

Works of the Law -- Under the Law?

by Robert Goldman (Ione, California)

What do these words really say? Do they really say that the church of today is exempt from keeping the law of Yah? Remember that Peter forewarned that uneducated and unbalanced people would distort, twist the words in Paul's letters. (2 Peter 3:15-16) Let's take a closer look at these passages that are hard to understand.

Lets start with the phrase "works of the law". In **Galatians 3:10** this phrase is used, and has been *(Continued on page 3)*

The Priory of Sion and The Da Vinci Code

by Jonathan Gray (New Zealand)

Is this the hottest archaeological secret of history? Raeleen plopped the papers on my desk and said, "Jonathan, how on earth could you miss this hot news?" For a moment I stared at her.

A HUNGRY GIRL

She was an eager student, hungry for knowledge. That was admirable. *(Continued on page 3)*

Passing Over

by Marisha Hileman (Toledo, Ohio)

All humanity has been PASSING OVER - ALL THROUGH HISTORY - into everlasting death or everlasting life. It has always been a free choice to serve YahVaH or Baal (Gen. 2:17, Josh. 24:15). This is what the Feast of PASSOVER is all about - CHOOSING to enter the KINGDOM OF YahVaH or remaining in sin and death. YahVaH is calling each of us OUT of sin and death (Rev. 18:4). Let us take a look at a few choices down through history.

What would YOUR choice have been if YOU had been mother Eve in the Garden of Eden? WHAT would YOUR answer have been to Satan in Genesis 3? WHAT would YOU have done, had YOU been *(Continued on page 4)*

Exodus 12 - When was the First Passover?

by Bryan T. Huie (Dennard, Arkansas)

Historically, there has been disagreement regarding the chronology of events at the first Passover. Today, most of the Sabbath-keeping Churches of God believe that the Israelites slew the Passover lamb in Egypt after sunset on 14 **Abib**. The common teaching is that they ate the Passover meal on the night of the 14th, and that the destroyer killed the Egyptian firstborn later that night about midnight. This article will show that the Israelites slew the Passover on the afternoon of 14 **Abib**, and *(Continued on page 5)*

Ancient Heresies and a Strange Greek Verb

by Catherine C. Kroeger (Brewster, Massachusetts)

In Paul's first epistle to Timothy, bishop of Ephesus, there is a passage which has perplexed the church of Jesus Christ:

I will therefore that men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands without wrath and doubting. In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with braided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array: but (which becometh women professing godliness with good *(Continued on page 10)*

On the Third Day, After Three Days

by John Leitch (Canada)

To the Christian, the central point of the entire Bible is the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Passover sacrifice. Although the New Testament explains what day the resurrection was to happen, many religious leaders today seem to be puzzled by the timing of this event. This writer feels people today are having trouble understanding because they are trying to fit their traditional based Bible knowledge into a document that has as its foundation the Hebrew religion (that is centered *(Continued on page 12)*

Rubber Bands Found in Luggage Aboard Flight

**The Ohio Buckeyed Buckeye Daily,
August 26, 2026**

by Richard Markland (Lebanon, Ohio)

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U.S. Homeland Security measures have surpassed the ridiculous. In the following fictitious scenario, security threats in the year 2026 have been *(Continued on page 14)*

Was Jesus Married?

by Samuel Martin (Israel)

As far as we know from the Bible, Jesus was not married. There is no specific text that someone can point to and say: "Here it is. This proves Jesus was married." To say he was married is speculative to be sure. I believe that our Lord was not married and I think there are many proofs that one can point to that show this to be the case. I am working to get all these ideas together and write a serious research paper on this subject. It is an extremely topical subject now and I believe that it is essential to get information out there when the interest exists as it gives a great opportunity to share the Holy Scriptures and their *(Continued on page 15)*

LETTERS SECTION ---

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Isaiah 58:1 Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.

Ezekiel 33:8-9 When I say unto the wicked, O wicked man, thou shalt surely die; if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Nevertheless, if thou warn the wicked of his way to turn from it; if he do not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul.

Ephesians 5:11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove (expose) them.

1 Timothy 5:20 Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear.

“Confused? By Vic Williams” continued from Issue #46 page #21

Laura Lee writes:

and you want to be baptized, you best quit before you are baptized as a fruit of repentance. If you smoke before baptism and after baptism where is the fruit of your repentance, and why would God ever grant you His Holy Spirit? God is not playing games with people, He means business, but He leaves the choice of your repentance up to you. God however knows where your heart is when you are baptized and it is His choice to make on whether you are ready to receive His Holy Spirit or not, because He does not want that anyone should be lost for all eternity.

So the bottom line here is that if you are one of Christ's then you are keeping the Law of God voluntarily, because you want to.

Vic Williams writes:

There is one aspect you are 100% right on, "not by what tradition teaches".

Christ condemned that in Mat 15:9 but in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.

Laura Lee writes:

The Bible clearly teaches anyone who has an ear to hear what the difference is between man's traditions, doctrines and commandments and God's traditions, doctrines and commandments. You Vic Williams are trying to teach us the traditions, doctrines and commandments of men. Most of what you have said in this letter is the same thing the protestants and Catholics teach. If this is the route you want to stay on, I suggest you are in the wrong church and there are other churches in the world which teach the things you believe as you believe them. If you truly want to learn what the Bible really teaches, there are many people who read this newsletter who would I am sure be willing to help guide you into a right direction.

Entire letter found on line at:

http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0046/I2008-046-16.htm

THE END**

The Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God

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The Church of God Messenger is published in January, March, May, July, September and November.

Change of Address: Send change of address notices to Darwin & Laura Lee, PO Box 2333, Bismarck, ND 58502 or use the form at: http://darwinlauralee.com/data/05-17-06.htm

New Subscriptions & Renewals: Send new subscription & renewal notices to Darwin & Laura Lee, PO Box 2333, Bismarck, ND 58502 or use the form at: http://darwinlauralee.com/data/05-17-06.htm

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To Submit Items for Print: Send to: the-cog-messenger@earthlink.net or Mail to: Darwin & Laura Lee, PO Box 2333, Bismarck, ND 58502

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LETTERS SECTION CONTINUES ON PAGE 15

(“Works of the...” continued from page 1)

taught, that this is talking about **our works** -- obeying or doing what's written in the law. This is not talking about **our works**, **no**, this is pointing to what the law of God **“does”** -- it's works. Yes, the laws works! Well in scripture what does the law do? Well first we have to find out which part of the law of God Paul is referring to here. So if we go back to **Galatians 3:10** and read, we notice that the word **curse** comes up twice. This is an indicator of what part of the law Paul is referring to. If we go to **Lev. 26:14-46; Deut. 28:15-46**, we notice that this is one of those parts Paul is talking about. This part says if you don't obey the law of God that all these curses will come upon you. So this is what this part of the law does. This is it's works! It brings **curses** on those who disobey the other parts of the law. That is its sole job!

Now one of the major mistakes that I've seen is when the word “law” is seen or read, it's automatically thought **“the whole law”**! But that is not always the case in Paul's writings. He always gives you key word's in the verses that indicate which part he is referring to. So watch for this as you read and see the word law. Let's look at some other scriptures with another phrase.

Go to **Romans 6:14**, in this verse we see the words **“under the law”** and it says we are **not** under the law, but under grace. This scripture is always used to teach that we are **no** longer to keep the Old Testament law! But this is not what Paul was saying, because if we go back through this verse we look for the word that indicates which part of the law that is being spoken of here, and that word is **“Sin”**. What is sin? In **1 John 3:4** it says, breaking the law of God is sin. So if that's the case, if we go back to what the curse part of the law says we find, you break the law of God and all these curses will come upon you. So what part of the law are you **under**? The curses of the law! (**Lev. 26:14-26; Deut. 28:15-46**)

So this verse is actually saying that since we are under the grace of God, we are not under the curse. As **Galatians 3:13** says, Yahshua has redeemed us from the curse of the law. So again we are no longer under the law, the curse part! His grace, forgave us of our sins, the breaking of His law. See when you study and accurately divide (**2 Tim. 2:15**) the word of truth you can know what Paul was saying about the law. But if you don't, you can really make it look like the word is contradicting itself or make it sound like it is saying something else, like whatever fits your agenda or religion.

Let's look at two scriptures that if not accurately read, they will contradict one another. Go to **Romans 3:20** and lets look at

the phrase **“works of the law”** again. In this verse it says that no one is justified by the deeds or works of the law. So if we go to **Romans 2:13**, it says those that are justified are doers of the law. So if we stick to what is taught in today's mainstream churches, if we obey the law of God, i.e. works of the law, these two would not make sense. Because one says **no one** is justified by doing what the law says and the other one says you that are doers of what's written in the law are justified. Well again if you go by what is taught in mainstream churches today, but if we put **Romans 3:20** into its proper meaning, with what we have learned it will make lots of sense.

So **Romans 3:20** really says, with what the law does (deeds, works), **no one** can be justified! What is the law doing in this case? If we go to **Romans 3:19**, you will see the phrase **“under the law”** again. Plus a key word here is “guilty”. This automatically brings us back to the curse of the law, the law is working a curse on them who are guilty of sin, breaking the law of Yah. With that, **no one** who is guilty of sin can be justified! So the only ones who can be justified are those who are **not** breaking the law of God, by **sinning!**

Because we are now children of the most high and are not to continue sinning, **1 John 3:9**, but being the children of God, need to keep all His commandments in His law. This is how we show God and others love! This is why in **Matt. 22:37-46** Yahshua said, The law and the prophets hung on these two great commandments. The law and the prophets show us how to love God and Neighbor.

I hope these few words brought a greater understanding to these two misunderstood phrases and helped with understanding scripture in an easier way! It did for me when Yahweh revealed this to me. May God overwhelm you all in His love and power!

Article found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0047/a2008-047-01.htm>

*****THE END*******

(“The Priory of...” continued from page 1)

She was always searching the Internet, looking here, looking there, for any place that could feed her thirst for new information.

Had she now latched onto a world scoop?

This was about the time Dan Brown was launching his **“Da Vinci Code”** book.

“Okay, Raeleen” I asked, “what is it?”

“It's the royal bloodline,” she beamed, triumphantly. “And you didn't know about it?”

“Oh yes? Tell me.”

“Well, it's this,” she said. “Jesus Christ married Mary Magdalene and had children!”
“Go on.”

SECRET DOCUMENTS?

“Some secret documents were suppressed.”

“But a secret monastic order called the **Priory of Sion** existed from the Middle Ages to protect this royal bloodline of Jesus.”

She paused for a quick breath, then asked, “You know about the **Knights Templar**?”

“Yes.”

“But did you know they were the military wing of the **Priory of Sion** and they discovered then guarded, this bloodline secret?”

“And then **Leonardo da Vinci**...”

“The famous painter?”

“Yes. Surprise! He was a Grand Master of the **Priory of Sion**.”

“Really?”

“Yes. And he used two of his paintings to send coded messages that Jesus married Mary Magdalene.”

“Wow!” I said, pretending to be shocked.

“Anyway,” continued Raeleen, “Those hidden documents will point to persons alive today who are descendants of Jesus and Mary!”

“Go on.”

HOT – SIZZLING – EXPLOSIVE?

“Isn't that enough? That's the hottest, most sizzling, explosive news you ever heard. Surely. Right?” Raeleen looked expectantly at me.

“Your enthusiasm, I love it,” was my first comment.

“Well?”

“You want the truth... that is plain. Okay, here it is.”

“It boils down to evidence.”

“We should look at the best evidence we have when we make our historical judgments. Theories based on assertions invented centuries later might make for entertaining fiction, but nothing more.”

Raeleen's face dropped. “Well, Jonathan, I know you won't tell me anything that's not true. So...?”

“Okay,” I replied, “let's start with the **Priory of Sion**. If there was no **Priory of Sion**, then the **Knights Templar** were not connected with it.”

“And **Leonardo da Vinci** was not its Grand Master and had no cause to put such a coded message into the pictures.”

“No **Priory of Sion**? What do you mean?”

A BOGUS LINK

“For starters, there is absolutely no

historical evidence to justify this claim of a **Knights Templar** link with the **Priory of Sion**."

"The **Knights Templar** became established around 1099, after the capture of Jerusalem from the Moslems, as the protectors of the pilgrims and of the Kingdom of Jerusalem."

"And they quickly became rich and powerful through donations of land and wealth from people in Europe."

"As a result, the **Order** became arrogant and began to make its own treaties with people like the **Assassins** and butchering other Arabs traveling under a flag of truce."

"When the Crusader kingdom fell, they returned to Europe. That much is history."

"What about the secret documents?" asked Raeleen.

THE DOSSIERS SECRETS

"Again, no historical evidence. The **Dossiers Secrets** (allegedly documents from the **Priory**) are admitted forgeries put together by a **Pierre Plantard** in the 1950's."

"This bloodline story... Would you like to know how it happened?"

"Yes, I would," said Raeleen, getting herself comfortable.

"Here is the truth," I said. "Dan Brown, author of **The Da Vinci Code**, relied on a 1982 publication, **Holy Blood, Holy Grail**, for his information on the **Priory of Sion**."

"He draws much of his conjecture from **Holy Blood, Holy Grail**."

"And, in turn, the authors of **Holy Blood, Holy Grail** relied on documents provided them by a man named **Pierre Plantard**."

"**Plantard**? Who in the world is he?"

"Just an anti-Semitic Frenchman who spent time in prison for fraud in 1953."

"Fraud?"

"Hang on. Anyway, the very next year, **Plantard**, with three other men, started a small social club."

NAMED AFTER A LOCAL MOUNTAIN

"They called it – are you ready for this... the **Priory of Sion** - naming it after a nearby mountain. Their club's 'cause' was the call for more low-cost housing in France."

"Anyway, three years later the club dissolved. But **Plantard** held on to the name."

"Then, throughout the 1960s and 1970s, **Plantard** created a series of documents."

"These documents 'proved' that a bloodline existed, descending from Mary Magdalene, through the kings of France, down to our day."

"And lucky, lucky! The bloodline included **Pierre Plantard**!"

"He began using the name **Plantard de Saint-Clair**, saying that the **Saint-Clairs** were direct descendants of the line of Jesus

and Mary."

POLITICAL SCANDAL

"Then in 1993, **Plantard's** name came up in the spotlight of a political scandal."

"The scandal involved **Roger Patrice Pelat**, a close friend of **Francois Mitterand**, who was at that time president of France."

"You see, **Plantard** had, in one of his documented lists of the **Priory of Sion**, listed **Roger Patrice** as a Grand Master of the **Knights Templar**."

"**Plantard** was called before the court to testify. Under oath he admitted that he had made up the whole **Priory** scheme."

"You're kidding!" exclaimed Raeleen. "You mean this whole thing is founded on a fraud!"

"That's the raw truth," I nodded.

"Anyway, the court ordered that **Plantard's** house be searched. And guess what they found!"

"This will rock you, Raeleen. They found further documents that proclaimed **Plantard** to be the true king of France."

"Well, the judge gave **Plantard** a stern warning. Then he dismissed the man as a harmless crank."

"What!" shrieked Raeleen. "If only that judge had known how far the impact of **Plantard's** fraud would reach!"

"In any case, there are quite a number of rumors circulating which elaborate on that hoax of **Plantard's**. But I suppose they're not as exciting as a conspiracy thriller."

To buy "The Da Vinci Code Hoax Exposed" by Jonathan Gray, go to: <http://www.beforeus.com/da-vinci.php>

Article found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0047/a2008-047-02.htm>

THE END**

("Passing..." continued from page 1)

Adam? WE think THEY had it perfect but that old snake was crawling around in the bushes just waiting for his chance to deceive Eve!

How about with Israel in the wilderness? THEY had witnessed all the miracles of YahVaH in freeing them from Egypt! YahVaH gave them His laws written by His own-Hand. He spoke to Moses face to face. HOW could THEY have been DECEIVED? WHY would THEY CHOOSE to leave the altar of YahVaH to worship the dumb idols of the PAGAN NATIONS AROUND THEM? Do YOU think Satan could have DECEIVED you? Its hard to understand how easy it was for Satan to lead Israel into rebellion against their Savior but they went off to dance with the lords and gods of the nations at the first little trial instead of trusting YahVaH to carry their burdens.

How about when YahVaH-HOSHA was

crucified? WHAT would YOU have, done had YOU been one of the Jews then? Do YOU think like Peter, that YOU would NEVER have denied the Son of YahVaH? Do YOU think YOU would have seen through all the lies and misinformation of the Media news?

How about when Constantine established the FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN ROME in the 5th Century A.D.;? Would YOU have seen the SANTANIC DECEPTION? (DO YOU SEE IT NOW?), or would YOU have joined the martyrs in the ROMAN arenas? Would YOU have kept the FIRST DAY, SUNDAY, as the LORD'S DAY instead of YahVaH'S PERPETUAL SABBATH with the Jewish and Gentle Saints in their hidden meetings? What about EASTER and CHRISTMAS? WHERE do YOU stand on those pagan deceptions TODAY? We have to be TAUGHT-Ps.25:12.

All of CHRISTIANITY teaches TRUTH/UNTRUTH and DOUBLE TALK all from the same Bible! All different TRUTH/UNTRUTH - take your choice! We are to CHOOSE YahVaH. A HALF TRUTH, will kill you just as fast, as a WHOLE LIE! A HALF TRUTH IS NO TRUTH AT ALL! Christianity is a mixture of BABYLONISH CONFUSION and YahVaH'S WORD! YahVaH says to COME OUT OF BABYLON'S CONFUSION Rev. 18:4. CHRISTIANITY has made MERCHANDISE of men's souls during their 7 PAGAN HOLIDAYS that they SUBSTITUTED for YahVaH HOLYDAYS!

You KNOW that is TRUE concerning the fact that the CHRISTIAN religion is half Bible and half PAGANISM! Its not possible to uncover ALL the TRUTH/UNTRUTH of each denomination that is PROTESTING against their ROMAN CATHOLIC MOTHER as pictured in Revelation! Yet they consider it SACRILEGE to say so? Constantine mixed together the paganism of the ROMAN WORLD with the WORD OF THE BIBLE (TRUTH/ UNTRUTH) to create the SUBSTITUTE RELIGION called "CHRISTIANITY" for those who follow BAAL, as opposed to those Saints who follow the Hebrew "MESSIAH" as taught from Jerusalem-not the world beast power in ROME as pictured in the book of Daniel! Constantine developed his new religion of CHRISTIANITY of TRUTH/UNTRUTH in the 5th Century A.D. and PASSED IT OFF AS THAT WHICH WAS TAUGHT FROM JERUSALEM by the MESSIAH!

The Son of YahVaH was the ANOINTED "MESSIAH" in the Bible which is a HEBREW BOOK, written by men of the HEBREW MIND. John 1:41 - John 4:26.

Then King James had the CHRISTIAN translation COPIED. King James of England ruled by DIVINE RIGHT just as Jeroboam, Nebuchadnezzar and Cyrus did! But King James PERSECUTED both Roman Catholics and PROTESTANT dissenters which led many Englishmen to seek freedom in America! He had

Sir Walter Raleigh executed. HE meant it for evil but YahVaH meant it for good that MANY pagans and barbarians and atheists should be saved who otherwise would never have heard ANY COVENANT TRUTH. Had it not been for King James, we would not have the English translation of the Bible today-even with its TRUTH/UNTRUTH!

Kings Jeroboam, Nebuchadnezzar, and Cyrus were the SERVANTS OF YahVaH to fulfill HIS PURPOSE! Gen. 50:20, Jer.25:9, Isa.45:1 They meant it for evil but YahVaH meant it for GOOD - Gen. 50:20, Eph.3:11, John 3:8.

Rev. 18:4, says to COME OUT OF BABYLON YE MY PEOPLE. Josh. 24:19 says that Israel could not serve YahVaH because they were serving foreign mighty ones. YahVaH is a JEALOUS ELOHIM who DEMANDS 100% obedience to HIS COVENANT CONTRACT even though He is willing to WORK with the rebellious sheep to get them willing to be 100% obedient.

Prov. 1:20-33, "BECAUSE I have called and you REFUSED TO LISTEN I will laugh at your calamity - BECAUSE they hated KNOWLEDGE - BUT he WHO LISTENS TO ME will dwell secure and will be at ease without dread of any evil!" PRAISE HIS NAME! CHRISTIANITY fails you when you need MORAL and SPIRITUAL support the most as we have seen with some Christian ministers and Bishops!

Article found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0047/a2008-047-03.htm>

THE END**

("Exodus 12 - When..." continued from page 1)

then ate the Passover meal on the night of 15 **Abib**, a few hours before God sent the death angel to kill the Egyptian firstborn.

Most Worldwide Church of God offshoots generally accept the Passover scenario adopted by Herbert W. Armstrong (or a slight variation of it). Mr. Armstrong taught that the slaughter of the Passover lambs, the eating of the Passover meal, and the death of the firstborn all occurred after sunset on 14 **Abib**. With some minor differences, most who believe this theory propose the following general chronology of events for the Egyptian Passover:

- The Israelites killed the Passover lambs between sunset and dark, in the early hours of 14 **Abib**.
- They roasted the lamb and put the blood on their two doorposts and on the lintel.
- They ate their Passover meal before midnight, with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.

- The death angel passed over at midnight on 14 **Abib**, killing the firstborn of Egypt.
- The Israelites remained in their houses until dawn, burning the inedible remains of their Passover lambs before morning.
- They spoiled the Egyptians of their gold, silver, and clothing during the daylight portion of 14 **Abib**.
- The Israelites then departed Rameses by night on 15 **Abib**, shortly after the sun went down.

The belief that the Passover lambs were killed just after sunset, as 14 **Abib** was beginning, is based on the Hebrew phrase **beyn ha'arbayim** (בין הערבים):

EXODUS 12:6 "And it shall be for you to keep until the fourteenth day of this month. And all the assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it **between the evenings** [*beyn ha'arbayim*]." (*A Literal Translation of the Bible*)

As shown above, **beyn ha'arbayim** literally means "between the evenings." Most of the Churches of God interpret this phrase as "between sunset and dark." Many translations of the Bible render the Hebrew phrase **beyn ha'arbayim** as "dusk" or "twilight." Additionally, many modern scholars have construed this Hebrew phrase to mean from sunset to dark. But is this the correct interpretation of **beyn ha'arbayim**?

The entire argument over the timing of the original Passover rests on the true meaning of **beyn ha'arbayim**. If "between the evenings" means from sunset to dark, then the eating of the Passover meal and the death of the firstborn would have taken place on the night of 14 **Abib**.

On the other hand, if the Jews have been right in reckoning **beyn ha'arbayim** as the period from afternoon until sunset, the Israelites would have slain the Passover on the afternoon of 14 **Abib**. They would then have eaten the Passover meal on the night of 15 **Abib**, the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. The death angel would have killed the firstborn at midnight on the 15th.

To fully understand this topic, we have to determine which interpretation of **beyn ha'arbayim** is correct. How can we prove what God meant by "between the evenings?" Does the Bible itself give us any clues?

Exodus 29:38-41 records the instructions God gave Moses regarding the daily sacrifices Israel was commanded to offer. Let's look at that injunction closely in *A Literal Translation of the Bible* by Jay Green, which is found beside the Hebrew text in *The Interlinear Bible*:

EXODUS 29:38 "And this is what you shall offer on the altar: two lambs

daily, sons of a year; 39 the one lamb you shall offer in the morning, and the **second** lamb you shall offer **between the evenings** [*beyn ha'arbayim*]. 40 A tenth of fine flour anointed with beaten oil, a fourth of a hin, and a drink offering, a fourth of a hin of wine, for the one lamb. 41 And you shall offer the **second** lamb **between the evenings** [*beyn ha'arbayim*]; you shall do it like the morning food offering and its drink offering, for a soothing fragrance, a fire offering to Jehovah." (*A Literal Translation of the Bible*)

The Israelites reckoned days from sunset to sunset. God makes it clear that Israel was to offer two lambs every day. The first lamb was sacrificed in the morning, and the second lamb was sacrificed "between the evenings." To be the second offering of the day, the lamb sacrificed "between the evenings" had to be slain before sunset!

If "between the evenings" occurs anytime **after** sunset, then the Israelites could not have carried out this command in the manner God prescribed. At sunset, the old day has ended and the new day has begun. Defining **beyn ha'arbayim** as the period from sunset to dark makes the evening sacrifice first and the morning sacrifice second according to the way the Israelites delineated a "day." Therefore this definition of "between the evenings" must be rejected because it contradicts the Scriptures!

Obviously **beyn ha'arbayim** must be a period during the daylight portion of the day. The Jews have always reckoned it to be from the decline of the sun after noon until the setting of the sun. Indeed, history shows that at the time of Messiah, the Jewish priests fulfilled God's command by offering the evening sacrifice between 2:30-3:30 in the afternoon.

Jewish scholars generally define the phrase **beyn ha'arbayim** to mean "the afternoon," as shown below:

at twilight Hebrew **ben ha'arbayim** literally means "between the two settings." Rabbinic sources take this to mean "from noon on." According to Radak, the first "setting" occurs when the sun passes its zenith just after noon and the shadows begin to lengthen, and the second "setting" is the actual sunset. (p. 55, vol. 2, *The Jewish Publication Society Torah Commentary*, "Exodus")

At dusk From six hours (after noon) and upward it is called בין הערבים, when the sun declines towards the place of its setting to become darkened. And the expression בין הערבים appears in my sight (to refer to) those hours between the "evening" of day and the "evening" of night; the "evening" of day is at the

beginning of the seventh hour, from (the time that) "the shadows of evening are stretched out" (Jer. 7.6), and the "evening" of night is at the beginning of night. (p. 102, vol. II, *The Pentateuch and Rashi's Commentary-A Linear Translation Into English*)

at dusk. Better, *towards even* (M. Friedlander); lit. 'between the two evenings'. According to the Talmud, the 'first evening' is the time in the afternoon when the heat of the sun begins to decrease, about 3 o'clock; and the 'second evening' commences with sunset. (p. 254, *The Pentateuch and Haftorahs*, ed. Dr. Joseph H. Hertz)

The Jewish historian Flavius Josephus tells us that in the first century, before the destruction of the Temple, the Passover lambs were slaughtered "from the ninth hour till the eleventh" (6.9.3, *The Wars of the Jews*). This time corresponds to our 3:00-5:00 p.m. Obviously most of the Jews in Yeshua's day understood that "between the evenings" meant from the going down of the sun at noon until the setting of the sun at sunset. Therefore, they slaughtered the Passover lambs in the afternoon of 14 **Abib** (then called **Nisan**).

Going back even further, we have the witness of the **Book of Jubilees**, which dates to the mid-2nd century BCE. Fragments of ten different Hebrew manuscripts of this book have been found in the Qumran caves; however, the text we have comes from four Ethiopian translations, and a sizable fragment translated into Latin. The **Book of Jubilees** contains valuable information on how the Jews kept the Passover 200 years before Yeshua:

Remember the commandment which the Lord commanded thee concerning the passover, that thou shouldst celebrate it in its season on the fourteenth of the first month, that thou shouldst kill it **before it is evening**, and that they should eat it by night on the **evening of the fifteenth** from the time of the setting of the sun. For on this night - the beginning of the festival and the beginning of the joy - ye were eating the passover in Egypt . . .

Let the children of Israel come and observe the passover on the day of its fixed time, on the fourteenth day of the first month, **between the evenings**, from the third part of the day to the third part of the night, for two portions of the day are given to the light, and a third part to the evening. This is that which the Lord commanded thee that thou shouldst observe it **between the evenings**. And it is not permissible to slay it during any period of the light, but during the period bordering on the

evening, and let them eat it at the time of the evening, until the third part of the night, and whatever is left over of all its flesh from the third part of the night and onwards, let them burn it with fire . . . (Jubilees 49:1-2, 10-13, *The Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha of the Old Testament*, R.H. Charles)

To support their beliefs, those who teach that Passover falls totally on 14 **Nisan** allege that the Jews redefined **beyn ha'arbayim** to suit their own purposes sometime between Ezra and the appearance of Yeshua the Messiah. In taking this position, they are forced to reject all the available historical evidence and the inspired definition of "between the evenings" found in Exodus 29:38-41. They admit that the Jews were killing the Passover on the afternoon of 14 **Nisan** at the time of Yeshua, but they maintain that this practice was incorrect. These people further claim that Yeshua correctly observed Passover according to the Sadducean or Essene method, keeping it a day earlier than the Pharisees and the rest of the Jewish nation.

However, no historical testimony exists to confirm these theories. They are based on the assumption that at the "last supper," Yeshua was following the Sadducean/Samaritan custom of observing the Passover beginning at sunset on 14 **Nisan**, or that he was following the Essene calendar, which put the Passover meal one day earlier than the mainstream Jewish calendar. These views originated to explain the perceived discrepancies between John's account of the "last supper," which clearly shows that it was before Passover, and the Synoptic versions, which **seem** to indicate that the "last supper" was the regular Passover meal.

As stated earlier, no evidence exists to support these theories. But is there a way to disprove them? Yes, we can refute both from the Bible. It is a simple matter to refute the Essene observance premise. Shortly before his crucifixion, Yeshua told the multitudes and his disciples to follow the commands given by the Pharisees while they sat on Moses' seat (Matt. 23:1-3). This most certainly would have included the time for observing the feasts, including Passover. If he himself did NOT observe the feast according to Pharisaic reckoning, he would have been as much a hypocrite as those Pharisees he went on to chastise in the remainder of Matthew 23 for their hypocrisy.

Disproving the Sadducean Passover hypothesis from the Bible takes a little more effort. A careful reading of Mark 15:1 in conjunction with John 18:28 shows that the Sadducees also ate the Passover meal on the night of 15 **Nisan**, at the same time advocated by the Pharisees:

MARK 15:1 Immediately, in the

morning, the **chief priests** held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council; and they bound Jesus, led him away, and delivered him to Pilate. (**NKJV**)

JOHN 18:28 Then they led Jesus from Caiaphas to the Praetorium, and it was early morning. But they themselves did not go into the Praetorium, lest they should be defiled, but that they might **eat the Passover**. (**NKJV**)

Who were the "chief priests" mentioned in Mark 15:1 who delivered Yeshua to Pilate?

The Sadducees are mentioned by name in the NT only about a dozen times . . . but it must be remembered that when mention is made of the **chief priests**, practically the same persons are referred to. (p. 741, "Sadducees," *The Zondervan Pictorial Bible Dictionary*)

Mark records that Yeshua was taken before the Sanhedrin council (Mark 15:1). This council included both Pharisees and Sadducees. These were the same men who delivered Messiah to Pilate early on the morning of 14 **Nisan**.

None of those who brought Yeshua to Pilate would enter the Praetorium. Why? John clearly states the reason: They wanted to be ceremonially clean so they could partake of the Passover meal, which was eaten on 15 **Nisan** after sunset! Even if the Sadducees believed Passover fell totally on 14 **Nisan**, John shows that they were not observing it then!

If the Sadducees believed that they should eat the Passover meal on the night of 14 **Nisan**, why didn't they eat it then?

By the time of Jesus they [the Sadducees] included the families who supplied the high priests, as well as other wealthy aristocrats of Jerusalem. Most members of the Sanhedrin, the central judicial authority of Jewish people, were Sadducees. Thus, the Sadducees were the party of those with political power, those allied with the Herodian and Roman rulers, but they were not a group with influence among the people themselves. The views of the Pharisees prevailed among the common people, so that even though the two groups differed with regard to items in the laws of purity and details of temple procedure during the feasts, **the Sadducean priests were compelled to operate according to the Pharisees' views**. (p. 902, "Sadducees," *The Eerdmans Bible Dictionary*)

The Sadducees were politically motivated; they kept the Pharisaic (and scriptural) Passover because they feared a public backlash if they didn't. Regardless of what the Sadducees personally believed

about the timing of the Passover, the Bible shows that they followed the same custom as the rest of the nation.

History shows that the Pharisees controlled the Temple rituals at the time of Yeshua. You never find Yeshua criticizing the Jews or the Pharisees for keeping Passover on the wrong day. Indeed, the Bible plainly records that Yeshua and his parents customarily kept the Passover in Jerusalem with the rest of their countrymen (Luke 2:41-42; John 2:23; 11:55-56).

Yeshua corrected the Pharisees on many issues where they were wrong. Would he have neglected to correct them on such a vitally important issue if they were keeping Passover on the wrong day? Not likely! Yet instead of correction, just before the Passover feast we find him telling his disciples and the multitudes that "the scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. Therefore whatever they tell you to observe, that observe and do . . ." (Matt. 23:1-3). It's absurd to think that Yeshua would tell the people to follow the Pharisees if they were observing Passover at the wrong time!

On the other hand, it's also strange that the scribes and Pharisees never criticized Yeshua or his disciples for keeping the Passover on a different day from them. Would their leaders have overlooked such an obvious point of disagreement when they were seeking a way to discredit and ultimately destroy Yeshua? Probably not. In this matter, the silence of Scripture is very revealing.

We have further evidence from Paul that the 1st-century Jewish interpretation of *beyn ha'arbayim* is the correct one. In Philippians 3:5-6, Paul describes his Jewish background; he says that he was "concerning the Law, a Pharisee . . . concerning the righteousness which is in the Law, blameless." Paul could not have truthfully said that he was blameless regarding the Law if he had observed the Passover at the wrong time as a Pharisee. This inspired Scripture indirectly shows that the Pharisaic interpretation of *beyn ha'arbayim*, which the Jews observed in killing the Passover, was the correct one!

From where did the two different interpretations of the phrase *beyn ha'arbayim* arise?

The phrase "between the evenings" in Ex. 12:6 (also Ex. 16:12; Lv. 23:5; Nu. 9:3,5,11) has been accorded two variant interpretations, according to variant community practice - either between 3 p.m. and sunset, as the Pharisees maintained and practiced (cf. Pesachim 61a; Josephus, BJ 6. 423); or, as the Samaritans and others argued, between sunset and dark. The earlier time, as Edersheim points out, allows more leeway for the slaughtering of the innumerable lambs, and is probably

preferred. (p. 882, "Passover," *New Bible Dictionary*)

Alfred Edersheim, a noted 19th-century Jewish scholar, has this to say about *beyn ha'arbayim*:

The lamb was to be killed on the eve of the 14th, or rather, as the phrase is, "between the two evenings" (Exod. 12:6, Lev. 23:5; Num. 9:3,5). According to the Samaritans, the Karaite Jews [8th century CE], and many modern interpreters, this means between actual sunset and complete darkness (or, say, between six and seven P.M.); but from the contemporary testimony of Josephus (*Jew. Wars*, 6.423), and from the Talmudic authorities, there cannot be a doubt that at the time of our Lord, it was regarded as the interval between the sun's commencing to decline and his actual disappearance. This allows a sufficient period for the numerous lambs which had to be killed, and agrees with the traditional account that on the eve of the Passover the daily evening sacrifice was offered an hour, or, if it fell on a Friday, two hours, before the usual time. (p. 165, *The Temple: Its Ministry and Services*, updated ed.)

So we can see that at the time of Messiah, primarily two opinions existed regarding the interpretation of "between the evenings" as it applied to Passover. The Pharisees taught that the lamb had to be slaughtered on the afternoon of 14 *Nisan*. The Samaritans believed that they should kill the Passover lamb between sunset and dark, at the beginning of 14 *Nisan*.

Whom should we look to for our interpretation of *beyn ha'arbayim*, the Samaritans or the Pharisees? Did the Samaritans have the truth regarding this matter? Let's see what Yeshua himself said to a Samaritan woman about the spiritual knowledge and understanding of the Samaritans.

JOHN 4:22 **"You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. (NKJV)**

Messiah clearly told the Samaritan woman at the well that the Samaritans did not know what they worshiped. In the same verse, he affirmed that the Jews did know the God they worshiped, because they had the true religion.

According to Yeshua, the Pharisees were the successors to Moses. When they expounded on when to keep the feasts of God from the *Torah*, Yeshua told his disciples and the people to observe the Pharisaic commands. He never told the people to follow the teachings of the syncretistic Samaritans or the materialistic Sadducees! II Kings 17:22-34 shows the origin of **those** Samaritans and their illicit

religious practices. Just like many Christian denominations today, the Samaritans had a little of the truth mixed with much error. Yeshua confirms in Matthew 23:1-3 that it was the Pharisees, **not** the Sadducees (or the Essenes), who were the authoritative religious teachers of his day.

When we look at this topic objectively with an open mind, the evidence is overwhelming that *beyn ha'arbayim* is the period between noon and sunset (for additional discussion of this topic, see **"What Does 'Between The Evenings' Mean?"**). Therefore, the Israelites must have killed the Passover lambs in Egypt on the afternoon of 14 *Abib* and then eaten the Passover meal sometime on the night of 15 *Abib* before midnight. This time sequence will become more obvious as we examine the rest of the Exodus chronology.

Now let's look at how God told the Israelites to eat the Passover:

EXODUS 12:8 "That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast. 9 Do not eat the meat raw or cooked in water, but roast it over the fire—head, legs and inner parts. 10 Do not leave any of it till morning; if some is left till morning, you must burn it. 11 **This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste;** it is the LORD's Passover. 12 On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn—both men and animals—and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the LORD." (NIV)

Those who believe in a Passover falling totally on 14 *Abib* have trouble explaining why God instructed the Israelites to eat the Passover in haste. As you can see from this passage, they were to have their belongings packed and be dressed and ready to move out quickly. Yet, there was no need for them to eat the Passover in haste, with their belts and sandals on and their staffs in their hands, if they were not going to leave Egypt until almost a full day later, on the night of 15 *Abib*. So why did God give them these explicit instructions? Is it because He truly intended for them to leave soon after the death of the firstborn? Yes!

Additionally, those who believe that the death angel passed through Egypt on the night of 14 *Abib* make a major issue of the Israelites not leaving their houses until dawn. They contend that per Moses' instruction found in Exodus 12:22, none of them dared venture out of their homes until morning, because to do otherwise would have meant coming out from under the protection of the lambs' blood! But do the Scriptures teach

this?

EXODUS 12:13 Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. (NKJV)

When the death angel went through the land, he looked for the blood on the lintel and the two doorposts of the houses. When he saw it, he passed over that house! In Exodus 12:13, the phrase "when I strike" implies a definite time. When did the destroyer strike?

EXODUS 12:29 And it came to pass **at midnight** that the Lord struck all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn of the captive who was in the dungeon, and all the firstborn of livestock. (NKJV)

The Scriptures show that the death angel killed the firstborn at midnight. Once the destroyer had gone through Egypt, the 10th plague was over. It does not appear that there was any danger to the Israelite firstborn after the death angel had passed through the land.

Now what does the Bible show happening after the death of the firstborn?

EXODUS 12:30 So Pharaoh rose in the night, he, all his servants, and all the Egyptians; and there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was not a house where there was not one dead. 31 Then he called for Moses and Aaron by night, and said, "Rise, go out from among my people, both you and the children of Israel. And go, serve the Lord as you have said. 32 Also take your flocks and your herds, as you have said, and be gone; and bless me also." 33 And **the Egyptians urged the people, that they might send them out of the land in haste.** For they said, "We shall all be dead." (NKJV)

The Scriptures clearly record that Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron that night, soon after the death of the firstborn. Although some try to make the case that Moses and Aaron ignored Pharaoh's summons, the text strongly suggests that they appeared before him. Pharaoh commanded Moses to take the Israelites out of the country, and he also asked Moses to bless him before he left. All the Egyptian people, who rose that night after the last plague, urged the people to leave in haste! They feared that they would also be killed if the Israelites remained in their land a moment longer.

So what happened next? Did the Israelites ignore the order of Pharaoh and the pleas of the surviving Egyptians and spend the entire next day gathering gold, silver, and clothing from the grieving Egyptians as they prepared to bury their dead? Not according

to the Bible!

EXODUS 12:34 So the people took their dough before it was leavened, having their kneading bowls bound up in their clothes on their shoulders. 35 Now the children of Israel **had done** according to the word of Moses, and they **had asked** from the Egyptians articles of silver, articles of gold, and clothing. 36 And the Lord **had given** the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they granted them what they requested. Thus they plundered the Egyptians. 37 Then the children of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand men on foot, besides children. 38 A mixed multitude went up with them also, and flocks and herds; a great deal of livestock. 39 And they baked unleavened cakes of the dough which they had brought out of Egypt; for it was not leavened, because **they were driven out of Egypt and could not wait**, nor had they prepared provisions for themselves. (NKJV)

The Scriptures clearly show that the Israelites left hurriedly! Not only did Pharaoh and the Egyptians urge them to leave, the Bible says they actually drove the Israelites out of Egypt, just as God had foretold (Exo. 11:1). They were forced to leave without having had time to prepare any food for their journey. Following God's instructions, they were dressed, packed, and ready to go quickly. They did not even have time to unpack their kneading bowls and prepare bread before the Egyptians expelled them!

If we look at when the command to spoil the Egyptians was given, we can also see when it was likely carried out:

EXODUS 11:1 And the Lord said to Moses, "I will bring yet one more plague on Pharaoh and on Egypt. Afterward he will let you go from here. **When he lets you go, he will surely drive you out of here altogether.** 2 Speak **now** in the hearing of the people, and let every man ask from his neighbor and every woman from her neighbor, articles of silver and articles of gold." 3 **And the Lord gave the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians.** Moreover the man Moses was very great in the land of Egypt, in the sight of Pharaoh's servants and in the sight of the people. (NKJV)

From the statement in Exodus 11:3 that "the Lord gave the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians," it's evident that the plundering occurred before the 10th plague took place. It had already happened before the Egyptians expelled the Israelites. That's why in many translations of the Bible, the account of the plundering detailed in Exodus 12:35-36 is in the past tense ("had done,"

"had asked," "had given").

Going back to a point raised earlier, did the Israelites wait until first light to leave their houses, or were they expelled during the night? The Scriptures do not conclusively tell us either way. On the surface, Deuteronomy 16:1 seems to imply that Pharaoh expelled them before dawn, while it was still dark:

DEUTERONOMY 16:1 "Observe the month of Abib, and keep the Passover to the LORD your God, for in the month of Abib the LORD your God **brought you out of Egypt by night.**" (NKJV)

However, this Scripture may not mean that the Israelites literally left at night. The phrase "the Lord your God brought you out of Egypt by night" could refer to the **event** that caused their release, the death of the Egyptian firstborn. After all, it was this 10th plague that finally caused Pharaoh to free them. Even after the Israelites began traveling, they were not out of Egyptian territory until they crossed the Red Sea. So a figurative meaning for this verse is likely. Yet whether this verse is literal or figurative, the few hours we are talking about does not materially affect the chronology.

Editors Note:

Bryan Huie believes that they left Egypt when they crossed the Red Sea between Lake Timsah and the Bitter Lake in the Gulf of Suez with Mount Sinai being due east and a little south. See Map #1 at end.

We on the other hand believe that they crossed the Red Sea at Neweiba Beach in the Gulf of Aqaba which is on the other side of the Sinai Peninsula with Jabal Al-Lawz being Mount Sinai. See Map #2 at end. We also believe that Deuteronomy 16:1 is literal and that the Israelites definitely crossed the Red Sea leaving Egypt at night on the last day of Unleavened Bread. Exodus 14 tells the story of the Israelites crossing the Red Sea. Exodus 14:20-21 says "And it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel; and it was a cloud and darkness to them, but it gave light by **night** to these: so that the one came not near the other all the **night**. And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that **night**, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided." Laura Lee

Despite whether the Israelites left their houses a few hours before dawn or as the sky was lightening in the east, Numbers 33:3 tells us that the Israelites departed from Rameses (also known as the land of Goshen, see Gen. 47:5-6, 11) on the 15th of **Abib**. They were forced to obey the command of Pharaoh and the exhortations of the frantic Egyptians and start their journey out of slavery that night or just as the daylight portion of 15 **Abib** was dawning, just a few

hours after the death of the Egyptian firstborn:

NUMBERS 33:1 These are the journeys of the children of Israel, who went out of the land of Egypt by their armies under the hand of Moses and Aaron. 2 Now Moses wrote down the starting points of their journeys at the command of the Lord. And these are their journeys according to their starting points: 3 **They departed from Rameses in the first month, on the fifteenth day of the first month;** on the day after the Passover the children of Israel went out with boldness in the sight of all the Egyptians. 4 For the Egyptians were burying all their firstborn, whom the Lord had killed among them. Also on their gods the Lord had executed judgments. 5 Then the children of Israel moved from Rameses and camped at Succoth. **(NKJV)**

Moses conclusively records in the passage above that the Israelites began their journey out of Egypt on 15 **Abib**. They left from their area of residence, Rameses (Goshen), shortly before dawn or at the first light of day. During the daylight portion of the 15th, they saw the Egyptians burying their dead as they triumphantly traveled to Succoth.

I am sure that I have not covered every possible objection one could raise about the timing of the first Passover. Hopefully, though, I have shown that the overwhelming

majority of the evidence proves that the original Passover lambs were slain on the afternoon of 14 **Abib**, with the Passover meal being eaten on the night of the 15th. According to the Bible, the actual sequence of events for the first Passover is as follows:

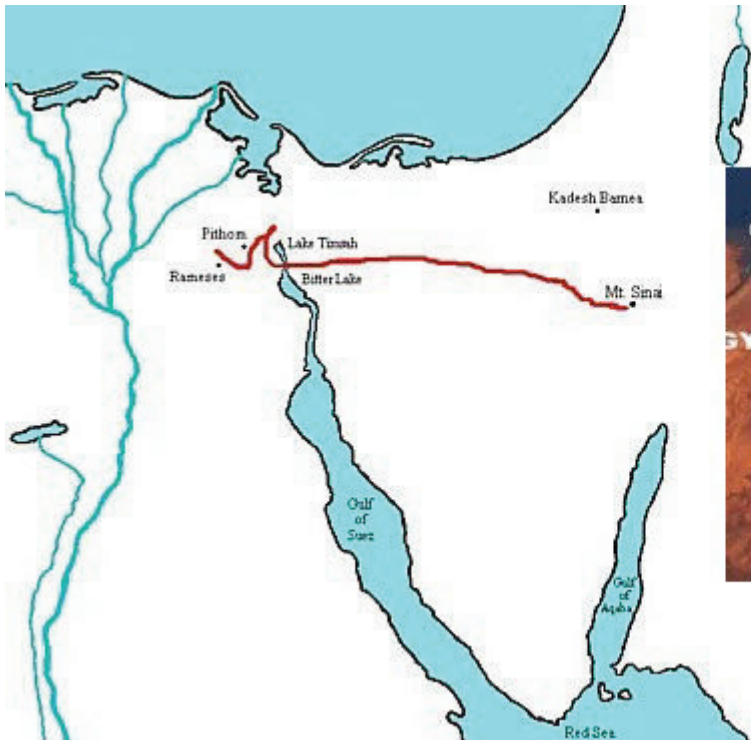
- The Israelites plundered the Egyptians of gold, silver, and clothing **before** the death of the Egyptian firstborn, possibly during the morning hours of 14 **Abib** (Exo. 11:2-3).
- The congregation of Israel slew the Passover lambs in the afternoon of 14 **Abib**, "between the evenings." Afterward, the blood was collected and put on the lintel and doorposts of the Israelites' houses (Exo. 12:6-7).
- At sunset, as 15 **Abib** began, the Israelites went indoors and prepared the Passover meal – lamb roasted in the fire, with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. The first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread had begun at sundown (Exo. 12:8, 17).
- The Israelites ate the Passover meal in haste on the night of 15 **Abib**. According to God's command, they ate it with their belts on their waists, their sandals on their feet, and their staffs in their hands. They were ready to move out quickly (Exo. 12:11).

- After the Passover meal was finished, the remains of the lambs were burned according to God's instructions (Exo. 12:10).
- At midnight, the death angel went throughout the land of Egypt, killing all the firstborn of man and beast except those protected by the blood of the lambs (Exo. 12:12, 29).
- Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron soon after the 10th plague struck. He ordered the Israelites to leave the country. The surviving Egyptians also strongly urged them to leave quickly; they feared that they would all be killed if the Israelites remained (Exo. 12:30-33).
- The Egyptians essentially drove the Israelites out of the land of Rameses (Goshen) during the early morning of 15 **Abib** (Exo. 12:34, 37; Num. 33:3; Deu. 16:1).
- As they boldly traveled out of Rameses toward Succoth during the daylight portion of the 15th of **Abib**, the Israelites observed the Egyptians burying those killed by the previous night's plague (Num. 33:3-4).
- After they reached Succoth, the Israelites camped and baked unleavened bread from the dough they had brought out of Egypt. It was unleavened because they were driven out of Egypt hurriedly. They

hadn't had time to prepare provisions for themselves (Exo. 12:37-39; Num. 33:5).

This is the sequence of events that the Bible reveals for the first Passover and the beginning of the Exodus. As shown above, the chronology advanced by those who believe the Passover fell completely on 14 **Abib** has serious flaws. It ignores some Scriptures and contradicts others.

Many believe that by partaking of the



Map #1 -- Gulf of Suez Crossing



Map #2 -- Gulf of Aqaba Crossing

wine and bread on the night of 14 **Nisan**, they are keeping the New Testament Passover at the same time the Old Testament Passover was kept. However, the original Passover was **not** eaten on the 14th! God commanded the Israelites to keep the Passover as a feast to **YHWH** throughout their generations. It was to be kept as an everlasting ordinance (Exo. 12:14, 24). Did Yeshua change the time for observing the Passover?

MATTHEW 5:17 "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. 18 For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled." (**NKJV**)

Yeshua fulfilled the symbolism of the Passover by dying on the afternoon of 14 **Nisan** at the same time the lambs had been sacrificed for centuries. But nowhere does the New Testament record that Yeshua changed the date for the "night to be much observed" (Exo. 12:42), the night God ordained for eating the Passover meal. Since the original Passover, this meal has celebrated the Israelites' deliverance from slavery in Egypt. For believers, it now celebrates our deliverance from bondage to sin in spiritual Egypt, Satan's world. Article reprinted by permission from: <http://users.aristotle.net/~bhuie/po-first.htm>

Article found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0047/a2008-047-04.htm>

THE END**

("Ancient Heresies and..." continued from page 1)

works. Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. For Adam was first formed, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression. Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety (I Timothy 2:8-15).

Yet the author of these words brought Priscilla as well as her husband Aquila to Ephesus to serve in a teaching capacity (Acts 18) and made significant use of women in his ministry. He hails several as fellow-laborers in the gospel (Rom. 16:1-15; Phil. 4:2f.) and asks the church to give submission to such as these (I Cor. 16:16). He stated furthermore that in Christ there is neither male nor female and that before the Lord

there is neither man without the woman nor woman without the man (Gal. 3:28; 1 Cor. 11:11f.). How can this attitude be reconciled with the text in I Timothy? And what of the doctrine that women must continue to bear responsibility for the sin of Eve? How does this accord with Christ's full and perfect atonement for sin and with the biblical precept that the child shouldn't be held accountable for the parent's sin (Deut. 24:16; 2 Chron. 25:4; Jer. 31:29f.; Ezek. 18:20)? And then there is the matter of salvation through childbearing: how does this fit into the New Testament affirmation of salvation by faith?

The twelfth verse contains a rare Greek verb, found only here in the entire Bible. This word, *authentēin*, is ordinarily translated "to bear rule" or "to usurp authority"; yet a study of other Greek literary sources reveals that it did not ordinarily have this meaning until the third or fourth century, well after the time of the New Testament. Essentially the word means "to thrust oneself." Its earliest meanings are noteworthy, since they might provide a quite different understanding of a difficult text. We must also examine the closely related nouns *authentia* (later translated as "power"), *authentēs* (after the New Testament period, "master") and the adjective *authentikos*, which still survives in English as "authentic." Although the usages prior to and during the New Testament period are few and far between, they are briefs of murder cases and once to mean suicide, as did **Dio Cassius**, **Thucydides**, **Herodotus**, and **Aeschylus** also use the word to denote one who slays with his own hand, and so does **Euripides**. The Jewish **Philo**, whose writings are contemporary with the New Testament, meant "self-murderer" by his use of the term.

In **Euripides** the word begins to take on a sexual tinge. Menelaos is accounted a murderer because of his wife's malfeasance, and Andromache, the adored wife of the fallen Hector, is taken as a concubine by the *authentēs*, who can command her domestic and sexual services. In fury the legitimate wife castigates Andromache with sexually abusive terms as "having the effrontery to sleep with the son of the father who destroyed your husband, in order to bear the child of an *authentēs*." In the extended passage she mingles the concepts of incest and domestic murder, so that love and death color the meaning. The word also occurs in a homosexual sense in a speech by **Theseus**, king of Athens, where love of young boys was considered a virtue rather than a vice.

Although one finds hints in certain modern lexicons, the erotic sense of *authentēs* is often ignored. The grammarian **Phrynichus**, writing approximately A.D. 180, explained that the word is composed of two parts--autos, "self," and *hentos* from *hiemi*: to

"thrust out from oneself" or to "desire." The word should never, he announced, be used to denote tyranny, but rather murder by one's own hand, as with a sword. (The sword was considered a phallic symbol in ancient Greece.) **Moeris**, also in the second century, advised his students to use another word, *autodikein*, as it was less coarse than *authentēin*. The Byzantine **Thomas Magister** reiterates the warning against using this objectionable term. The charred fragments of a scroll excavated from the ruins of **Herculaneum** demonstrate the use of *authentēin* in a parallel position to "those wounded by the terrible shafts of Eros." The lines were penned by the rhetorician and obscene epigrammatist, **Philodemus**, who was nicknamed "Lascivus."

In the Wisdom of Solomon 12:6, part of the *Septuagint Apocrypha*, one finds *authentas goneis*, "parents engendering helpless souls," in the midst of a discussion of the abominable fertility and mystery rites of the Canaanites. Although God gave the Canaanites ample opportunity to repent, yet

Thou wert not ignorant that theirs was a wicked conception, their evil inseminated, and that their attitude could never be changed. For it was a cursed seed from the beginning. (13 column 1)

Pregnancy as a result of pagan orgies was an ancient commonplace, but to the Jewish mind illegitimacy was repugnant in any form. The same book states elsewhere:

The wives [of the godless] are frivolous, their children criminal, their parenthood is under a curse. . . . The children of adultery are like fruit that never ripens; they have sprung from a lawless union, and will come to nothing. Even if they attain length of life, they will be of no account and at the end their old age will be without honor. If they die young, they will have no hope, no consolation in the hour of judgment; the unjust generation has a hard fate in store for it... The swarming progeny of the wicked will come to no good. . . . Children engendered in unlawful union are living evidence of the parents' sin when God brings them to account (3:10-4:6, NEB).

The crime of the *authentas* parents appears to be the procreation of souls doomed to everlasting damnation--although most English translations render the phrase "parents murdering innocent souls." The *Latin Vulgate* translates it *parentes auctores*, "parents procreating innocent souls"; for in the period before the birth of Christ *authentēs* came to mean the "author" or "originator" of an action. Such usage occurs in **Josephus**, **Diodorus** of Sicily, **Eusebius**, and **Polybius**. By the second century A.D., the word was

used for "creator," for a self-thrusting one could both murder and create. Most modern scholars accept the rendition of "original status" for *authentia* in 3 Maccabees 2:29.

In Egyptian magic and Gnostic-papyri, the terms *authentēs*, *autlientikos*, and *authentia* designated the original, the primordial, the "authentic"; and by the third century, the concept of the primal source had merged with that of power and authority. In most ancient theologies, creative acts were also sexual ones; and the erotic connotation of *authentēin* lingered on.

In a lengthy description of various tribes' sexual habits, **Michael Glycas**, the Byzantine historiographer, uses this verb to describe women "who make sexual advances to men and fornicate as much as they please without arousing their husbands' jealousy." The eighth-century folk epic Digenes Akrites repeatedly employs *authentēs* as a term of endearment, usually in an amorous sense, and quite often its use ushers in an erotic scene such as this:

"That was why, my *authentēs* [lover], fear came over me." We kissed a thousand times and went into the tent."

In another scene introduced by the use of both *autitentes* and the feminine *authenteria*, there follows so amorous an episode that the mother-in-law is obliged to douse the couple with cold water lest they should be completely overcome by the heat of their passion.

But what can the term *authentēin* imply in 1 Timothy 2:12? In his Commentary on 1 Timothy 5.6, **St. John? Chrysostom** uses *autheritia* to denote "sexual license." If the word in this context refers to sexual behavior, it puts a quite different interpretation on the entire passage. For instance, if we were to translate the passage, "I forbid a woman to teach or discuss higher algebra with a man," we would understand the prohibition to be directed against instruction in mathematics. Suppose it read, "I forbid a woman to teach or talk Japanese with a man." Then we infer that the injunction applies to the teaching of language. "I forbid a woman to teach or dangle a man from a high wire" would presuppose that the instructor was an aerialist. "I forbid a woman to teach or engage in fertility practices with a man" would imply that the woman should not involve a man in the heretical kind of Christianity which taught licentious behavior as one of its doctrines. Such a female heretic did indeed "teach to fornicate" in the Thyatiran church mentioned in Revelation 2:20 (cf. 2:14f.; Num. 25:3; 31:15f.). Too often we underestimate the seriousness of this problem for the New Testament church. A passage in 2 Peter expresses concern not only for those drawn into this error but also for the illegitimate children which it produced:

But Israel had false prophets as well as true; and you likewise will have false teachers among you. . . . Having eyes full of adultery, that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls, an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children which have forsaken the right way . . . following the way of Balaam.... They utter big empty words, and make of sensual lusts and debauchery a bait to catch those who have barely begun to escape from their heathen environment (2 Peter 2:1,14f.,18).

It is evident that a similar heresy is current at Ephesus, where these false teachers "led captive silly women laden with sins" (2 Tim. 3:6f.).

Licentious doctrines continued to vex the church for several centuries, to the dismay of the church fathers. **Clement** of Alexandria wrote a detailed refutation of the various groups who endorsed fornication as accepted Christian behavior. He complained of those who had turned love-feasts into sex orgies, of those who taught women to "give to every man that asketh of thee," and of those who found in physical intercourse a "mystical communion." He branded one such lewd group *authentai* (the plural of *authentēs*).

Others have kicked over the traces and waxed wanton, having become indeed "wild horses who whinny after their neighbors' wives." They have abandoned themselves to lust without restraint and persuade their neighbors to live licentiously.

Continuing, he describes them as "lecherous, incontinent men who fight with their tails, children of darkness and anger, thirsty for their blood, *authentai*, and murderers of their neighbors" (**Stromata**, III.xviii).

Such, then, are the deluded Christians who persuade their neighbor wives to live voluptuously.

But if 1 Timothy 2:12 is understood as a prohibition against promulgating licentious doctrine; and practices, how does this tie in with the entire passage? Women are bidden to dress modestly and with propriety (vv. 9-10)--surely a necessity in a city which boasted thousands of prostitutes. Sumptuary laws forbade any but harlots the adornment Paul here proscribes. "Imitate not the **courtesans** (prostitutes)," thundered **John Chrysostom** in his commentary on this passage--and widens his censure to include seductive voice as well as dress. But "silence" has here to do with receptivity to learning Christian doctrine in "subjection to the gospel."

In Ephesus, where a great multitude of sacred **courtesans** (prostitutes) were attached to the shrine of Diana, women had much to unlearn. Previously they had been

taught that fornication brought the worshiper into direct communion with the deity. It is worth noting that certain Gnostics and Nestorians employed *authentia* to indicate a force binding together the fleshly and the divine. But converts must learn that the one Mediator between God and man was Christ Jesus, and that they must practice their newfound faith in quiet decorum rather than in the wild and clamorous orgies demanded by Ephesian religion.

The devil had once seduced Eve (the verb in vv. 13 and 14 is also a sexual one); and Jewish tradition held that Satan chose the woman because she was newer and therefore more gullible. She was quite genuinely deceived, supposing that she would gain the knowledge of good and evil; and she involved Adam, who was not deceived, in the transgression. To women who had been trained in childhood in the gross immorality of the Phrygian cult, the admonition was certainly appropriate. But prostitutes were active in many areas of ancient life, and some of these found Christ as well.

Virtually without exception, female teachers among the Greeks were **courtesans** (prostitutes), such as **Aspasia**, who numbered **Socrates** and **Pericles** among her students. Active in every major school of philosophy, these *hetairai* made it evident in the course of their lectures that they were available afterwards for a second occupation. But the Bible teaches that to seduce men in such a manner was indeed to lead them to slaughter and the halls of death (cf. Prov. 2:18; 5:5; 7:27; 9:18). The verb *authentēin* is thus peculiarly apt to describe both the erotic and the murderous. Verse 15, with its reference to salvation through childbearing, might refer either to the woman's social and economic salvation in marriage and family or to a concern for children brought into the world as a result of immoral practice. We have referred above to the "tainted children" of 2 Peter and those described in Wisdom of Solomon as headed for a dreadful fate, rising up against their parents at the Day of judgment.

Paul was familiar with the Wisdom of Solomon, and he quoted from it in Romans and 1 Corinthians. As the word was so rare, the use of *authentēin* here must have triggered a recollection of the "parents engendering helpless souls" in Wisdom. But the gospel of Jesus Christ offered redemption to mother and child alike when they have been born anew in the family of God. The stigma of illegitimacy could be removed and the Personality healed; and the redemptive maternal attitudes are faith and love and holiness with self-control.

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THE END**

“On the Third...” continued from page 1)

on Jerusalem and its temple as its central focus). The Bible is a book written from a Hebrew perspective, with Hebrew roots and to understand it, the reader must view it from the reference point of Jerusalem. I will demonstrate this with a couple examples, which most people will understand. If a person was speaking to a golfer and mentioned his “eagle”, people unfamiliar with golf might think he had a big feathered bird, but a golfer would know exactly what the person was speaking about. Also the hockey player excited about the “hat trick” he had in a previous game, would completely baffle the listener unfamiliar with ice hockey. In this paper I will show the statements Christ made about His resurrection, when viewed from a Hebrew perspective, will clear up any misunderstanding we may have had over what day the resurrection occurred.

In many places in the New Testament, the Bible states Christ would rise from the dead **The Third Day** (Matt. 16:21, Matt. 17:23, Mark 9:31, Mark 10:34, Luke 9:22, Luke 18:33, Acts 10:40) but it is also stated that this **Third Day** would come after three days (Matt. 27:63, Mark 8:31). Bible students that have unknowingly been viewing their Bible through the eyes of traditional Christianity will scoff and say; “If it is after three days, it is impossible and too late, to rise on the third day”. The writers of the New Testament viewing these statements from a Hebrew perspective saw no contradiction in these verses. It is obvious that for all these scriptures to be correct (on the third day and after three days), **The Third Day** spoken of, would have to be something other than “a day count” from the time of burial. The religious leaders of Jerusalem, at the time of the crucifixion, knew exactly what day Christ was speaking of, when He repeatedly stated He would rise from the dead on the third day. The leaders only asked for the guard until **The Third Day** (Matt.27:64) even though they had just acknowledged Christ’s own statement (verse 63) that it would be after three days, Christ would disappear from his tomb. What did these religious leaders know that most people today are ignorant of? The leaders knew, if **The Third Day** finished and Christ was still dead lying in the tomb, He would be proven to be a false prophet.

A person will understand this mysterious **Third Day** when they understand how God attaches Pentecost to the celebration of the firstborn being passed over. The Bible and the Hebrew people, attach Pentecost to the first high annual Sabbath of the biblical year,

because this is where they start counting from. Hebrew people count their **First Day**, on their count toward Pentecost, from this first high Sabbath in the Passover celebration. This can be proven by a study of many of the best commentaries, history (Josephus, Philo, etc.) and the Bible itself. Traditional Christianity on the other hand, attaches Pentecost to Sunday. This writer finds it very strange that many people who observe the Biblical Hebrew Sabbath have also unknowingly copied traditional Christianity’s system of counting toward Pentecost. Traditional Christianity has not had a good track record when it comes to numbers and counting. This shows up when it comes to calculating the biblical rest day (the fourth commandment).

If anyone is starting their Pentecost count on the day that follows the weekly Sabbath in unleavened bread, that day is Sunday, the Sabbath of traditional Christianity. When a calendar is checked, it is obvious that this day is also Easter Sunday (most of the time), the most important Sunday in traditional Christianity. This writer has found it difficult to find any scriptural support for the method of starting the count toward Pentecost (Roman Catholics call the day “Whit Sunday” but Protestants call the day Pentecost) with Sunday always being the first day, in the count to fifty.

(A) It can be proven which of these positions is correct, by spending a short time in any city library. Christ, when He was on this earth two thousand years ago, never criticized the Temple for observing a Holy Day on the wrong day, nor did anyone accuse Jesus of observing Holy Days at a different time than the Temple observed. To prove which position is correct, a person only needs to go to the local library and see what system the Temple used in its count towards Pentecost. When this writer checked into historians of that time period, like Josephus (antiquities of the Jews, book 3, chapter 10 verse 5) and Philo (The Works of Philo – under Special Laws 2 -The Sixth Festival-the beginning of the chapter), they were in perfect agreement with the Hebrew system and in disagreement with the method of always starting the count on Sunday, which works out to a Sunday Pentecost every year. The Bible states “Every matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses (2 Corinthians 13: 1). This is Biblical law (Hebrews 10:19 & 1 Tim 5:19). Here we have two eye witnesses that lived at the time in question.

(B) We have proven already (two witnesses 2 Corinthians 13:1 and Matt. 18:16), what system was used two thousand years ago in New Testament times at the Temple, by going to the library, but what about the Old Testament, what does it have to say? Will going back further in time support the Sunday position? The Old Testament used today in our Bibles is from the Hebrew Masoretic text. Although some people think this text agrees with the Sunday point of view, the people that compiled the Masoretic text didn’t seem to agree with the traditional Christian way of starting their count on Sunday, because they started their count on the day after the high Sabbath of the first day of unleavened bread. This day could and does fall on any day of the week, just like any other Holy Day (if postponements are waved). If a person consults a Jewish calendar, it can be seen that the same system of counting is used today, when counting toward Shavuot (Pentecost).

(C) We have found by going to the library that the Temple and the Jews of today are in agreement and likewise the people that compiled the Old Testament we use in the Bibles of today also agree but they disagree with the Sunday position. Most people today agree that the Bible of the early New Testament Church was not the Masoretic text, because it wasn’t put together until approximately 130 A.D. and was not brought into the Roman Church by Jerome until the 5th century. The Bible the early Church used was the Greek (Septuagint) text. If a person has any doubts about this, all they have to do, is compare where the Old Testament is quoted in the New Testament and see where the quotes come from. When the Masoretic text is compared against the Greek, a person will find the majority of quotes are coming right out of the Greek text. The question now must be asked, “If the Bible of the early Church was the Greek text; then what does the Greek text say, regarding the count toward Pentecost?” What does the Bible, the early New Testament church used to prove all things, have to say about counting to Pentecost? Leviticus 23:11 in the Greek text, needs no interpretation by the reader to understand, because it clearly states which day to start the

count, by waving the sheaf (omer). The text states "on the morrow of the first day the priest shall lift it up". The Greek text starts the omer count on the "morrow" (morrow means next day) of this first High Sabbath Day of unleavened bread.

Editors Note:

According to the on line encyclopedia "Wikipedia" for the **Masoretic text** it says "The MT was primarily copied, edited and distributed by a group of Jews known as the Masoretes between the seventh and tenth centuries CE. Though the consonants differ little from the text generally accepted in the early second century (and also differ little from some Qumran texts that are even older), it has numerous differences of both greater and lesser significance when compared to (extant 4th century) manuscripts of the Septuagint, a Greek translation (made in the 3rd to 2nd centuries BCE) of the Hebrew Scriptures that was in popular use in Egypt and Palestine and that is often quoted in the Christian New Testament."

"Wikipedia" says of the **Septuagint text**, "The Septuagint, or simply "LXX", is the Koine Greek version of the Hebrew Bible, translated in stages between the 3rd and 1st centuries BC in Alexandria. It is the oldest of several ancient translations of the Hebrew Bible into the Greek language, the lingua franca of the eastern Mediterranean from the time of Alexander the Great (356-323 BC). The word *septuaginta* means "seventy" in Latin and derives from a tradition that seventy (or seventy-two) Jewish scholars translated the Pentateuch (Torah) from Hebrew into Greek for Ptolemy II Philadelphus, 285-246 BC." Laura Lee

(D) The people of the Palestine area, that looked to the Temple for religious guidance, two thousand years ago, always knew what the present count towards Pentecost was. Why were these people so conscious to what number each day was in the count towards Pentecost? The most likely reason would be, because they were ordered to know and count, in Leviticus 23:15-16. These people not only knew when the first day was, they also knew the tenth, the twentieth, the thirty-fourth but more importantly they also knew when the **Third Day** was.

The chief priests and Pharisees knew exactly what Christ meant, when He said He would rise up the **third day** and foolishly thought a big stone and an armed guard could stop it. They only asked for a guard until the **third day** and not a minute

longer (Matt.27:64), even though they had just acknowledged (verse 63) that Jesus had said this day would be after three days of burial, that his tomb would suddenly become empty.

There is one other place (there could be more) that stands out to this writer, of people showing knowledge of this all-important **third day**. Luke recorded this event in chapter 24, relaying the story of the two men heading for Emmaus. This chapter of Luke reveals valuable information, if we can only turn a blind eye to the way traditional Christian ideas have influenced us for a moment and view what Luke is saying through the eyes of a religious Jew, who worshipped God at the Temple. Luke starts chapter 24 telling of the women arriving at the tomb at dawn on the first day of the week. Their intentions were most likely to apply the spices to the body as soon as there was enough light, while it was still in the cool of the day. The women were told that Christ had already risen from the dead, sometime earlier. We find, by this time on the first day of the week, three days have already gone by since the late Wednesday burial of the previous week. This very day (verse 13), the first day of the week, the two men meet Christ on the road to Emmaus. The two men make a statement that has puzzled many people ever since. These men said, this first day of the week, also had the significance of being the **third day** (Luke 24:21). If a person were counting from crucifixion (which, they appear to be, to someone that is not of the Hebrew religion-verse 20), most people would agree that it is already into the fourth day. So why would these two men, call this first day of the week, the eighteenth of Nisan, **the third day**? If a person asked this question of a Temple worshipping Jew two thousand years ago, his answer would be, "because it is the **third day** on the count towards Pentecost". The fact of this being "the third day" is lost by a person viewing these events through the eyes of traditional Christianity, because this would be the first day on their count, not the third day. Is not this third day, **the very day** Christ repeatedly stated he would be raised from the dead? The Bible student by now should have Christ's prophetic words coming back to mind. Reader, is there any other day of the year that is on the third day, yet is still after three days of burial?

At this point I would like to take the reader back to a parallel account in the book of Esther, whom I will show was a type of the Christ to come.

(A)---Esther, like Christ was willing to give up her life to save her people and rely entirely on the highest human power of that time (the King) to restore her life with the golden scepter (sign of his supreme power). Going in to the king uninvited was suicide

(Esther 4:11-12).

Christ like Esther was also willing to give up His life to save humanity and rely totally on the supreme power of the universe (the Father) to restore His consciousness.

(B)---King Xerxes, who's law cannot be revoked (Esther 1:19, and Esther 8:8) parallels God the Father's law, that stands, even to the point where His own son had to die.

(C)---The time of the year when Esther was willing to give up her life was the Passover season (Esther 3:12).

Christ like Esther was willing to give up His life at Passover time.

(D)---The Jewish people, in the time of Esther were not in any immediate danger of losing their lives. Although this plan was hatched at the beginning of the Biblical year, it was not to come to fulfillment until the end of the Biblical year (Esther 3:7). The Biblical year is a prophetic outline of the plan of God.

The people, for who Christ died, likewise were not in any immediate danger of going into "the lake of fire" because that was to happen near the end of God's plan, at Judgment Day.

(E)---The plan to kill the Jews was put together on the thirteenth day of the first month (Esther 3:12). This meeting would have consumed pretty well all of the thirteenth day because of getting all the people involved together, developing the plan, translating the plan into all the different languages, deciding by lot when this plan would take place and summoning all the couriers that would be needed to deliver the dispatch to different parts of the Empire.

This writer believes, because it is obvious that Mordecai would not be invited to the meeting, it would be evening (Preparation Day, the start of the fourteenth) before he would find out what was happening. The fourteenth day of the first month would mostly be taken up with Mordecai's weeping in sackcloth, the dialogue with Esther through her servant Hathach and the job of notifying all the Jews in Susa, so they would be fasting together at the same time (Esther 4:16).

The actual fast would not begin until the fifteenth and would last through the sixteenth and seventeenth of the first month (three complete days). The next day (the eighteenth), Esther would go into the king after the three-day fast and be raised up by the king from her death sentence of going in uninvited. This eighteenth day of the first month is also **the third day** in the count toward Pentecost, the very same day as Christ had His death revoked and was raised up by the supreme power of the universe (Matt.16:21). This day came after three days of being dead in Christ's case and after three days of no food or water (Christ also went without food or water for the same three days) in Esther's case. Esther was raised up

on **the third day** (Esther 5:1) after three days of fasting, and in a similar manner, Christ was raised up on **the third day** after three days of death. The only way Esther could go into the presence of the king **after** three days of fasting and still be on the **third day** would be if the author was using the "Pentecost count" as a reference point. Is it just coincidence that the three days of Esther's fast and the three days Christ lay dead in the tomb are the same three days on the Hebrew calendar? Both Esther and Christ's personal sacrifice, freed the people from certain death at a later time.

In summary, the ministry of Christ, when He was on this earth in human form, was primarily to the House of Israel (Matt.10: 5-6, Matt.15: 24). When Christ spoke, His audience were people with a central focus on the Temple, with its many symbolic furnishings and ceremonies. These same people were schooled since childhood in the Old Testament (the only part of the Bible that was available at that time). If we (Bible students of today), are ever going to be able to understand this Hebrew authored document, we will have to realize, it won't fit exactly into our Roman Catholic and Protestant influenced way of thinking. To understand the Bible, Christianity in today's world will have to allow the mind of Christ (a Hebrew of the tribe of Judah) to dwell in us (Phil. 2:5).

Article found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0047/a2008-047-06.htm>

THE END**

("Rubber Bands Found..." continued from page 1)

taken to the extreme as senior citizens are watched by BIG Brother and questioned for any actions that are deemed suspicious. The following scenarios are beyond ridiculous, but who would have ever thought that baby formula and other daily essentials would be classified as a terrorist threat in the year 2006? The names of people and towns are farfetched in the following report and it is my way of poking fun of how America is paranoid of its own shadow. If present conditions weren't so tragic, I would laugh. Perhaps the following picture into the future is a way of looking at how ridiculous things really are. America has lost its sense of humor because we are taking ourselves too seriously. Humor

is my way of asking people to take a closer look at what we are doing to ourselves.

Two rubber bands were found in a senior citizen's checked luggage on a Crashlandia Airlines flight from Cantgo, Connecticut, one of several security incidents Friday that caused U.S. flights to be diverted, evacuated, searched or delayed.

Irsel Nutbunny, 78, was charged with carrying a weapon on an aircraft and is in the custody of U.S. security officials. Federal authorities have determined that even though the rubber bands were not a direct threat to other passengers, his actions deemed closer scrutiny.

Cantgo Fire Department Assistant Chief Sylvester Stopthat said Nutbunny told authorities he works part time at a rubber band factory in Stretchone, Tennessee. Stopthat said officials were investigating whether the explanation was true.

George Gotham, aviation safety professor at Riddled Bad Aeronautical University in Connecticut, said the incident could have been disastrous and raises questions about security in all national airports. "Rubber bands can cause mental and physical trauma if used on other passengers," he stated.

Wilma Whatamess, a spokeswoman for the Cantgo Airport System, said U.S. officials and the Federal Investigation Bureau (FIB) shut down the customs area and began questioning Nutbunny, one of 3 passengers on the flight.

The U.S. Attorney's Office in Disbelief, Delaware said Nutbunny would appear before a federal magistrate within the next 2-3 days. Carrying rubber bands aboard an aircraft carries a maximum penalty of 10 minutes in a local jail and a fine of up to \$2.50.

Chief of airport security police, Ralph Rantanrave, said in a televised interview Friday that local authorities were in contact with U.S. officials as they opened their own probe into how rubber bands got into checked baggage on the Cantgo flight.

Nutbunny is a resident at the Dontsit, Delaware Senior Citizens Center said Clarence Cantheat, the center's director of communications for the hard of hearing. He declined to answer other questions about Nutbunny, citing difficulties in hearing questions from reporters.

In other incidents:

A flight from Pitstop, Pennsylvania to Whatway, Washington was forced to land in Madeamess, Montana, after federal officials "learned of a reported threat," FIB spokeswoman Gertrude Gotyou said. Some people on board said a fellow elderly

passenger kept firing spit wads at them through a straw and he was handcuffed and placed in a police car as they were leaving the jetliner.

Gotyou said no one else was arrested but declined to say if anyone from the flight out of Pitstop was in custody.

Another Crashlandia Airways jet was diverted to Ohno, Oklahoma's Izzy Isn't Here World Airport after a federal air marshal subdued a disruptive senior passenger who flipped pudding from the end of a spoon at a flight attendant, FIB said.

The passenger was undergoing a psychiatric evaluation, and authorities had yet to determine what criminal charges he might face. The single-engine jet was returning to Faraway, Florida, where authorities took him to a local holding facility.

A flight from Imaginethat, Indiana, to Cookedtoolong, Calif., was held in Goaway, Georgia, one of its scheduled stops, after the crew discovered a discarded hearing aide in the lavatory, authorities said. Passengers were being screened and interviewed, Clara Cantheatwell of the Administration Security Administration said.

A walking cane with three protruding splinters was found on a vacant passenger seat of a flight that had traveled from Nonsense, New York to Nonsense International Airport in New Mexico, local police said.

No arrests were made and there were no threats involved, said Sgt. Barny Bentback. He said it was unknown whether someone from a group of senior citizens left the cane on the plane or a passenger brought it on.

A flight from Nosedive, Nevada to Awful, Arizona was evacuated Friday morning during a scheduled stopover in Underated, Utah following a rubber band threat that turned out to be unfounded, officials said.

A Disunited Airlines flight out of California's Chimichanga International Airport was delayed because an elderly senior citizen said something inappropriate, according to a government official speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the information. "She didn't want to fly above three feet," the official said.

A Maybenot, Montana-to-Goaround, Georgia flight, was diverted to Kantcutit, Kansas for security reasons, FIB spokeswoman Arlene Alwaysdoes said.

The plane landed on a remote taxiway and passengers were taken by motorized wheelchairs to a holding area, said airport manager Catherine Comehere. Local police provided bomb sniffing canines and local additional assistance.

"FIB learned of a reported threat to the aircraft while it was en route," spokeswoman Wilameda Wildeyes said, declining to give further details. FIB agents were interviewing passengers and crew, she added.

Passengers said that a disruptive senior was making strange noises. Isadora Isntallthere of Rubbedraw, Rhode Island, said she sat next to the man who appeared to be the subject of concern and did not see him do anything out of the ordinary, although he made strange noises with his false teeth several times.

Clarence Cantrun of Walkslow, Wyoming said passengers were told they were landing in Maybenot, Maine because the plane was experiencing problems with gauges. But he said passengers began to suspect something else was going on when a stewardess handed the disruptive passenger a tube of Polygunk.

Article found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0047/a2008-047-07.htm>

THE END**

(“Was Jesus...” continued from page 1)

message with people. I have been working on this issue in the back of my mind for almost one year, but now I am starting to get my thoughts down on paper.

In that larger work, I will devote considerable space to some pretty involved arguments in favor of Christ being single. As an example, I want to point to one statement made by Christ Himself and its place in the historical context of that period. I believe that it relates to this issue of Him being single. Let's look at it: “And seeing a crowd about him, Jesus commanded to depart unto the other side. And one scribe came to him and said, Teacher, I will follow you where ever you go. And Jesus said to him, The foxes have holes, and the birds have nests; but the Son of Man has not where to lay his head.” (Matthew 8:18-20)

Now, this passage is one we find in Matthew. Matthew is a book written from a decidedly Hebraic orientation. That means that the culture of the book, its themes, style, and tone is really oriented to Hebraic thinking and if we keep this in mind when reading this book, it will help us to understand it better.

Now, getting back to the passage, Jesus seems to quite clearly state that He at that moment in time, using His own comparison logically, did not have a residence, as did those animals. Now, maybe He did have a home in (or near) Nazareth, but are we sure He did? How can we know? Isn't it interesting that while Christ was just near death, He said: “When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple standing by whom He loved, He said to his mother, Woman, behold, your son! Then said he to the disciple. Behold, your mother! And from that hour the disciple took her unto his own home.” (John 19:26-27) [Note: In the Greek language, the word

“home” does not appear, but we understand it from the context that Mary was now to be reckoned as the mother of that disciple and he was to be her son and this meant that she would now be living with him.]

Perhaps after that time referenced in Matthew, Christ and His mother may have had to abandon their home wherever it was due to the fear they had of people seeking to kill Him. Note that after the raising of Lazarus from the dead, Christ retreated to near the border of Samaria (John 11:54) because of a fear of being caught and killed. Had He had a stable residence, at that time, it would not have been safe to go there for fear of being apprehended. By Jesus' retreat to near the border of Samaria, He may have been positioning himself near that area in case He needed to flee into Samaria quickly. Rousseau in the book “**Jesus and His World**” mentions this exact point in the article on Ephraim which John 11:54 mentions. (p.87)

Now, this passage in Matthew has that Hebraic orientation that I talked about and we in fact know that the ancient Hebrews had some teachings about married life, housing and the role that having a home and a family played in ones life. They have left us some very interesting quotes to consider which not only bear on the passage in Matthew 8, but also concern the issue of whether or not Jesus was married. Note the following: Deuteronomy 20:5 the Talmud derives the lesson: ‘The Torah teaches the correct procedure: a man should first build a house, then plant a vineyard, and after that marry.’” (Sotah 44a)” (**Cohen, Everyman's Talmud**, pg. 162)

This procedure is quite good advice really and we note it even today here in Jerusalem. It is very common for men here today to have to provide the means to marry. A home, a car, holding down a good job, being able to provide for a family, etc. Without these things being in place, men just do not marry and women will not think of marrying someone who cannot provide these necessities. Generally speaking, their families will not allow it or will frown on it strongly and put pressure on a girl to either wait until the man is in a better position to provide these things or urge her to move on to someone else. [Note: The average marrying age for Christian men in Jerusalem these days is in their early thirties as they are forced to wait until they have the financial means to afford to get married.]

We can consider this issue when looking back on that passage in Matthew where Jesus indicates that He, at that time, did not have a place to rest his head. If He did not have a stable home, there is almost no conceivable way that He could have been married. It would seemingly have been a violation of the cultural norms at that time.

Cohen also continues with the very interesting following statement: “A wife meant a home; hence the saying, ‘a man's home is his wife’ (Yoma 1.1), and Rabbi Jose said, ‘Never have I called my wife by that word (e.g. – He never spoke of his wife as “his wife”), but always ‘my home.’ (Shab.118b).” (ibid.)

This is a lovely and deserved tribute to the wife of Rabbi Jose. It is a bit poetic and Middle Eastern culture is prone to such speech. Even today, I am always happy to hear my brother in law talking to his wife and calling her “Ruhi,” (my spirit), or “Elbi, (my heart) or “Umri,” (my life). These types of terms are used quite commonly even today and we can see from the Rabbi's statement, he chose to call his wife “Beti” (my home). To him, having a wife was synonymous with having a home. The two were inseparable.

Now, once again consider that passage from Matthew in light of this statement. Jesus said he did not have a home at that time. Chances are that if he did not have a stable home, He also did not have a wife either.

Summing Up

When we look at that previously referenced passage in Matthew in light of some of these ideas, we can see that if Jesus was married, he was certainly operating outside of the some of the cultural norms of that period. This is just one point to consider when we are asking the question of whether or not our Lord was married.

Article found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0047/a2008-047-08.htm>

THE END**

LETTERS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2 ...

Kenyan Brethren in Need of Help for FOT 2008 (8-1-08)

by William P. Goff
(Tuckerton, New Jersey)

William P. Goff writes:

Dear Brethren,

As many of you are aware, our brethren in Kenya have experienced a lot of difficulties during the past year due to the election riots that occurred in their Country. Some have lost their homes; others have lost their jobs. Now as we approach the fall Feast of Tabernacles, there is a group of approximately 75 brethren (includes children & adults) there who are hoping to gather together for the feast. But as of today, they still have not been able to secure a site due to insufficient funds. My hope is to enlighten you on their situation and possibly raise

some funds to help them.

There is much poverty in that part of the world and our brethren there live quite modestly. They do not need a huge amount of donations to provide them a feast. Transportation, lodging, and food for the entire feast will cost only \$40.00's per person. But in a Country where the unemployment rate is 90%, they have very little funds to work with. Also, after the riots that occurred after the countries presidential election, prices have sky rocked, making life for our brethren over there even harder than before.

I ask you to please consider our brethren in Kenya, and open up your hearts for them by making a small donation. All of them (men, women & children) have been through a lot this past year, and a good spiritual feast will be a huge blessing to them.

Our organization here is called "**Kenya Hands of Hope**". We started it a couple of years ago after I personally traveled there to Kenya and Tanzania and learned first hand of the condition that our brethren are living in. We have a good network set up and are doing our best to be good stewards. No one here is tapping into any funds that have been received for our brethren there. We are also 501 c3 Tax-exempt, and will immediately send you a receipt for any donations that are made.

Thank You,
William P. Goff

PS--Below are a few E-mails that were received from some of them during the riots:

Jacob writes:

"Hello, Yes, my family and me are fine, but we have gone through very difficult times since Sunday.

On Sunday, I went to see my Mum who due to stress and some fear fell ill, she is over 75 years now. On my way back that was in the evening, I met some very rowdy youths, they were enquiring to know the identity of people, however, their main intension was to beat people up and steal from them, **they really roughed me up, took my phone, some money and my jacket**, sustained some slight injuries when I fell, however, am ok.

Now, come Monday and Tuesday, we were held hostages in our homes, the youths barricaded all the passages in the estate and were looting at will, the police were chasing them but in vain, it was an experience I have never seen in my life, for the two days we really lived in fear. These youths I would say were being used by SATAN, they were doing things you may not imagine. Today, things have cooled down, and here I am in town writing this mail.

Now, the biggest problem that is eminent

here is famine, over 50% of business premises have been destroyed, most people have lost their sources of income, lawlessness is very high, the available food commodities are now too costly, and they are likely to run out.

My plan now for my family is to look for some money to buy cereals like MAIZE and BEANS to stock. My request is that if you may have some few dollars no matter how little, you may send it down to us, we can do this to prepare ourselves for the worse, however, what we need most is prayers for only God who is able to help us out of this mess.

Since, I do not have a phone, am writing Mutulu an email to brief him on the situation down here. Thank you, Jacob."

Evans writes:

"Bill, It is the worst situation I ever seen in Kenya. **People are dying like hens**, there is a great hunger, the prices of food and other materials have risen up. No fuel in the country, the properties of people are totally destroyed, riots are there in every corner of luo land.

Please, please pray for our country.

My family is safe right now. I rung to Josh, he told me that he is safe in Nairobi. Evans

Mutulu writes:

Hello, How goes it with you tonight? Did you enjoy your Sabbath?

Here we had it nicely and enjoyed the fellowship. Now, as I was going home after the Sabbath, around 6.30pm, **the minibus we were traveling in was hijacked** by a group of boys who lead us into some forest and beat us after which they took our phones and all the money we had.

Now I don't have my phone but I reported to the Celtel that they may restore my line. right now, am using that other Safaricom number with that other phone which is not clear-0712438239. I sustained some slight injuries in the left eye and also in the mouth but not very serious. The general situation in the country is worsening. The violence is spreading to new areas and advancing towards Nairobi.

It has now advanced to within 80 kilometers to Nairobi. And even in the town, it is not safe since this kind of hijacking are all over. We trust God for protection, as we also strive to learn according to his will.

Since I lost the phone on Saturday, I have not been able to communicate with the brethren since they can't access me now. I hope they are all fine.

How goes everything with you there? May I hope it is fine and peaceful.

Dangerous times are truly with us here. Mutulu

William P. Goff writes:

As you can see from the above e-mails alone, our brethren over there in Kenya have been through a lot recently. Maybe I should end by quoting what the Apostle Paul told the Galatians: ***Let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.*** Gal: 6:9-10

Donations can be sent to: **Kenya Hands of Hope**, 120 Stage Rd, Tuckerton, N.J. 08087

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call. We can be reached at (609) 489-1565. Thank You!

Letter found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0047/12008-047-01.htm>

*****THE END*****

**Thank You for Gift Donations
(7-23-07)**

**by Janine M. Ziomek-Witek
(Buffalo, New York)**

This letter is in response to an item "Why a Paid Subscription", which was printed in Issue #40.

Janine M. Ziomek-Witek writes:

Dear Darwin & Laura,

I'm writing this note first to SK & RL for the **gift donations** that folks sent you. If it wasn't for them or folks in general like them, it would not be possible for folks who can't cover the **subscription** for the **newsletters** to receive them. I'm glad to know I'm blessed to have this **newsletter** sent to me. I have learned a lot from it.

Also I'd like to say I can understand why you had to do **this** even with not wanting to have to. But well, cost of stamps, ink, paper etc., it adds up over the years.

So for all who can, please help Darwin and Laura with your **gifts** so others like me who are poor or in prison can keep getting their **newsletter** to help us to grow and pray for each other and more.

So thanks again for this blessing and you can print this in the "**Letters Section**". Thank you again, Yah Bless, Janine Ziomek-Witek

Darwin & Laura Lee write:

We also want to thank everyone who has contributed money to cover hard copy **newsletters** for those who really cannot afford to pay for them. Thank You!

Letter found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0047/I2008-047-02.htm>

THE END

**Request for an MP3 Player
(12-14-07)**

by Caleb Aidoo (Ghana)

Caleb Aidoo writes:

Please my name is Caleb Aidoo and I am from Ghana. Please I have been a sinner for so many years. I first like stealing and bullying. Please one day, I was sleeping and one of my friends gave me a Bible to read. I first ignored it but the second time I read it. It was a Bible. I was really looking in places like Matthew and Exodus which talked about the ten commandments and in Matthew was about the beatitudes. Please after that my friend sent me to a pastor and we prayed together. He prayed with me and later asked me if I want to worship God more, then I should attend church. So I went to a church. From that day I continued going. Please I would like you to send me an MP3 Player which I will use to praise with music to improve on my standard of living. Thank you and may God bless you. My address is: Caleb Aidoo, PO Box AT456, Achimota-Accra, Ghana W/A

Laura Lee writes:

We are happy to know that you are trying to improve your life, however we do not provide services here which would allow us to send you an MP3 Player. We have printed your letter in case someone who reads this would be able to provide this service to you. We hope for the best for you.

Letter found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0047/I2008-047-03.htm>

THE END

**Please Review My Book?
(02-02-06)**

by David Ben-Ariel (Toledo, Ohio)

If anybody would be so kind to please write a review of **Beyond Babylon: Europe's Rise and Fall** at this Amazon site: http://www.amazon.com/review/product/1413750575/ref=dp_top_cm_cr_acr_txt?%5Fencoding=UTF8&sh_owViewpoints=1 (to help offset some who haven't even read it and rated it low - knowing me from some forums and hating my stand) - it would be greatly appreciated! Thanks, David

Letter found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0047/I2008-047-04.htm>

THE END

Web Site (12-05-07)

by Michael Boone

(Fort Washington, Maryland)

Greetings Brethren, with Love,

You and I as Christians are to follow Christ, and we are set apart by truth. The midnight cry has begun. You must prove this yourself...believe your Bible. Go to.....www.setapartbytruth.org Thank you.

Letter found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0047/I2008-047-05.htm>

THE END

**Newsletters and Articles
(12-26-07)**

by Douglas Boston (Angleton, Texas)

Douglas Boston writes:

Dear Ministry,

Greetings in the name of our Eternal Loving and Almighty Father and His Son our Savior Jesus Christ. I pray all is well with each of you there, and that ya'll are continuing to grow in knowledge and grace. I am writing in behalf of myself, and those listed herein, at their request. At this time we would like to ask, that you send us some **articles** (literature), pamphlets, **newsletters** or/and whatever you have to offer that will help us to grow in truth. Please send individual mailings. I (we) thank you in advance. All glory, honor and praise be to God (YHVH).

Sincerely,
Douglas Boston

Laura Lee writes:

Hi Douglas,

Enclosed find **"Why a Paid Subscription?"** We are sorry that we have to charge something for hard copy **newsletters** for those who can afford it. The problem is that materials do cost us money and we do have to pass that cost on to those who can afford to pay it. Also find enclosed a "Subscription Form". If you are unable to pay for a hard copy **newsletter** then check the blank that says "I am a person who wants to receive a newsletter but cannot afford to pay for it," and if funds are available at the time that we receive your "Subscription Form" back then we will send you a one year subscription at no charge to you.

As far as the list of names you sent to us, we have in the past, when we offered our newsletters for no charge, sent it to whole lists of people for a year just to find out that they never wanted it in the first place. I am not saying that is the case with the list of people you sent to us, however, they would

have to contact us individually for a "Subscription Form," which we will gladly send to them if they request it.

Letter found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0047/I2008-047-06.htm>

THE END

My Leader is...? (02-17-08)

**by Howard & Dorothy Bruce
(Glendale, Arizona)**

Howard & Dorothy Bruce write:

Hello Darwin & Laura,

We received your letter (**newsletter** renewal). Thank you. It's spring here now about 75 in the day, great weather. To begin, thank you for all the stuff you sent over the years.

Laura Lee writes:

You are welcome.

Howard & Dorothy Bruce write:

We consider you our friends, but we receive so much stuff from groups all over the world, so we will not reorder (renew subscription to the **newsletter**). Should you want to send us things we will read them.

Laura Lee writes:

We are sorry that you have decided not to renew your subscription to our **newsletter**. We will probably send you email from time to time, so hopefully we will stay in touch.

Howard & Dorothy Bruce write:

We in the past have sent now and then some of your **articles** to people, but we are 100% against women preaching. We trust the Apostle Paul.

Laura Lee writes:

We also trust the Apostle Paul as did Christ. The Apostle Paul was definitely not against women speaking or teaching so I am not sure why you are in disagreement with him. I strongly suggest that you look closer at all of the things the Apostle Paul taught in regard to women.

Howard & Dorothy Bruce write:

We have been in the Church of God since the 60's. Our leader is **Keith Slough**. I'm one of **his** licensed ministers. He is the best. We also support **PHD Dave Antion**, **Pastor Tom Kerry**, **George Trent** and others. We receive **The Journal** paper.

Laura Lee writes:

Here in lies your problem. You have too many human leaders and not one time did you mention that you are following Christ or

that Christ is your leader. By the way, Christ did not have a license to minister or preach and I see no place in the Bible where a license is required. A license or being in the Church of God since the 60's actually proves nothing. What really counts is whether you actually have God's Holy Spirit dwelling in you and guiding you into all truth, and whether Christ is your leader. After reading this letter I would say you have a lot more to study from your Bible.

Howard & Dorothy Bruce write:

We do not want to argue the problem, women preaching. My advise, this stand you take may cause you to fall away. We pray this will not happen. We love [Ron Dart](#). We would love to visit again North Dakota.

Keep the faith, Amen, Howard & Dorothy Bruce

Laura Lee writes:

If I were you, I wouldn't worry too much about my stand on women speaking, teaching and preaching making me fall away, instead you should worry more about who you are following and whether you should be following men or Christ.

As far as the stand that both Darwin and I have taken in regard to the subject of women speaking, preaching and teaching, again I have been the editor of this [newsletter](#) since it's beginning with Darwin's total blessing. It in fact was totally Darwin's idea that I start a [newsletter](#) in the first place and he has helped and supported me in this effort since it started. Any time a woman writes an article which is sent out to the public, she is speaking, preaching and teaching.

Letter found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0047/12008-047-07.htm>

THE END**

What is Gossip? (01-11-08)

**by Jeanne Builder
(Birmingham, Alabama)**

Jeanne Builder writes:

Lee's, this [Ambassador Report \(September 1997\)](#) was to be thrown away. Can you see why? I admit I find it less than easy to tell where factual reporting ends and gossip begins. I hope [The Messenger](#) sets and maintains high standards of Journalism.

Laura Lee writes:

By today's definition of the word "gossip" almost any news article or conversation would be considered to be "gossip". Most people in trying to define the word "gossip" agree on one thing and that is that it would

be one or more people talking about one or more people who are not present. For example if a newspaper reports that John Doe was involved in a traffic accident and one person was killed. Most people would see that as reporting the news. However if the news article goes on to say that John Doe first raped an under aged girl who was killed and then ran her over with his automobile, then people who are involved directly and by default, such as John Doe and his friends and family may see this as gossip even though all that was reported is true.

In the above example was the newspaper wrong to report the actual details? If you say yes they were wrong, then essentially what you are saying is that when people do wrong things, such as raping and murdering an under aged girl the newspaper should just cover up what really happened in order to protect the criminal/rapist/murderer. If this is what you want then please do not complain about the rising crime rate and do not ever call the police if you are ripped off by a con-artist, because you deserve what ever you get when you want to cover up this or other crimes.

If on the other hand you believe that such details should be reported then you would be in the right, because now this not only helps the community at large give support to the victim or victims but also to their families and friends as well, and it also helps the community at large to protect themselves should John Doe be released back into their community or someone else's community.

Many people who read our newsletter probably at one time had at least some contact with "[The Worldwide Church of God](#)" or one of the many off shoots of that group. So many of you have heard and possibly looked in to the validity of the many and numerous scandalous rumors which have circulated through time in regard to the leaders including [Herbert Armstrong](#) himself. From the many and numerous sources we have received information from over the years we believe many of these things to be true. [Garner Ted Armstrong](#) was even caught red handed on [film](#). My point in bringing this up is not to show disrespect for the dead because they are not here to defend themselves, however these men who were caught at times in major sins, rather than to repent to God and apologize to the many people in their congregations instead chose to cover up their sins and then give the many congregations sermons on not gossiping. These sermons about not gossiping were being given to cover up their sins and to keep those who were in the congregations from telling or hearing what these sins were that they were trying to cover up. So now what we have within the Church

of God of today are many people who have no idea what the definition of gossip is and who also feel that love covers up all sin (in other words don't say anything bad about the sinner) and that it is Biblical to do so.

The word gossip did not start out as a bad word, it actually started out in the English language as a positive word as is stated on the following web site: http://www.ethesis.net/gossip/gossip_part_1_chap_1.htm

"Strangely enough, the word gossip, be it paradoxically pointed put in conclusion, points in the direction of heaven rather than the Devil." (Lanz, 1936: 499).

This is because, when looking at the etymological history, the word 'gossip' hasn't always had a negative reputation. Up until 1811, according to the *Oxford English Dictionary*, the noun referred to a mode of conversation in a friendly sense, and not focusing on a person in a bad sense, as it is today (Spacks, 1985). 'Gossip' is derived from the old English word *godsibb*, meaning 'godparent' or 'godfather'. But, as Rysman (1977) explains, the term 'godfather' in this context has a broader meaning than just referring to one family member having a close relation with a related child, as today. In times when people lived in more rural settings, all had large social networks of family, friends and acquaintances that all were potential godparents:

During the Elizabethan period (16th – 17th centuries) gossip referred to individual relationships, typically masculine, men's drinking, gathering of male friends in bars, raising the glass. The female variant of gossip pointed to the gathering of family and friends during childbirth. When a woman gave birth, her female family and friends came together to give her support, and that is what gossip was about in the 19th century; meeting with family and friends, socializing with each other:

By the end of the 19th century the connotation changed, gossip was redefined as 'idle talk' and "tattling", an action that did no longer refer to the social act of gathering, but to a an ordinary, rather negative form of communication (Bergmann, 1993; Brison, 1992; Fox, 2002; Gelles, 1989; Levin & Arluke, 1987; Rosnow & Fine, 1976; Rosnow & Georgoudi, 1985; Rysman, 1977; Spacks, 1985). And remarkably: "The terms for 'godmother' in French (*commère*) and Italian (*commare*) also took a negative semantic turn, unlike the terms for 'godfather.'" (Romaine, 1999: 161).

Levin and Arluke (1987), Rysman (1977) and Romaine (1999) suppose that during the 19th century men began to fear that their spouses would no longer remain humble. People then were convinced that women should stay at home to cook and take care of their husbands. When they did gather together with other women what were they doing, and more importantly, what did they discuss? The word gossip not only changed from something good to something bad, but was also no longer a habit of both men and women, but 'privileged' to women only; women talk. **The fear of men towards their wives** became even more apparent when demonstrations were held in England in the 19th century. Pamphlets were distributed to warn people about 'women talk', and these conversations were ridiculed and even forbidden:

"Gossip poses a threat to the social order because it may give rise to slander and intrigue and **expose illicit and secret liaisons**. Professions such as midwifery allowed women passage between households, largely free of male control, to exchange mother wit-knowledge of intimate matters such as contraception and abortion. In 17th-century England, broadsheets denounced women's gossip and its dangerous powers, among them curses and spells." (Romaine, 1999: 163).

The fight against gossip grew in some places. For example, in Texas until the beginning of the 20th century women were no longer allowed to talk to other women outside their own family. Whoever infringed upon the law was punished (Rysman, 1977).

The reason that the definition of the word "gossip" seems to have changed is because many times men were involved in illegal doings or illicit affairs with women who were not their wives. So if men allowed women to go from house to house and continue to talk to each other these illegal dealings or illicit affairs would eventually be found out to the detriment of the men or as stated above "fear of the men towards their wives". Such relational conversations could not continue among women lest they find out what their husbands were doing and leave them. Just as steps were taken to keep women from talking to each other, so were steps taken within "**The Worldwide Church of God**" to silence anyone who knew any of its dirty little secrets. Their method of control was to give numerous sermons on the evils of gossip.

The negative connotation that is given to the word "gossip" has been put there because those who are involved in sin and want to continue to commit such sins

whatever they may be, want all their victims to cover up the perpetrators sins, so all they did was turn the tables on the victims and get the victims all to believe that speaking about the perpetrators sins are equivalent to speaking evil about someone, which would then be wrong in the site of God. It is quite a clever tactic instituted by Satan to get men and women to believe they need to cover up the sins of evil men and let those evil men continue to hurt countless victims because no one says anything because Satan has them all believing that it is wrong for the victim to tell what the perpetrators did or are doing. Under today's definition of gossip the victims continue to be hurt while the evil people get to continue to do their sins whether it be murder, lying, rape, adultery or whatever. Satan sure is clever isn't he and many of you have been duped (tricked by Satan himself). Satan has many people believing that it is love to keep sins a secret and that you are going against God if you even speak to anyone about the crime/sin. Better yet church leaders do Satan's bidding every time they control their congregations into not telling people about their crimes/sins by giving them sermon after sermon about the evils of gossip. When will people understand this? The evil part of anything is the crime or the sin. It is in no way evil nor is it a sin to expose such evil.

If you read through the material on the same web site as listed above, you will also see that some other terms must be defined which are not the same as gossip. For instance gossip is generally considered to be true, where as rumors can be either true or false. Most dictionary's lump these both under gossip and yet they are two different things according to this study. So a person who wants to send a false story about another person, is actually starting a rumor and this is not the same thing as gossip.

Now read your Bibles considering all that has been said above. By today's definition of gossip, then God inspired many people to record gossip for people to read for many centuries. Among these items of gossip should be included Cain when he killed Able, Rachel when she stole the idols from her dad, Moses when he killed the Egyptian, David when he committed adultery and had a man murdered, Paul when he killed Christians and on and on the list goes.

The bottom line is that you expose those who do evil and for those who want to consider that as gossip, so be it. As God's people we are never, ever to go along with the evil acts of anyone, because if we do we are participating in that crime/sin right along with the original criminal/sinner. If you see a crime/sin being committed and you keep silent about it you are participating in that crime/sin. Only the criminal is hurt by exposure and they brought that on

themselves by doing the crime/sin. For those who are following God and doing what is right in the sight of God, you should never fear exposure, because if you are not doing anything wrong then what is there to expose?

Now with all that said, you still have guidelines from God which should be followed in principle with both believers and non-believers. Just because you know something about someone and just because it is true, does not mean that you go and tell everyone that you know for no purpose at all. The guidelines you should follow are found in Matthew 18:15-17. First go to your brother/sister one on one and keep the matter private. If that doesn't work take yourself and at least one other person with you. If that does not work then take the whole matter to the church/public. Sometimes it is not possible to go to the other person one on one, for example in the case of witnessing a murder, going to the person one on one would put your life in danger, so go to the police, because if you don't you were a partner not only in the murder you witnessed, but also in whatever other murders that same person commits in the future whether you saw him/her commit murder again or not. You participate in these crimes/sins by your silence. If a matter is not a crime or a sin, you may decide to just let it go and not say anything to anyone about it, or you may decide to confront the person one on one and then let it go after that, no matter how the out come of your one on one meeting turned out. If the crime/sin is something which can and will hurt many other people in the future then you will want to carry out the entire Matthew 18:15-17 principle. And again in some cases where there is immediate danger to yourself or others it would be best to call the police and let them handle the matter. Each case is going to be different so you will have to discern what to do.

Jeanne Builder writes:
Acknowledged Guidelines of the Christian Printing Industry:

1. No name calling repeated in print.
2. No insulting and disgracing of others.
3. Admonitions given with dignity and class.
4. No resorting to sub par material because you've ran out of ok stuff.
5. Using Philipians 4:8 to govern.
6. Your righteous mind can expand on this.

Laura Lee writes:

We would hope that those who write to us would follow your guidelines also, unfortunately they do not. Seldom ever do we edit letters which are sent to us. *****CONTINUED ON PAGE 20*****

QUESTIONS SECTION ---
the-cog-messenger@earthlink.net

QUESTION #67

What is the Biblical and literal definition of the following words: sloth, forsake, and fellowship?

Sloth as a word is not in the King James Bible. However, slothfulness is equivalent in meaning. Slothfulness - sluggishness, laziness (Re: Proverbs 19:15, Ecclesiastes 10:18).

Forsake - to let sink, relax or drop, withdraw from, abandon (Re: Deuteronomy 4:31).

Forsake - to leave, permit, cast off, reject, abandon, let alone (Re: Proverbs 1:8).

Forsake - to leave, loose, depart from, leave behind, neglect, to let loose, to set free, to let go, to free, to be deserted, to restore, to repair (Re: Isaiah 1:28).

Forsake - to fall away, to defect, to commit apostasy (Re: Acts 21:21).

Forsake - abandon, desert, leave in straits, leave helpless, totally abandoned, utterly forsaken, to leave behind among, to leave surviving (Re: Hebrews 13:5).

Fellowship - pledge, security, deposit, hand, strength, sign, monument, fractional part, share, time, repetition, phallus, wrists (Re: Leviticus 6:2).

Fellowship - to unite, to join, to bind together, be coupled, be in league, to tie magic charms, to make an ally, to be joined together (Re: Psalms 94:20).

Fellowship - association, community, communion, joint participation, intercourse, intimacy, right hand as a sign and pledge of fellowship (in fulfilling the apostolic office) (Re: Acts 2:42).

Information Source:

Hermeneutika Bible Works, 2002, Bible Works LLC, Big Fork, MT, United States

Answered by: Wily Elder (Ocala, Florida)

Item found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0047/q2008-047-01.htm>

THE END**

generally print them word for word even when people do call me or someone else names, disgrace someone with false accusations or the like, or does not treat someone with dignity. We would hope that the letter(s) sent to us at any given time will reflect back to the character of the original letter writer as it should and not on the person who publishes such garbage to expose it. Everything we print has a purpose, whether it is to teach, to help someone or to expose someone. What we print is a definite reflection and radiating light to the world, on what those who want to claim to be Christians act like and how they treat their fellow man.

As the old saying goes, "Don't shoot the messenger", yet unconverted men and women always do just that. Read your Bibles and really look at what happens to those people who brought messages to unconverted people. Eventually most of the messengers were killed in horrendous ways.

Letter found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0047/l2008-047-08.htm>

THE END**

Should Christians Keep the Annual Holy Days? (9-11-02)
by Jeffrey Caldwell
(Redwood City, California)

Another way of looking at the question of whether Christians should keep the annual holy days.

A letter to a Brother:

Greetings! As you may know, the observance of Pentecost is coming up. This last Sabbath I was given the task of reading Scripture and chose to read the 2nd chapter of the book of Acts. I get letters from various church organizations that keep the annual holy days, so the issue has been kept in mind, particularly sparked by the opening paragraph of a letter from the **Church of God, International**, which referred to the feast days and God's plan of salvation. As I read it I inevitably thought of you.

I write to suggest another way to look at the annual holy days question, which is the way I looked at it at the very beginning of the time that I began to observe the annual holy days. We know that the true faith was "once for all entrusted to the saints" (Jude 3) in the days of Christ's apostles, and even while

some of the Lord's apostles were still alive the church was under powerful corrupting influences. Those corrupting influences continued, so that even the weekly Sabbath was basically abandoned by "visible" Christianity in less than 300 years.

Christ and his apostles kept the annual holy days, both spring and fall. I Corinthians 5:6-8 shows those called to be holy keeping the festival of unleavened bread many years after Christ died, including Gentile converts to the true faith of our fathers. Of course, we know that the NT church was "born", more or less, on Pentecost, the first annual holy day after Christ's resurrection, as recorded in Acts 2. In Acts 27:9 we see the Day of Atonement as a marker of time for the apparently Greek Christian -- **Theophilus**, whose name means "loved by God, lover of God or friend of God", and for whom Acts was originally written. Zechariah 14 shows the feast of tabernacles being observed soon after the Lord returns.

So the question is, from the standpoint of Scripture, why would, or why should those who are called to be holy ever stop keeping the annual holy days?

In light of the observance of the annual
*****CONTINUED ON PAGE 21*****

KIDS KORNER ---

the-cog-messenger@earthlink.net

You Have a Mission

Sent by Jeana Anderson (Casa, Arkansas)

Have you ever lived in another country or thought about what it might be like? Would it be fun to live with the snakes of Peru, or the lions of Africa? There are people who have made it their mission in life to actually go to other countries and preach the gospel message. As a church, we have been commissioned to preach the gospel message to all nations. You can read about this in Matthew 28:19-20.

When Jesus was here on earth, He told all Christians to tell everyone the good news of His love. Jesus wants all Christians, including kids, to tell others what He did for us. Jesus wants you to tell your friends about Him.

Remember, wherever you are in school, kids are watching you. That gives you an awesome opportunity to let them see how a Christian lives. Think of all the eyes that see you in just one day at school. You can be a Christian example when you're hanging out on the playground, drinking milk in the cafeteria, sweatin' in the gym or taking a spelling test in the classroom. Just live the life Jesus wants you to and when an opportunity to tell someone about Jesus comes, go for it.

Item found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0047/k2008-047-01.htm>

THE END**

PRAYER REQUESTS & UPDATES ---

the-cog-messenger@earthlink.net

August 28, 2008--Rhoda Young's Friends and Family

Rhoda Young has requested prayer for a friend in a nursing home with an in-operable stomach tumor. The doctors don't give her much hope to live. Please also pray for the friend's son David who has a pacemaker and too much stress. Pray for Rhoda's Dad who is in a nursing home with Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's and Dementia. She also requests prayers for her cat Topaz who has a heart murmur. Cards for Rhoda can be sent to Darwin & Laura Lee, PO Box 2333, Bismarck, ND 58502 and we will forward them to her.

Prayer Request Archives

Item found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0047/p2008-047-01.htm>

THE END**

holy days by those to whom the true faith was "once for all entrusted", and the indications they will be kept after the Lord returns, why should Christians today eschew (avoid) observing them?

Yours for grace and truth,
Jeffrey A. Caldwell

Letter found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0047/l2008-047-09.htm>

THE END**

Looking for Free Church of God Music (8-22-07)

by Angelito Corpuz (Philippines)

Angelito Corpuz writes:

Dear Darwin & Laura,

Hello, I would like to inquire if you know of any Church of God group that offers free

Church of God Music CDs (both hymnal and/or contemporary music).

If you know of any, would you please kindly let me know so I may request some music CDs from a Church of God background.

Thank you very much, I'll be looking forward to hearing from you soon regarding this inquiry. May God bless you all. Angelito Corpuz

Laura Lee writes:

Dear Angelito Corpuz,

I don't know of any Church of God groups that offer free music CD's or free hymnals at this time, but perhaps someone who reads this does. If anyone knows of any Church of God groups that would offer free music CD's or free hymnals, please let us know at: the-cog-messenger@earthlink.net or by writing to Darwin & Laura Lee, PO Box 2333, Bismarck, ND 58502 so we can pass that information on to others. Laura

Letter found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0047/l2008-047-10.htm>

THE END**



*Visit Our
Web Site at:*

<http://darwinlauralee.com/>

THE MESSAGE BOARD (ADS & INFO) ---

the-cog-messenger@earthlink.net

SABBATH SCHEDULE--BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA

- August 16, 2008**----Open for Hosting--Please Sign Up
- August 23, 2008**----Teaching the Law-- Lesson #238 & Lesson #239
- August 30, 2008**----Open for Hosting--Please Sign Up
- September 5, 2008**----Bible Study
- September 6, 2008**----Teaching the Law-- Lesson #240 & Lesson #241
- September 13, 2008**----Open for Hosting--Please Sign Up
- September 20, 2008**----Teaching the Law-- Lesson #242 & Lesson #243
- September 27, 2008**----Open for Hosting--Please Sign Up
- September 30, 2008**----Feast of Trumpets (See Ad Below)
- October 4, 2008**----Teaching the Law-- Lesson #244 & Lesson #245
- October 9, 2008**----Atonement (See Ad Below)
- October 11, 2008**----Open for Hosting--Please Sign Up
- October 14, 2008**----Feast of Tabernacles (No Services)
- October 18, 2008**----Feast of Tabernacles (No Services)
- October 21, 2008**----Feast of Tabernacles (No Services)
- October 25, 2008**----Open for Hosting--Please Sign Up
- November 1, 2008**----Teaching the Law-- Lesson #246 & Lesson #247
- November 8, 2008**----Open for Hosting--Please Sign Up
- November 15, 2008**----Teaching the Law-- Lesson #248 & Lesson #249

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, 2008. 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.

SABBATH SERVICES

Every Saturday at 2:00 PM at 320 N. Griffin St., Bismarck, North Dakota (701) 258-7172
Front Door Open at 1:00 PM for Fellowship

BIBLE STUDY

Every 6 weeks on Friday at 8:00 PM at 320 N. Griffin St., Bismarck, North Dakota (701) 258-7172
Front Door Open at 6:30 PM for Fellowship and Pot Luck Meal (Bring Food)

FEAST OF TRUMPETS--SEPTEMBER 30, 2008

Come join us, services start at 2:00 PM at 320 N. Griffin St. in Bismarck, North Dakota (Fellowship starts at 1:00 PM)

Join us for a 5:00 PM meal at: Perkins Family Restaurant (Expressway Avenue) in Bismarck, North Dakota

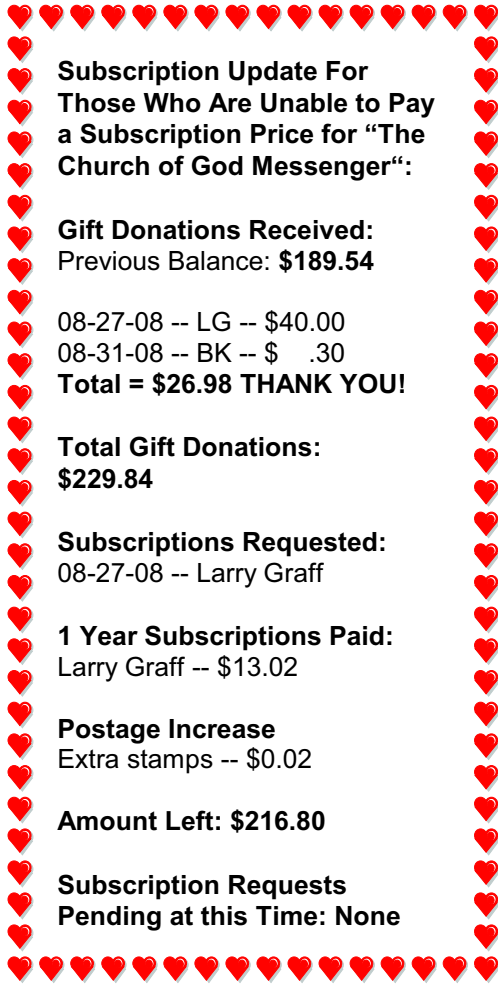
ATONEMENT--OCTOBER 9, 2008

Come join us, services start at 2:00 PM at 320 N. Griffin St. in Bismarck, North Dakota (Fellowship starts at 1:00 PM)

Join us for a meal at sunset at: Bonanza Family Restaurant in Mandan, North Dakota

EVERYONE HAVE A REALLY GREAT

FEAST OF TABERNACLES



Subscription Update For Those Who Are Unable to Pay a Subscription Price for "The Church of God Messenger":

Gift Donations Received:
Previous Balance: **\$189.54**

08-27-08 -- LG -- \$40.00
08-31-08 -- BK -- \$.30
Total = \$26.98 THANK YOU!

Total Gift Donations:
\$229.84

Subscriptions Requested:
08-27-08 -- Larry Graff

1 Year Subscriptions Paid:
Larry Graff -- \$13.02

Postage Increase
Extra stamps -- \$0.02

Amount Left: \$216.80

Subscription Requests Pending at this Time: None

Vote for George J. Dutton
Sent by Lori Johnson (King William, Virginia)

This borders a bit on the redneck, but heck, the guy's got a point (or six)!

After a careful review of the options for the upcoming election: I HAVE DECIDED TO BECOME A WRITE-IN CANDIDATE. HERE IS MY PLATFORM:

- 1. Press 1 for English is immediately banned. English is the official language. Speak it or wait at the border until you can.
- 2. We will immediately go into a two-year isolationist posture to straighten out the country's attitude. NO imports, no exports. We will use the 'Wal-Mart' policy: 'If we ain't got it, you don't need it.'
- 3. When imports are allowed, there will be a 100% import tax on it.
- 4. All retired military personnel will be required to man one of our many observation towers on the southern border. (Six month tour) They will be under strict orders not to fire on SOUTHBOUND aliens.
- 5. Social Security will immediately return

to its original state. If you didn't put nuttin' in, you ain't getting' nuttin' out. Neither the president nor any other politician will be able to touch it.

- 6. Welfare - Checks will be handed out on Fridays at the end of the 40 hour school week and the successful completion of urinalysis and a passing grade.
 - 7. Professional Athletes --Steroids - The FIRST time you check positive you will be banned for life.
 - 8. Crime - We will adopt the Turkish method: The first time you steal, you lose your right hand. There will be no more life sentences -- if you are convicted of a Capitol Offense, you will be put to death by the same method you chose for your victim, gun, knife, strangulation, etc.
 - 9. One export will be allowed - Wheat -- The world needs to eat. A bushel of wheat will be the exact price of a barrel of oil.
 - 10. All foreign aid using American taxpayer money will immediately cease, and the saved money will pay off the national debt and ultimately lower taxes. When disasters occur around the world, we'll ask the American people if they want to donate to a disaster fund, and each citizen can make the decision whether it's a worthy cause.
 - 11. The Pledge of Allegiance will be said every day at school and every day in Congress -- right after a prayer to God.
 - 12. The National Anthem will be played at all appropriate ceremonies, sporting events, outings, etc.
- Sorry if I stepped on anyone's toes, but a vote for me will get you better than what you have and better than what you're gonna get.

Item found on line at:
<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0047/i2008-047-01.htm>
THE END**

What is Germany's Prophetic Destiny?
Sent by Dixon Cartwright (Big Sandy, Texas)

First book ever published fully devoted to Germany in Prophecy!

Germany has a secret. It is the secret behind its historic and pivotal role as a nation and its influence as the true leader of the European Union. When revealed, this secret will alter your whole understanding of world affairs and prophecy.

The Great German Nation: It's Origins and Destiny by Craig White provides detailed research that uncovers the mystery behind Germany's power on the whole stage.

Packed with 43 illustrations, charts and maps plus 800 footnotes, this book is an excellent resource to add to your Bible study library.

Melvin Rhodes, Senior Editor of the **Good News magazine** and **World News and Prophecy** has reviewed the book and made the following observation: "This book is a monumental contribution to the study of the Assyria-Germany connection. It is thoroughly researched and well documented. The author is clearly well read in both ancient and modern history. The book even takes us into the future, painting a vivid picture of the role that Germany will play as the leader of Europe in the coming years."

Read an excerpt from the fascinating research at:
http://www.originofnations.org/Great_German_Nation/book_excerpt.htm

To purchase this book please visit:
http://www.originofnations.org/Great_German_Nation/purchase.htm [If you live in North America, telephone the Book Order Hotline, at (888) 280-7715. Using this number, you can place an order and pay with your credit card by phone (or send in a check after the phone call). You can also use this phone number to enquire about bulk and discount orders. As of October 2007 you should be able to purchase this book at any book store in the world.]

Item found on line at:
<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0047/i2008-047-02.htm>
THE END**

Place of Safety Camp?
by Alan Croyle (Emporia, Virginia)

Jesus Christ is come in the flesh, 1 John 4:1-3. Today, if you will hear His voice (by His Spirit) prepare the Place of Safety Camp near Armstrong, Ontario, Canada. Contact: Alan Croyle, PO Box 7, Emporia, VA 23847

Item found on line at:
<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0047/i2008-047-03.htm>
THE END**

Heaven or Hell
Sent by Rich Daniels (Shawano, Wisconsin)

A holy man was having a conversation with the Lord one day and said, "Lord, I

A Love I Had Never Known

by Richard Markland (Lebanon, Ohio)

(c) 2006 By Richard Markland

The following poem is in the memorial garden I have built in memory of Linda. An 8 x 10 picture is next to the poem. It is a tribute to the Queen, God granted to me for 22 years. I wish people could realize death can happen at any time. Nothing will affect anyone more than the loss of someone you love. It will change your life as nothing else will.

Two things left me the day you died.
My heart and soul were taken.

So much of my life was taking care of you.
For months, you occupied every thought of my day.

Since you've left me, I have been lost without you.
My heart is in need of repair, my soul in need of mending.

Even though I had to slowly watch you die,
God granted a special love I had never known.

As I spent endless hours asking Him to spare you,
my heart connected with yours and my love deepened.

God's loving hand reached down and felt your last heartbeat.
As a loving parent, He cared for you as only a Father can.

Even though I don't understand why you were taken,
the love I have for you would never have been known any other way.

I thank God for the time we had together.
Only through your suffering did I understand how deeply I loved you.

In Memory Of Linda: 1950-2005 and for those who have lost a loved one.

Item found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0047/i2008-047-06.htm>

THE END**

would like to know what Heaven and Hell are like"

The Lord led the holy man to two doors. He opened one of the doors and the holy man looked in. In the middle of the room was a large round table. In the middle of the table was a large pot of stew which smelled delicious and made the holy man's mouth water. The people sitting around the table were thin and sickly. They appeared to be famished. They were holding spoons with very long handles and each found it possible to reach into the pot of stew and take a spoonful, but because the handle was longer than their arms, they could not get the spoons back into their mouths. The holy man

shuddered at the sight of their misery and suffering.

The Lord said, "You have seen Hell."

They went to the next room and opened the door. It was exactly the same as the first one. There was the large round table with the large pot of stew which made the holy man's mouth water. The people were equipped with the same long handled spoons but here the people were well nourished and plump, laughing and talking.

The holy man said, "I don't understand"

"It is simple" said the Lord, "it requires but one skill. You see, they have learned to feed each other. While the greedy think only of themselves."

Have A Really Great Feast!

A friend is someone who reaches for your hand, and touches your heart.

Item found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0047/i2008-047-04.htm>

THE END**

European History Foretold

by Harold Hemenway
(Tukwila, Washington)

Harold Hemenway has a book for sale called "European History Foretold" which is an illustrated 197-page historicist commentary on the Book of Revelation from a Messianic Jewish and British Israelite viewpoint. Please compare it to any of the equivalent historicist books you currently stock on the Book of Revelation, verse for verse, and ask which book does a better job of explaining the Scriptures.

Contact information is Harold Hemenway, jewishchristian@seanet.com, (206) 244-2222. Website is as follows: www.british-israel.us and the address is 4036 South 128th St., Tukwila, WA., 98168. The retail price is \$14.99 and the name of the distributor is Ingram/Spring Arbor distributors. Booksellers could also order from Xulon the publisher directly (2180 W State Road 434 Suite 2140, Longwood FL 32779; phone 866-381-2665; fax 407-339-9898) and receive 40% discount or even directly from the author for 50% off. There is a 10% charge for shipping.

Item found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0047/i2008-047-05.htm>

THE END**