREAT WHORE that sitteth upon many waters." Revelation 17:1

Comment: Just as a "pure woman" is the prophetic symbol of the "true Church of God," holding to the truth of God by "keeping the commandments of God, and having the testimony of Jesus Christ;" apostate Christianity is symbolized in prophecy as a "whore," culminating in the creation of the end time restoration of the apostate "Holy Roman Empire" which will force its mark (Revelation 13:16-17), economically, socially, and religiously on the world.

Note: The Roman Catholic Church has spoken "great words against the most High (Daniel 7:25)." The church at Rome has done this through its long "tradition" which "rejects the commandment of God, that it may keep its own tradition (Mark 7:9)." This principle applies not only to the Catholic Church, but any other church that "lays aside the commandment of God," so that it may "hold the tradition of men."

"With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornications." Revelation 17:2 and Jeremiah 51:7-8

prophetic Comment: The fornication spoken of here is the social, economic, and religious system which Satan the Devil has used to "deceive the whole world (Revelation 12:9)." The "Great Whore" has made the world "drunk" with false religious doctrines that promote "lasciviousness," while professing the name of Christ (Jude 4), "having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away (Il Timothy 3:5)." Apostate Christianity. Catholicism Protestantism have done this by fulfilling the words of Daniel 7:25. Protestantism continues to follow the traditions of the Roman Catholic Church, which has "changed times (the Holy Days of God for the pagan holidays of the world) and laws (The **Catholics** changed the commandments in the 4th century, taking the 2nd commandment completely out, changing the 4th commandment "to keep the Sabbath Holy," to the 3rd commandment which "keeps the day of the sun-Sunday holy, and divided the tenth commandment into two in order to keep ten commandments). The Protestants have gone one further, they have nailed the

commandments to the Cross claiming they have license to sin, through Christ's sacrifice (Jude 4).

"So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns." Revelation 17:3 and Jeremiah 51:7-8

Note: Revelation 17:3, describes the last revival of the Roman Empire (10 national rulers under a single leader). See Revelation 17:10-11, and Daniel 2:33, 42, the 10 toes on 2 feet of iron mixed with ceramic clay-which both describe the same end time multinational empire.

"And the woman (great apostate Church) was arrayed in purple (color of royalty) and scarlet (color of a prostitute) colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication:" Revelation 17:4

Comment: The filthiness of her fornication is false doctrine and the historical persecution of the saints, those who "keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus (Revelation 12:17 and 14:12)."

"And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY BABYLON THE GREAT THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH." Revelation 17:5

Comment: Mystery Babylon the Great" is the "Mother of Harlots" and "abominations of the Earth." Rome's daughters are all those churches who can trace their origins back to "Mystery Babylon the Great the Mother of Harlots." The Protestant Reformation was successful in that it perpetuated and spread the Romanish system of Babylon the Great to the far ends of the world. Rome is identified as a "Great Mother" church, a UNIVERSAL church, protesting which has many "daughters"! Isaiah 47:1, 5-9

Note: This blasphemous "Whore," who commits spiritual fornication with many Gentile governments; persecuted countless thousands of true Christians down through the centuries: out of whom came didn't daughters-protestants-who complete their spiritual break with the Great Whore, Rome, find themselves on various roads back to the "Great Whore."

The Roman end-time Babylonish

"Mystery Religion" had taken to itself titles reserved for God alone! The Bishop of Rome has given himself a title that belongs to God alone-Papa (Pope). He is called the "great father," as are his priests. Yet Jesus said "call no man father on earth (Matthew 23:9)!" The religious title father is reserved for God the Father alone! Pope Pius IX (16 June 1846-7 February 1878) summoned the First Vatican "Council (1869-70), which in the constitution Pastor aeternus (18 July 1870) declared the definitions of the pope in faith and morals to be infallible in their own right, not as a result of the consent of the church, thereby completing the doctrinal development of centuries and removing all conciliarist interpretations of the role of the papacy.'

Source J.N.D. Kelly. <u>Oxford</u>
<u>Dictionary of Popes</u>. Oxford University
Press, New York, copyright 1996-Page

In other-words, when speaking from the so-called "holy" See, Catholic tradition teaches, despite being human, the pope, can not err in matters of faith and morals. The Bible teaches that "all have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 2:23, 5:12 and I John 1:10), therefore the pope is not infallible, because he is subject to sin just like the rest of us. Only God is perfect and "infallible."

"And I saw the woman (great apostate Church) drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration." Revelation 17:6

Comment: **Bloody Roman Catholic Inquisition 1231-1869.** 

"And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery (hidden truth) of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns" (Revelation 17:7).

Comment: The woman of Revelation 17:1-18 is the Church of Rome. Revelation 17:9, 18-clearly identify the "great whore" (verse 1), "Mystery Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots and Abomination of the Earth" (verse 5), "The woman drunken with the blood of the saints" (verse 6) as none other than the Roman Catholic Church. "And the woman which thou sawest is that great city (Rome), which reigneth over the kings of the earth (Revelation 17:8)." The Vatican is an

independent nation-state today, and it continues to hold sway over the western world spiritually as well as having a great deal of political power. In centuries past it lorded over the people of Europe spiritually, socially, economically and militarily. There is no question; "Mystery Babylon the Great the Mother of Harlots" is the Romanish system!

"The beast (World leader reviving the glories of ancient Rome) that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition (doom): and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is." (Revelation 17:8)

Question: What does the following statement mean, "....behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is?" Answer: This perplexing statement about the beast with seven heads and ten horns is simply a summary of the historical fulfillments of the seven revivals of the so-called "Holy Roman Empire" from the time of its deadly wound down through history to the final fulfillment of the end-time multinational empire to emerge at the end of this age, when the final ten kings join their economic, social, military and religious forces under one banner. Once again, here they are:

- The deadly wound that was healed <u>Imperial Restoration</u> under Justinian in 554 AD
- ➤ The <u>Carolingian Empire</u> under Charlemagne in 800 AD
- The creation of the "Holy Roman Empire" in actual name under Otto the Great in 962 AD
- ➤ The creation of the <u>Hapsburg Empire</u> under Charles the V in 1530 AD
- ➤ The creation of the <u>Napoleonic</u> <u>Empire</u> under Napoleon Bonaparte from 1804 through 1814
- The creation of the <u>Italian/German</u> <u>Empire</u> from 1870-1945.
  - In 1929, Pope Pius XI (6 February 1922-10 February 1939) negotiated a diplomatic treaty. known as the "Lateran Treaty (11 February 1929), which established Vatican City as independent, neutral state. In return, Pope Pius XI recognized the Italian kingdom with its capital in Rome. For his part, Benito Mussolini made Catholicism the official religion of the Italian government.
  - 2. On the 20 July 1933, Pope Pius XI

negotiated a concordat with National Socialist Germany, under the leadership of Adolf Hitler. Hitler made Catholicism the official religion of the German state, while Pius XI recognized Adolf Hitler's National Socialist government.

The seventh head, "the beast that was, and is not, but yet is (Revelation 17:9)," will be the final ten king multinational European Empire composed of ten kings who join their economic, military, social, and religious forces together to fulfill the end-time prophecy of Daniel 2:33,42 and Revelation 13:1-10.

Note: Each Empire was given the Pope's blessing!

"And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth."

Revelation 17:9

Comment: Mountains in prophecy are also symbolic of great nations. Revelations 17:9 is telling us that there have been seven great World ruling Empires throughout the age of the Gentiles, which is man's six thousand year misrule, leading to untold suffering through the ages.

The woman spoken of here is none other than, "MYSTERY BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH." The great Christian apostasy in II Thessalonians 2:2-12, refers to the apostate Christian teachings of the Roman Catholic Church, and her "harlot" daughters, those that came out of her in protest-the protestant apostasy.

"And there are seven kings: five are fallen (Revivals of the "Holy Roman Empire"), and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh he will continue a short space" (Revelation 17:10).

Note: The identity of the five who have fallen, and the one who is (Italian/German Empire 1870-1945), and the "other who is not yet come" have been identified in the question/answer section of Revelation 17:8.

"And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition (doom)" (Revelation 17:11).

"And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast" (Revelation 17:12).

"These have one mind, and shall give

their power and strength unto the beast" (Revelation 17:13).

Question: So who is this eighth "beast, that was, and is not, even he is the eighth?" Answer: This eighth beast is the end-time king to whom the ten kings turn over their kingdoms too, in order to rule with him for a short time.

"These shall make war with the Lamb (Jesus Christ), and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful" (Revelation 17:14).

Comment: What we have spoken of here, is none other than the widely spoken of, but misunderstood "battle of Armageddon" (Revelation 16:16). Read Revelation 16:14-16, it tells us that spirits of devils will work miracles in order to gather the kings of the earth together at the place called in the Hebrew tonque "Armageddon (Revelation 19:19)," to do battle against the King of kings and Lord of lords, at his return. If there was ever a time when you do not want to follow the masses, this is it! Remember. Revelation 12:9 tells us "the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil. and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world."

Comment: If one believes that Mystery Babylon the Great, and all the religions of the world are working together to bring "all people" to God, each faith following its own path along its spiritual journey toward spiritual enlightenment, then you to have been deceived. The Holy Bible tells us to watch out for false prophets who come in the name of Christ but deceive the many. Read Matthew 24:1-39, it is a summary of the false religious deception of Mystery Babylon through the ages leading up to the final confrontation between Christ at his second coming and the gentile nations of the world who are gathered at the place called in the Hebrew "Armageddon" to wage battle against the King of kings and Lord of lords. (See Revelation 16:16 and 19:19)

We can be so thankful that Jesus the Christ promised to return and put an end to man's six thousand years of misrule; because if left to their own devices, Christ told us 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." Thank God we have a loving God who looks out for each of us. The Bible repeatedly warns true believers to watch the signs, "he that hath an ear, let him hear" (Revelation 2:7).

May God open our hearts and minds to understand the great truths that are written for the edification of the saints, as a guide in a world that is held captive by the "god (Satan the Devil) of this world," who "has blinded the minds of them which believe not" (II Corinthians 4:4)! The purpose of this article is to take the truth of the "gospel of the kingdom of God to the world for a witness unto all nations: and then shall the end come" (Matthew 24:14). Mark 13:10 tells us "the gospel must first be published among all nations." Are we living in the end times? I don't have the answer to that question. Jesus told his disciples regarding the time of his return, "but of that day and hour knoweth no man, no. not the angels of heaven, but my Father only knows the time of the end of this age" (Matthew 24:36). Any preacher or church organization that claims Christ will return on this day or that day or in this year or that year, is of the spirit of the anti-Christ and we need to flee from it (Matthew 24:22-24). We are told, however to watch the times and the signs for Christ's return. The Bible provides all the clues we need so that we are not taken by surprise.

Notice Jesus' own words regarding the state of mind of humanity in the end times. "But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." "For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and qiving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark." "And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be" (Matthew 24:37-39).

Will you be caught up in the flood of religious confusion in this end time, or will you put your trust in the Bible and put your faith in God to deliver you from the evil one, who at Christ's return will be found with "the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth" (Revelation 18:24)?

In summary, the "Great Whore," "MYSTERY BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLETS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH" is a

great end-time apostasy that absorbs the pervious four great world-ruling empires of the ancient world. The "dreadful and terrible" beast of Daniel 7:7,23-24, will take on the political, military, economic, social, and religious characteristics of ancient Babylon: Medo-Persia, Alexander the Greats' Empire, and ancient Rome. This "dreadful and terrible" beast will be a modern revival of the ancient Holy Roman Empire, under the direction of the beast (King) and the anti-Christ (pope) who as prophecy tells us will persecute the saints. and gather the armies of the world at the "battle of Armageddon," to wage war against Christ at his second coming as King of kings and Lord of lords.

Yes Mystery Babylon the Great, "The Mother of Harlots," is a political, economic, military, social and religious system that will persecute all those who appose it, the price is high, count the cost (Luke 14:28), your eternal salvation is at stake (Luke 14:27-35).

DOES GOD ALLOW US TO DECIDE WHICH SCRIPTURE TO OBEY?

by Howard Bruce Glendale, Arizona

<u>ŏ</u>ѻѻѻѻѻѻѻѻѻѻѻѻѻѻѻѻѻѻѻѻѻ As a member of a large Church several years ago, I remember the ministry telling us how "Worldly Churches" never used the Bible Scriptures to back up their preaching. Especially the Head of this Church. I can still hear him over and over again saying, "Worldly Churches" do not even know what sin is. He would say, when you asked them, what is sin? They would answer, Playing Cards, Dancing, or going to the Movies on a Sunday. But they never would come up with the true definition of what sin is from God's Holy Word. Then He would tell us to read 1 John 3;4, to get God's definition of sin. Sin is the transgression of the law. For sin is breaking God's Holv Commandments. Of course, this is absolutely correct. Sin is breaking the Holy Ten Commandments.

But on other Church Doctrines, He seemed to have over looked the admonishment to get it from the Scriptures. A very important belief of that Church was the Concept, The Work of God: I never heard a Scripture explaining this concept. We were told, "The Work of God" is to get behind our spiritual leader. Support Him with Tithes and Offerings. In other words-to Pray and Pay: Never a

Scripture to prove this. But friends, there is a Biblical Scripture explaining "The Work of God". We find it in John 6:29. And we read, "Jesus answered and said unto them, This is "The Work of God", that ye believe on Him who He hath sent." Friends, we must always look into God's Word and do what the Written Word says. No, we cannot decide which laws or books of the Bible we will obey. We must keep all of God's ways. In closing, read Rev. 22:18-20.

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REEPING THE SABBATH HOLD

by Wayne Schatzle West Chester, Ohio

Recently Pope John Paul II came out with a strong plea for all Catholics to take seriously the commandment to remember the Sabbath. He asserts Christians have forgotten the meaning of the day and it has become more of a day for people to seek their own pleasures.

Who can disagree with his observations? I well remember growing up in the '50s when everyone would go to church, and you would be hard pressed to find any store open. Sunday was a day for visiting family and friends. It was truly a day of rest.

Times have indeed changed, and Sunday has become a day to seek one's own pleasure rather than God, and the turn-around has occurred in a mere generation.

The relatively small number of Sabbath (Saturday) keeping Christians have noticed this abuse of the rest day for years.

Most "Sabbatarians" generally keep a much more strict day of rest. They also contend that no man can make any day holy - only God can do that. It is clear he set apart the day we call Saturday, and there is not one word in all the Bible that there would be a change. In fact, God declares, "I am the Lord, and I change not."

Although the pope is correct in his assertions of the laxity of many in their observance, there is a lot to say about the validity of keeping Sunday holy in the first place. After studying Catholic literature, it is apparent that Sunday observance is a "church" commandment rather than a Bible commandment.

The Catholic church also takes some little pride in the fact that it is they who sanctify the day rather than the Bible and Protestants obey Rome and keep Sunday

rather than the Bible Sabbath.

Also noted is how they will use the Old Testament scriptures for authority for Sabbath observance, which was Friday sunset to Saturday, sunset, and transfer the binding Law to a nonsanctified day - Sunday. Ecclesiastical history is well documented on how the change took place if one cares to read it.

Indeed, Sabbath keeping was (and is) important to God, the transgression of which carried a death penalty. We do get careless in our relationship with God in the good times we experience in this country. This may be a good time to rediscover our loving father by turning to Bible reading. Study the forgotten commandment: "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of God" (Exodus 20).

Almost overlooked in the Sabbath conflict is the blessing God has attached to Sabbath observance: "If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath, from doing your pleasure on my holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy day of the Lord honorable, And shall honor him, not doing your own ways, nor finding your own pleasure, nor speaking your words, Then you shall delight yourself in the Lord; And I will cause you to ride on the high hills of the earth, and feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father. The mouth of the Lord has spoken." (Isaiah)

The blessing is there for anyone to claim. Go to the effort to find out once and for all just which day is the Sabbath that God sanctified. Whatever day you discover is the true Sabbath, use that time to build a relationship with the one you will spend eternity with.

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#### **NEVER GIVE UP**

by June Narber Raleigh, North Carolina

Situations arise in our lives and we try to solve them. Sometimes the best solution is to first think about how the current problem came to be. I try to work backwards. First, I ask myself 1) Did I cause this problem directly? 2) If the answer is no, I ask, did something I do or say indirectly cause this problem. If the answer is yes, I then rethink it from the perspective of not only how to resolve it, but how to make sure it never happens again. If the answer was, no, I never caused or influenced the current problem

to come about, I try to solve it by looking at the best ways of eliminating the stimuli that feeds it. Here are some examples: If a debt problem or a certain debt by itself. I eliminate it next time around by thinking before spending. If a problem associated with a relationship or another person, I try take them through the beforementioned steps. At any rate, I never give up in trying to resolve the problem. However, there are times in life when the best solution after you've tried everything else is just to walk away. This is not running way, this is a last step solution to the problem, whatever it may be: money, a job situation, a relationship, or others. By walking away, you are releasing yourself from further influence. responsibility and pain of the given problem. In some cases, this is truly the only solution that will have a lasting result. How does that tie into the title of this Article, "Never Give Up"? Never giving up means to not quit trying, but it does not mean to torture your self over a situation that has no solution in the current reality and time. Never giving up comes into play because that means in the given situation at hand, you may walk away for the time being, but you come back later to see if there is anything else you can do to help it; times and season changes all things, and that includes situations, mindsets and people in general.

I lost my best friend I ever had in the Sabbath keeping community about five years ago. The circumstances are hard to relate, but the situation was not anything linked to what I had personally done. However, her family saw other wise. It seems that the family involved influenced their adult daughter into the mindset that her friends were responsible for her acts of sin; for her sliding from their set concept of the ideal Christian woman.

For example, the parents believed it was unrighteous for a 25-year-old single daughter to be out with a girlfriend after 9 PM. It was unrighteous for a woman to travel alone. In fact, the woman's first marriage was a direct result of her parents' tight control over her. Her second failed marriage was the result of it being forced upon her. The last thing I ever was able to say to her was "Get out of there, don't marry him."

She never matured emotionally; never learned the lessons of making decisions for her self, be they right or wrong, and standing up and acting on what she decided was the best course of action for her physical life. By being an obedient and spineless daughter, she lived two lives: one as the righteous perfect daughter, and the other as a

woman that did what she wanted; but without reason or long-term planning. She learned to lie and hide the truth from her family in order to have rare moments of freedom. Those few precious moments of freedom soon became the thing that corroded her life because they were stolen moments for her. No moment of our life should have to be lived this way, as "stolen moments". Each moment should be pure, full of joy and happiness and lived to the fullest that Christ allotted to us when he said he came so we could "live life more abundantly".

The results for my friend were horrible. Both sides to her life came to a head and she quickly blamed her rare adventure outside of her family paradigm as the culprit. She never came to the understanding that she was allowing her parents to control her life, and thus, stealing her life from her. It so happens that through making mistakes, we become strong Christians, stronger people, more stable adults. She made mistakes, but she also for the first time in her life, had allowed her natural personality, interests and feelings to come to the surface. Thereafter, and before that time, she had lived in an emotional cocoon so dictated by her mother. As a best friend, I saw the things that were going on that were not right by the word of God. I tried my best to help guide her toward solutions. However, the end result of the situation, minus me from the equation is that the real issues just got covered up and buried. The family, and the friend pretended none of prior situations including mental/personal issues even existed. It was cast upon me as the negative influence because I had inspired this individual to think for herself. To this day, I still pray for her and ask that God release her from her own spiritual coffin. If faith is not from the heart, and action truly by individual choice, then that particular faith is not truly real and not of Christ. The day will come when this individual stands up for herself, chooses her own path of life in terms of living on her own, working for herself and comes and goes as she desires. The day will come when the words, "never give up" will radiate from her person.

As we enter the Passover season, friends, including those no longer present in your life should come to mind. Pray for them and if possible reach out to them. Never give up on a friendship no matter what the circumstances. In my case I've shared with you, I had to walk away at the time because I had no choice. You can't force someone to live up to your ideals, but you can expect them to at least

### INTERDEPENDENT-INTERACTIVE, CHURCH OF GOD, SABBATH SERVICES, BIBLE STUDIES, AND OPEN FELLOWSHIP, PLUS THIS NEWSLETTER

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live their own lives, not shadows reflecting nothing but others expectations for them. But note, every captive will one day seek freedom. Whether from the bondage of sin; from the world; from a set of circumstances, or from a hell of their own making. As Christ continually reaches out to us, we must reach out to others, both as a Christian, and simply as a human being. Life is about relationships as much as it is about "family".

Never give up your objective, your calling. Never give up on your

friends, and most of all, never give up on Christ working his miracles in your life. Finally, I add, don't give up on yourself, because you are uniquely you, a fantastic creation in the hands of the master potter. To my lost friend, I say, I'll never give up that you will find the sunrise in your own life. You've got a friend waiting to walk with you, whenever you want.

IF YOU FIND BIBLICAL ERRORS IN ANY OF THESE ARTICLES, PLEASE EMAIL US WITH THE DETAILS.

OR SEND US THE DETAILS VIA SNAIL MAIL.

ALL CONTACT INFORMATION IS ON PAGE #3.

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On request of a reader, we will be running a series of articles on the subject of: "Persecution".

If you have written articles in regard to this topic, please send them to: **Newsletter-Only-Darwin-Laura@Juno.com** We will accept articles written on any aspect of "Persecution" from a biblical perspective.

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

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