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**The "New" Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**September 17, 2022 --- Issue No. 85**

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

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**Articles**  
**(Length – At Our Discretion)**

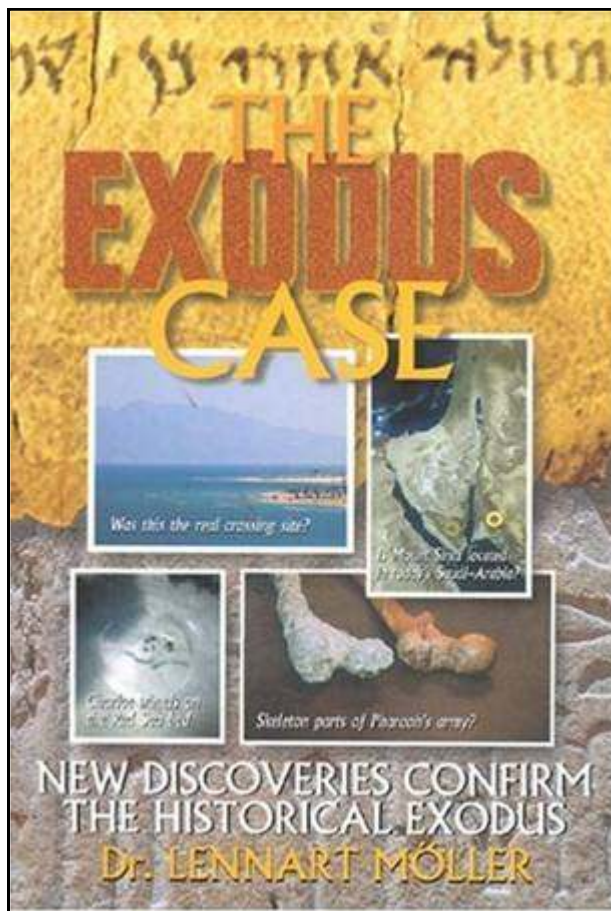
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Many of you may be familiar with the late Ron Wyatt. He claimed to have made many Biblically related archaeological discoveries, such as the location of the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, Noah's ark and the Ark of the Covenant. This reviewer definitely disagrees with Wyatt's claims on the Ark of the Covenant. Wyatt places the crucifixion on the hill north of Jerusalem, but there seems to be a lot of good evidence that the crucifixion took place on the Mount of Olives east of the city. This review, however, deals with a book that follows up on Wyatt's discoveries concerning Israel's Red Sea crossing and the location of Mount Sinai.

Over the years there have been numerous proposals for the location of Mt Sinai. This writer agrees with this book's author that Jabal Al Lawz is the best candidate for Mt, Sinai.

Dr. Moller is a professor and researcher at the Karolinska Institute, the Medical University of Stockholm. His research focus is on DNA lesions and related illnesses; however, he also has background in marine biology, archaeology, photography, scuba diving, and ecology. The author's fundamental thesis is that "The Bible texts with which this book deals (Genesis 11:27 to Exodus 40:38) are a true historical document." Dr. Moller has traveled over much of the ground covered in this book and has done underwater exploration in the Red Sea (Gulf of Aqaba) and many of the photographs in the book were taken by him.

After the introduction the book is divided into three major areas: The Pre-Exodus Period, The Exodus, and At the Mountain of God. In part I the author begins with Abraham and makes a case for "Ur of the Chaldees" to be located at Urfa in far northern Syria, rather than in southern Babylonia. Many Biblical names are found in the area around Urfa and photos of old maps showing these names are provided. Moller then discusses an unusual geologic formation near the southern end of the Dead Sea that has balls of sulphur scattered through it. He believes this formation is the remains of Sodom and Gomorrah, as Wyatt did. Dr. Moller presents evidence for identifying Joseph with the famous Imhotep of Egypt's Third dynasty and makes some interesting observations concerning pharaoh Zoser's pyramid complex at Sakkara and on pyramid building in general. Other authors have identified Joseph with other personalities in other dynasties in Egyptian history. Is it possible that some of these are the story of the same man, just written from different perspectives by different ancient writers?



by Dr. Lennart Moller  
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In part II the author makes an interesting case for placement of the Exodus in the 18th dynasty. For archaeological reasons this reviewer cannot accept this scenario, believing strongly that dynasty 18 is parallel with Israel's united monarchy and then the divided monarchy down into the late 800s B.C. The route of the Exodus is then traced across northern Sinai and down to the Nuweiba beach on the western side of the Gulf of Aqaba.

Several excellent satellite photos of the Aqaba Gulf area, as well as the Jabal Al Lawz area, are provided. There are also numerous pictures of the underwater evidence: chariot parts and animal and human remains. Some objects are fairly easily discerned in the photographs, some are not.

In the last section the author attempts to identify several items mentioned in the scripture in the vicinity of mount Sinai including: the rock Moses struck to produce water, the altar Moses built, 12 pillars, and Elijah's cave.

Dr. Moller deals with many other details that indicate Jabal Al Lawz may well be Mt. Sinai. The top of the mountain is blackened; it is in the land of Midian; and the possible home of Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, is nearby.

The book is 317 pages long with more than 550 figures (mostly color photographs) and several tables, a bibliography and index. A minor complaint of this reviewer is that some of the photos are quite small and therefore hard to discern. A major complaint is that while the author references the Bible and Josephus quite well, most of his other references are to the book or periodical only and not to a page. The reviewer notes that there is a new edition of the book, which he has not seen, which may address these issues.

The reviewer found most of this book to be very interesting reading. Whether or not the book is accurate in any or all of its suppositions the reader must decide, as the author also states.

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**Article by Bill Buckman**

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## **Biden's 'Battle for the Soul of the Nation' Speech**

**by Richard T. Ritenbaugh (Charlotte, North Carolina)**

On the evening of September 1, 2022, the President of the United States, Joseph Biden, delivered a primetime address to the nation from Independence Hall in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Typically, a speech from that storied location would elicit thoughts of the bravery and foresight of America's Founders, hearkening back to the beginnings of the Republic and the spirit of freedom and self-governance that inspired the thirteen colonies to unite and defy Great Britain.

Not so this night.

While Biden tried to evoke these images through words, what the audience and viewers around the country saw conjured up something entirely different. They saw Independence Hall as they had never seen it before. The building was darkened, looming like a black hulk against the night sky, its usually bright white architectural details uplit in ominous dark red tones. On the podium, Biden spoke in a spotlight behind the Presidential Seal, with two soldiers in dress uniforms conspicuously standing at attention several yards behind him. Never had a U.S. president ever addressed the nation from such a grim, Stygian setting.

Broadcaster Mike Gallagher described [his reaction](#) to what he saw and heard in the speech:

[God](#) help this country.

After witnessing what we witnessed last night with the satanic, evil, Nazi Germany, blood-red background, a vicious attack on half of the country [*sic*]. This is one of the most evil things I've ever witnessed in the political arena. . . .

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I have never seen an American president go after the country the way this man did.

As Gallagher suggests, the speech’s content mirrored the black and blood-red background’s evil feel. He used the address to condemn conservative Americans—whom he lumped together as “MAGA [Make America Great Again] Republicans,” who oppose his decidedly leftist policies and generally support his rival, former President Donald Trump. Contradictorily, the speech later attempted to unite the country and urge Americans to “respect our legitimate political differences.”

[Biden’s polemic](#) against nearly half of his fellow citizens declared:

Donald Trump and the MAGA Republicans represent an extremism that threatens the very foundations of our republic... And here, in my view, is what is true: MAGA Republicans do not respect the Constitution. They do not believe in the rule of law. They do not recognize the will of the people... They promote authoritarian leaders, and they fan the flames of political violence that are a threat to our personal rights, to the pursuit of justice, to the rule of law, to the very soul of this country. . . . MAGA Republicans look at America and see carnage and darkness and despair. They spread fear and lies—lies told for profit and power.

MAGA Republicans, who are essentially conservative or traditional nationalists, have their faults, as all ideologues do. As descriptions of most conservative Americans, however, these statements are blatantly untrue. Objectively, they are a better fit for the opposite end of the political spectrum, which has been rampaging across many American cities for two years now, destroying, burning, looting, and harassing—even killing—bystanders. They are on record as wanting to abolish the Constitution and set up socialist and even communist governments and leaders.

Biden’s address turns reality on its head. We can be sure it was a calculated and purposeful psychological projection to deceive, confuse, and divide, all of which are tactics of the Adversary. The speech was gaslighting on a national scale. It will not turn out well, as God declares in Isaiah 5:20-21:

Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil;  
Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness;  
Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!  
Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes,  
And prudent in their own sight!

Under the glowering red lights in front of Independence Hall—evoking Dante’s *Inferno* or the emperor’s throne room in *Star Wars* more than “America the Beautiful”—the President did just that. By calling concerned citizens who love their country “outrageous,” “extremists,” “white supremacists,” “threats” to the country, and “insurrectionists,” he put targets on the backs of his political enemies. It was the kind of diatribe that leads to civil war—that undermines the very nation he claims to want to unite.

Gallagher is right on two fronts: The speech was satanic, and divine intervention is the nation’s only hope. When a nation’s leadership reverses society’s moral and ethical framework, God alone can put matters right—but be careful what you wish for! With the country wallowing in wickedness and perversity, His intervention will not seem benevolent, certainly not at first.

Just a few verses later, God lays out what He will bring on a people who upend His moral and ethical standards, which are binding on all whether they acknowledge them or not:

Therefore, as the fire devours the stubble, and the flame consumes the chaff, so their root will be as rottenness, and their blossom will ascend like dust; because they have rejected the law of the LORD of hosts and despised the word of the Holy One of Israel. Therefore the anger of the LORD is aroused against His people; He has stretched out His hand against them and stricken them, and the hills trembled. Their carcasses were as refuse in the midst of the streets. For all this His anger is not turned away, but His hand is stretched out still. (Isaiah 5:24-25)

Battle lines have been drawn. Rhetorical shots have been fired, if not real ones. But the real Power sits on His throne in

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heaven, and He will act in His time to the dismay of those who set themselves against Him.

“Return, O LORD! How long? And have compassion on Your servants” (Psalm 90:13).

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## **The Roadmap to Immortality**

**by Nathaniel & James E. Burson (Big Sandy, Texas)**

If this world, the churches in this world, and even the churches of God, if they only knew! If they only knew HOW WRONG, how totally unscriptural most of their teachings were! And, standing out as a beacon above all of their errors is their teaching on LOVE.

LOVE is a magical word which seems to fix any problem today. You should LOVE sinners, LOVE evil people, LOVE rebellious children, nations should LOVE each other, and ministers beg, plead, and practically bribe people each week to get them to show more LOVE.

But they're wrong! Oh, Love – that is, what GOD means when He says “Love” - Love would solve all these problems, there is no question of that. BUT! No one teaches you how to get it! Because they don't know the road to REAL, SCRIPTURAL LOVE!

Did you know that the process – the long, arduous PROCESS which ultimately produces REAL LOVE is outlined in the Bible? I'm not talking about the fake, syrupy nonsense called LOVE by everyone today, but TRUE, sincere love, unfaked, un-pretended.

You see, you can't just START “loving” people, just like that. You can't do it because someone tells you to, or even because you want to. It can't happen! It's physically impossible to create *real* love overnight! Did you know that your Bible teaches that?

I'll bet you didn't, but it does! But all you ever hear is that you need to LOVE other people more – and no one ever tells you how to do that, or even WHAT LOVE IS! How can you do something if you don't even know what it is, or how to get more of it?

**2 Peter 1:5-7** *And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.*

There you have it. One of the most epic scriptures in the entire Bible. This is a chain of virtues, a list of attributes that will be a part of the character of EVERYONE before they are granted eternal life. This is a veritable **road map to immortality**. I have termed it a road map because it is more than a simple list. It is a list of virtues IN THE ORDER THEY MUST COME! It is the architectural blueprints to YOUR eternal character!

If you'll notice, each of these is built on the foundation of a previous attribute. This is incredibly important! “ADD to your faith VIRTUE”. That means you need faith, before you get virtue! Go back and read it again, carefully. Each virtue is added ONLY once the previous virtue is solid, and the next is built using *that* as a foundation!

This chain cannot be broken. For example, you can't have patience, in the sense the Bible defines patience, before you have faith.

**James 1:3** *Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh [or “causes”, or “results in”] patience.*

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If the trying, or testing of your faith causes patience, that is to say, if patience is created BY the testing of faith, as the scripture plainly says, then without FAITH you can't have patience! It would be like making an omelet without eggs!

There are many other ways to prove that this chain is always successive, I'll show a few more later. But first, this road map isn't quite complete. It picks up at the “faith” stage, assuming that a person already HAS faith. But for a COMPLETE map, we must back up another step, and add REPENTANCE.

**Hebrews 6:1-2** *Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.*

Notice what the foundation is; there are two WORKS mentioned, and 4 doctrines. These are considered, by God, to be the most basic FOUNDATION of a true Christian. And what is the bottom of that foundation?

REPENTANCE from dead works. To put it another way, STOPPING SINNING is the foundation of this road! And to that repentance, you add FAITH. Faith is the AUTOMATIC result of simply not sinning!

So then, our road map, in modern English, would read:

Repentance --> Faith --> Works --> Knowledge --> Self-control --> Patience --> Using the power of God --> Loving those who deserve it --> Loving those who don't deserve it --> Immortality.

I now intend to explain each of those virtues in some detail, ending in charity, or love. Repentance has already been explained. As a natural consequence, that leads to faith. Faith, however, without works, is dead. It has to have VIRTUE, or proof, or works, to go with it. **(James 2:18-20)**

So, the automatic faith you have after you repent is a good start, but it isn't enough! It has to have WORKS to back it up! Then, after you've added WORKS to your faith, you must add knowledge. You must seek, desperately, for more places where you are sinning in order to uproot them!

You must look under your bed, dig through your closets, clean out your pantry, looking for places where you even MIGHT be wrong! And add to your works, the works which are the PROOF that you are obeying your faith, KNOWLEDGE!

But here you will notice a problem in yourself. By seeking this knowledge, you are finding things that you currently do, things that you ENJOY doing, that you can't do anymore! This will require you to make a hard choice. Do you REALLY want to know if you're sinning or not? Wouldn't you rather just be in the dark, so you could keep your little sins?

And so you see, knowledge leads automatically to temperance, which is better translated “self-control”. You must master your spirit to proceed past this step, you must RULE your carnal heart, and CONTINUE to root through your life, looking for any error you might be making, because you WANT to change, whatever the personal cost! It will require the existence, or the creation, of SELF-CONTROL for you to proceed beyond this step!

But if you pass this step, you will have already proceeded farther than most ever do. Most of the world is eliminated at step 1, repentance. Many, many, many more are eliminated at steps 2 and 3, faith and works. Each subsequent step eliminates many more people who just are not yet fit to wield ultimate power in the world to come.

So, by this point you would be making excellent progress. And yet you STILL are not ready to understand, or show, true, Godly love. More on that later. Meanwhile you come to the first step that requires you to actually trust God, namely, PATIENCE.

Thus far, it has always been your move. You controlled whether or not you advanced now, or later. But now, God must know, and for that matter, *you* must know, what you are really made of.

Will you really trust God, no matter what? Is this the way of life you REALLY want, even if God were to stop rewarding you for it – or are you only doing this because God has been blessing you for it? Would you REALLY rather be back in the world, enjoying the pleasures of sin?

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God allows you to make this choice at this step. Of course, you could have already made it many times, but this is the time where God really opens the door for you, to see if, left to your own way, you will rush back to the life you used to have.

**James 5:11** *Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.*

You may recall the trials Job went through. Trials that he hadn't brought about through his own mistakes. That was Job, passing this mile-marker on the road to eternal life. I suggest, if you are interested, that you re-read the book of Job with this perspective in mind.

This is part of the road every true Christian has gone through. We have ample written record of the great men in the Bible passing this step, Abraham is the first one who comes to mind. God demanded that he kill his only son.

Abraham had followed the first steps in this chain, followed them well, and done great things and earned great promises from God, but for all that, God wasn't really SURE of what Abraham would do, if the going got rough.

**Genesis 22:12** *And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou anything unto him: for NOW I KNOW that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me.*

*But NOW He knew!* God KNEW what Abraham would do, no matter WHAT! And He must know that about EVERY SINGLE BEING who will EVER wield power and authority in His kingdom!!

I fear I must add a disclaimer at this point, to prevent you from getting the wrong idea. Typically, anyone who suffers in this life blames God. “It’s God testing me”, they say. “He is teaching me patience”, they insist. When in fact, God is not testing them for their righteousness, but PUNISHING THEM FOR THEIR SINS!

If life goes sour for you, LOOK AT YOURSELF! Ask yourself “What have \*I\* done to make God do this to me?”

**Jeremiah 2:17** *Hast thou not procured this unto thyself, in that thou hast forsaken the LORD thy God, when he led thee by the way? (See also Jeremiah 4:18, 8:6, etc)*

If you are having difficulties, and you want to claim that God is just testing you, resist that thought! LOOK for your sins instead! Fast, if need be, to focus your concentration on WHAT YOU'VE DONE WRONG! Because YOU have almost certainly brought this curse upon yourself!

And instead of DESPERATELY searching for your sin, and looking for what is making God angry with you, as a man who is drowning in quicksand thrashes for a handhold... IF instead of *that* you simply say, “God is just testing me, \*I\* am not causing this”, well...

Quite simply, the punishment will not end, because you will never find or remove the cause. And you will have officially had a blow-out on the road to immortality.

So, unless you are at this point along the road, unless you have ALREADY added to your faith works, knowledge, and self-control, and *possibly even then* – you are NOT being tested by God, and it is most definitely YOUR FAULT that your life is a mess!

And bear in mind that when in doubt, this is by far the safer assumption. If you're wrong, so what – you thoroughly examined your heart in an effort to eradicate sin one more time. Can't lose doing that. But if you say God is testing you, when in fact he is punishing you... you will lose out on your reward. It is a sobering choice, do not make it lightly.

But back to our road map. After patience, when the test is finished, God can trust you. And He restores any blessings He may have temporarily withheld, and then some. See the last chapter of **Job** for how God feels about someone who passes this, and learns PATIENCE.

And so, now that God can TRUST you, implicitly, you enter the next stage in your development. Godliness, which is

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practicing the power of God.

**2 Timothy 3:5** *Having a form of godliness, but denying **the power thereof**: from such turn away.*

There is a POWER that goes with godliness! And this power, like all skills, has to be exercised!

**1 Timothy 4:7-8** *But refuse profane and old wives' fables and exercise thyself rather unto godliness. For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.*

You are put on earth to practice being a king and a priest in the world tomorrow. You were born for the sole purpose of one day becoming GOD! With the power and responsibilities that go along with that job! But WHEN are you going to learn how to use them?

The answer is, today! Every time you pray, you learn, or rather, you SHOULD learn, what GOD would do in a certain situation. You have your senses exercised through USE (**Hebrews 5:16**)!

You exercise your senses and learn GOOD and EVIL! You learn whether to heal, or to curse, or to bless, or to open someone's mind to truth, because you, through faith, have access to the power of God! And that power allows you to practice making important, even life-and-death decisions, while God is still watching over your shoulder, to prevent you from making a terrible mistake!

And so Godliness is **using the power of God!** And you couldn't master the power of God before this, because God couldn't TRUST you until after you had learned patience! And now, after all this learning, and changing, and growing to be more like God, you finally have perspective enough, experience enough, to finally arrive at what LOVE actually is.

**1 Timothy 1:5** *Now the **END of the commandment is charity** out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned:*

Love is the END of the commandment – the result of a long process of obeying the law! And it is love that comes out of a pure heart, and a good conscience, and REAL, SINCERE FAITH!

This proves, yet one more time, that you CAN'T HAVE LOVE WITHOUT REAL FAITH! Powerful faith, faith that proves you have CONTACT with God, and He HEARS your prayers! Anyone who appears or claims to have LOVE without showing FAITH is lying to you, and probably to himself as well!

Many, MANY times, someone has come to me and said “Well, she's such a loving person, but she just doesn't have faith” ... AND THAT IS A LIE! They CANNOT have love or be a “LOVING PERSON” without the FOUNDATION of righteousness and obedience of **2 Peter 1:5-7!**

On the other hand, as a natural RESULT of traveling the road to immortality, after having learned faith, patience, self-control, and godliness, the result of this process will be LOVE! True, unfaked, sincere LOVE, Love that produces WORKS and MEANS something!

Love built upon this foundation of LAW, of TRUTH, and of REALITY and LIFE, can be REAL, the Love that God says HE **IS**, the Love that He says is the definition of His very character!

**1 John 4:8, 5:2-3** *He that loveth not knoweth not God; for **God is love**... By this we know that **we love the children of God**, when we love God, and **keep his commandments**. For **this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments**: and his commandments are not grievous. (See also **Romans 13:8-10**)*

Love, TRUE LOVE, is the keeping of the commandments! Remember, the END, or the RESULT, of keeping those commandments is Love! And after having traveled this road this far, you will have had your COMMITMENT to those laws TESTED, and PROVED, under hundreds, perhaps thousands of situations, and your LOVE can finally be perfected! And here we find another proof that this chain is given to us IN THE ONLY ORDER IT CAN COME!



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**1 John 4:20** *If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?*

The road map tells us that you add to your godliness brotherly kindness, and to your brotherly kindness LOVE. In other words, you must love your BROTHER before you can truly love GOD! And that is exactly what **1 John 4:20** says, as well! You must already LOVE your brother before you can truly LOVE GOD!

And so we have arrived at the final step. Truly loving all men, God, even your enemies. We are finally ready to learn **1 Corinthians 13**. You could not have adopted these characteristics before now! If you had, you would have only been pretending true love – and deceiving even yourself!

**1 Corinthians 13:4** *Charity suffereth long and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Charity never faileth ...*

To try, for example, to learn LOVE before patience is impossible! Because LOVE is built UPON patience! And TRUE LOVE never fails – but the Love you see around you FAILS! When backed into a corner, everyone you know, and almost certainly YOU, YOURSELF, will revert to your carnal nature!

**Matthew 7:26-27** *And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.*

That is because whatever pretense of Godly Love you have, WAS NOT BUILT UPON A SOLID FOUNDATION, but on emotion and lies! And so, it WILL FALL, and GREAT will be the fall of it! Hear this, and never forget it; unless your “Love” came AFTER the process outlined in the Road Map to Immortality, **2 Peter 1:5-7**, IT IS NOT LOVE AT ALL, but a LIE, and it’s works are HATE!

If your love begins with LAW, and carries through FAITH, and PATIENCE, and GODLINESS, then you can make the RIGHT judgments that TRUE LOVE makes. You can know that the act of LOVE, the action that GOD would take, would be to spank a rebellious child!

But Love WITHOUT that foundation, built solely upon emotion and **1 Corinthians 13**, like the so-called LOVE of practically everyone alive, would say “No, no, don’t spank little Billy!”

The BIBLE chooses between these two approaches when it says *“He that spareth his rod HATETH his son: but he that LOVETH him chasteneth him betimes.”* (**Proverbs 13:24**)

People read where it says *“Love endures all things”*, and say “Well, that means I must never correct sinners!”, or “That means that I should never spank a child! Instead, I must ENDURE his sins!”

**But people who have walked the Road of Immortality and have arrived at the point where they can understand TRUE LOVE, know that the TRUE act of Love is to correct the sinner!**

**Proverbs 28:23** *He that rebuketh a man afterwards shall find more favour than he that flattereth with the tongue.*

But I have dwelt upon this subject long enough. I believe it to be unarguable, that is, unarguable from SCRIPTURE, that TRUE LOVE can only be built upon the foundation of repentance, and faith, and works, and knowledge, and self-control, and patience, and godliness, and love towards those who love you.

If you skip even ONE of those steps, what you have is NOT love, at all. Granted, there can be acts of love – since Love is, in principle, nothing more than obeying the ten commandments...

**Romans 13:8-10** *Owe no man anything, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. For*

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*this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore LOVE IS the fulfilling of the law.*

But true LOVE, Loving others more than yourself, loving even your enemies, that is, keeping the law towards them EVEN WHEN THEY DON'T DESERVE IT, uncorruptible, perfect LOVE, can ONLY be built upon the foundation above! There is only ONE road you can walk! ONE WAY to learn, and grow, Love.

**1 John 3:18** *My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in-deed and in truth.*

**Remember that, like Faith, Love, without works, is dead, being alone.**

**1 John 2:5** *But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.*

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**Back-to-school special:**  
**Pagan green religions won't 'save the planet'**  
**(Copyright) by Curtis Dahlgren (Stephenson, Michigan)**

**"The reason there's pollution in the world is because the Bible says, 'Subdue the earth.'" – UW-Madison landscaping professor on the first day of class in 1970 (something was lost in his translation, like "Dress and keep it").**

IN 1960 (I was at the Kremlin-on-Mendota two times) an economics professor at the UW urged me to stay in college, but many of the professors were already too liberal for my taste (climbing trees was more to my taste). Parents, you have "got" to prepare your kids for the attempted brainwashing before it's too late! Common sense is deemed too *common* to suit the taste of the Ivory-tower elitists.

Speaking of economics, one of the things people who have really WORKED understand about economics is the difference between "equity" and "equality."

EQUITY IS ASSETS YOU'VE WORKED FOR, AND "EQUALITY" IS THE EQUITY THAT'S BEEN STOLEN FROM SOMEONE ELSE WHO WORKED FOR IT.

Not to "divide" the country, but that last sentence just about sums up the "Two Americas." Never the twain shall meet, I guess. It's like the difference between Green Acres and green-with-envy. "Get a job" versus the Green New "Deal" (it's a great deal for the higher classes). There are BIG bucks to be made in carbon taxes and carbon credits trading. An excerpt from my 10/23/09 column and the July-August issue of "Fast Company" magazine ("Tree Huggers Corner a Trillion Dollar Market"); the sub-titles say:

"Legal limits on greenhouse-gas emissions are coming fast, with a \$1 Trillion carbon market emerging. At the core: a cadre of young, idealistic Yale forestry grads. But will carbon offsets do anything to slow global warming? Yale forestry-school grads and professors dominate the emerging carbon market from finance firms to the World Bank."

The idea, in theory, is to plant trees with some of the money to save the Planet (this one, they think). But private business has planted so many trees we have more trees than when Columbus discovered America (thanks to the lumber companies, the paper industry, nursery companies, Christmas tree farms, etc.). I've personally saved more trees as an arborist than most "Deep Ecologists" ever will save. And that in private business, without a Yale forestry degree!

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"SAVE THE PLANET," MY BUTT (the following is a one-of-a-kind analysis of the "Green" movement):

One thing I do know is that the very same people who want "separation of church and State" are using their OWN religion to cram stupid ideas down your throat. It's the religion once known in ancient times for the worship of the goddess Cybele or Gaia. As the Encyclopedia Britannica, 11th edition (1910), says:

"She was also known under many other names, some of which were derived from famous places of worship: as Dindymene from Mt. Dindymon, Mater Idaea from Mt. Ida, Sipylene from Mt. Sipylus, Agdistis from Mt. Agdistis or Agdus, Mater Phrygia from the greatest stronghold of her cult; while others were reflections of her character as a great nature goddess; e.g. Mountain Mother, Great Mother of the Gods, Mother of all Gods and all Men" [as in "It's not nice to fool Mother Nature"].

Now if you're not accustomed to reading past-tense history (as opposed to "social" science), hang with me a few more minutes. The Britannica goes on:

"As the great Mother Deity whose worship extended throughout Asia Minor, she was known as Ma or Ammas. Cybele is her favorite name in ancient and modern literature, while Great Mother of the Gods, or Great Idaean Mother of the Gods, the most frequently recurring epigraphical title, was her ordinary official designation.

"Her best-known early seats of worship were Mt. Ida, Mt. Sipylus, Cyzicus, Sardis and Pessinus, the last-named city, in Galatia near the borders of Roman Phrygia, finally becoming the strongest center of the cult. She was known to the Romans and Greeks as essentially Phrygian, and all Phrygia was spoken of as sacred to her.

"It is probable, however, that the Phrygian race, which invaded Asia Minor from the north in the 9th century B.C., found a great nature goddess already universally worshipped there, and blended her with a deity of their own. The Asiatic-Phrygian worship thus evolved was further modified by contact with the Syrians and Phoenicians, so that it acquired strong Semitic characteristics.

"The Great Mother known to the Greeks and Romans was thus merely the Phrygian form of the nature deity of all Asia Minor. From Asia Minor the cult of the Great Mother spread first to Greek territory. It found its way into Thrace at an early date, was known in Boeotia by Pindar in the 6th century and entered Attica near the beginning of the 4th century."

[Quoted by the Britannica from Grant Showerman's The Great Mother of the Gods (Bulletin of the University of WISCONSIN (!), No. 43, Madison, 1901)]

Here are some more pithy excerpts from the Britannica:

During the brief revival of paganism under [Caesar] Eugenius in A.D. 394, occurred the last appearance of the cult in history [the last open one at least] . . . She was known as the All-begetter, the All-nourisher, the Mother of all the Blest. She was the great, fruitful, kindly EARTH itself . . . Especial emphasis was placed upon her maternity over WILD nature . . . Her universal POWER over the natural world finds beautiful expression in Apollonius Rhodius . . .

Her especial affinity with wild nature was manifested by the orgiastic character of her worship. Her attendants, the Corybantes, were wild, half demonic beings. Her priests, the Galli, were eunuchs attired in female garb, with long hair fragrant with ointment . . . Together with priestesses, they celebrated her rites with flutes [etc] . . . and tambourines, madly yelling and dancing until their frenzied excitement found its culmination in self-scourging, self-laceration, or exhaustion. Self-emasculatation sometimes accompanied this delirium of worship on the part of candidates for the priesthood.

THE BRITANNICA GOES ON:

At Rome the immediate direction of the cult of the Great Mother devolved upon the high priest, Archigallus, called Attis, a high priestess, Sacerdos Maxima [etc] . . . "Besides other priests, priestesses and minor officials, such as musicians, curator, etc., there were certain colleges connected with the administration of the cult . . .

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[Oh, that reminds me, the "art museum" at Harvard right now (2009) has an exhibit celebrating ActUp, pagan "eunuchs," and other strange things.]

Environmentalism in the extreme, or "Deep Ecology," by any other name is a CULT WITH DEEP ANCIENT ROOTS. That this cult-movement now has near control over our nation (think mainstream media) means in a very real sense, that Christians are battling wicked spirits in "High" places (and I don't mean Mt. Ida). The Britannica concludes the Great Mother of the Gods article thusly:

Together with Isis and Mithras, she was a great enemy, and yet a great aid to [professing] Christianity. The gorgeous rites of her worship, its mystic doctrine of communion with the divine through enthusiasm, its promise of regeneration through baptism of blood in the taurobolium, were features which attracted the masses of the people and made it a strong rival of Christianity; and its resemblance to the new religion, however superficial, made it, in spite of the scandalous practices which grew up around it, **a stepping stone to Christianity when the tide set in against paganism.** [my emphasis throughout]

**P.S. Our modern nature-worshippers claim to have power over the natural world – they can control "the climate" – not to mention your life! Do NOT fall for it.**

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<http://www.renewamerica.com/columns/dahlgren/220131>

## Feast Sites

### Feast Site – Lake Tahoe – Guardian Ministries (Copyright) by David Antion (Pasadena, California)

*Here is an update on the Feast and the rooms at the Beach Retreat and Lodge at South Lake Tahoe.*

*Urgent Request for anyone potentially interested in booking either a "Lake View" room, "Beach Front" room, or one of the "Suite" rooms for our upcoming Feast of Tabernacles at South Lake Tahoe?*

*Currently, the upgrade rooms from our original block have booked out, HOWEVER, we may be able to Add More of the Upgraded rooms to our block "IF" needed?*

*If you are considering attending with us, but still are not certain, that is perfectly fine, as you can book and still cancel up to 48 hours prior to check-in without charge or penalty. However, it is advisable to book your room now to ensure availability. If you have not yet done so but think you might want to come, go ahead and book now because there is no obligation if you cancel.*

*Please let me know as soon as possible, as we will be asking our booking agent to make any needed adjustments by this Thursday afternoon, so the upgraded rooms can be made available for booking this weekend. There are still regular Garden View rooms currently available.*

*As a reminder, our Discounted rates, when using our Group Code **FEAST** (all CAPS) ...*

**\$129 Garden**

**\$149 Lake-view**

**\$169 Beach-front**

*There are 3 options for Suites...*

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**King Parlor Suite** - similar to our One King guest room however it has a smaller living room area with a balcony attached right off of the bedroom. Group rate \$229

**Two-Bedroom Suite** - it has One King bedroom and another bedroom with Two Queens however there is still just one bathroom. Group rate \$309

**Honeymoon Suite** - One King bedroom with sitting area and larger bathroom. Group rate \$329

There is no guarantee that the upgrade rooms will still be available, but we need to know if there is interest so we can make the request.

Please don't hesitate to let me know if you have any questions or need the booking information.

Looking forward to our wonderful fellowship during the Feast!

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## **Prayer Requests**

### **Prayer Request (September 5, 2022)**

Wayne Cole - Please Pray for the family of Wayne Cole who died on September 4, 2022. He is survived by his wife Doris, his 3 children and other relatives. He was 92 years old.

## **Iron Sharpening Iron**

**(Agree or Disagree with Something Printed)**

**New American Standard Bible (Proverbs 27:17)**

**As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.**

## **In regard to: Keep The Sabbath Sabbath**

**Article by Nathaniel Burson**

**Comments by Darwin Lee (Bismarck, North Dakota)**

I would have been quite amused with this article if it hadn't been so disgustingly off the mark.

What I learned is that ministers, which would include, Apostles, Evangelists, Prophets, Bishops, local ministers (teachers), and elders are all boobs. That the brethren are retarded sinners. Those women, and that would of necessity include your wife, (I assume she is a woman), are too stupid to teach their children and therefore not qualified to teach any one in God's Church. That men are superior to the "weaker vessel" and all women can do is breast feed children until they are seven, so they never leave the nest. That you can binge watch Net-flix on the Holy Sabbath of God. That all I need is God and the Bible to teach and instruct me in the way that I should go and of course the author of this article would not be necessary as well. Because, by his own argument I need no one to teach me, therefore I have no need to read and or study any of his material, including his website with all the trimmings such as, correspondence course, articles, and other bunk. And of course, no church goers are going to be in the first resurrection because the judge (with a little j) has judged us church goers as sinful and not worthy of God's Kingdom, which would include the apostle Paul for he taught many sabbaths in the synagogues, so he too was a boob along with Peter, Timothy, and others. So, for all you ministers out there, you all just have been declared nothing but boobs. That should make you all feel better about yourselves now.

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In conclusion, don't go to "church" else wise you defile the sabbath rest by hobnobbing with sinners and there by defiling yourself also. There, I have learned a lot and am so pleased that I can rest peacefully every Sabbath now and "binge-watch", once and for all time. What a relief. I feel like Pepto-Bismol is in order.

## **In regard to: Keep The Sabbath Sabbath**

**Article by Nathaniel Burson**

**Comments by Laura Lee (Bismarck, North Dakota)**

Oh Nathaniel, where do I begin?

First of all, I see no meat whatsoever in this article. I see instead, first a child who hated going to Sabbath Services and prayed for a power outage while he was there. This child in body grew into what he thinks is a man by going to various Sabbath Services and arguing with the people there until he gets thrown out on his keester. He now decides he is right with God because they all did not want to listen to his version of scripture, so he starts his own web site and teaches the gentiles this garbage.

**Lev 23:1** And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

**Lev 23:2** Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, *Concerning* the feasts of the LORD, which ye shall proclaim *to be* holy convocations, *even* these *are* my feasts.

**Lev 23:3** Six days shall work be done: but the seventh day *is* the sabbath of rest, an holy convocation; ye shall do no work *therein*: it *is* the sabbath of the LORD in all your dwellings.

Where does it say in those three verses that Moses is the one that commanded the "holy convocations"? It says that the LORD told Moses what to speak and Moses spoke it. Moses never had a law or a covenant and when you start teaching that Moses somehow had a law or a covenant separate from God you are teaching a false doctrine which is neither milk nor meat. All you do with this article is steer people away from God and hand them over to Satan.

Those Sabbaths complete with the "holy convocations" are commanded by God, not by Moses. So apparently though you believe that you only need God and your Bible you aren't learning much. Since you believe that all you need is God and your Bible why would anyone use your website or need you to guide them in any way. Sort of sounds hypocritical. People can only learn things from Nathaniel Burson but not from other sabbath keeping churches or their ministers. Is that because only Nathaniel knows the truth and no one else does so therefore you cannot learn anything from anyone.

I think you missed learning the milk of scriptures when you went to sabbath services and prayed for a power outage. Whether you were sitting on the floor as many children did or whether you got a chair to sit in, apparently you were only warming that chair because you didn't seem to learn a lot about what God wants from you.

You called ministers "boobs" which is denigrating to both women and ministers. The people yet attending sabbath services are dullards.

*Nathaniel says:* "But if you've been around the truth for more than a few years, and think of yourself as a New Covenant Christian, you're expected to be able to chew meat – solid food dug directly out of the Bible, or revealed by the Father to you, **without anyone else's help!**"

Herein lies your problem. When you have no one to bounce scripture off of you become an island unto yourself and just make up your own stuff and you have done exactly that. The reason you have a "holy convocation" with other dullards is so you can bounce things off of them. Other people keep us grounded and on the right track because all of us dullards are working toward the same goal which is at this time to be considered worthy by God to be in that first resurrection and be with God and Christ forever.

What exactly is your goal, Nathaniel? Most all of the articles I have read that you have written are milk that do not go into any great detail. At least your older articles were more respectful of people. These new ones you are writing are mostly

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unbiblical and disgusting. I really think you could describe the church without remarks that denigrate not just women, but ministers and people who attend sabbath services. Paul and Christ both taught in the synagogue (church) are they boobs too? Should we have gone to hear them and prayed for a power outage?

I could say so much more about what is wrong with this article but what I would say about it would be twice as long as what you wrote in the first place. It is more like, what isn't wrong with this article, and I couldn't find much of anything that wasn't wrong with it.

Nathaniel, take my advice, if you are able to meet with other sabbath keepers on Saturday, do it at least a couple of times a month. Most sabbath groups do not have the strict dress codes that Worldwide Church of God had. So, wear your regular semi dress clothes and go there with a different attitude. Go there thinking that with each experience you have you can learn something good from it.

I learn new stuff from other people just about every single day because I want to learn. Yes, some stuff is not good or right, but the stuff that is good and right is so valuable. In some areas people have no other sabbath keepers to meet with, so if you are blessed to have groups near you by all means go but don't go there with the attitude that you know everything, and they know nothing.

## In regard to: Keep The Sabbath Sabbath

Article by Nathaniel Burson

Comments by Ray Daly (Lincoln, North Dakota)

Just finished the "long, long, long" article by Nathaniel Burson of Big Sandy, Texas.

He basically was saying what I brought up to you, and you could not see it. I appreciate you using the article, but the number of pages to explain the topic was way too much.

As mentioned, you did not see the "assembling" of believers as I mentioned, but now, with the much LONGER explanations, have you perhaps considered it differently? After all, salvation is a personal effort, and not a "group effort".

**(Editor's Note: Only the parts of this email pertaining to the above-mentioned article are included here. The rest of the email was removed. Laura Lee)**

## In regard to: Keep The Sabbath Sabbath

Article by Nathaniel Burson

Comments by Laura Lee (Bismarck, North Dakota)

"Keep The Sabbath Sabbath" is an article that neither Darwin nor I agree with at all. It is one of the most disrespectful articles either of us have ever read and the content contained within it is a false doctrine. Moses did not have his own law or his own covenant with God's people. Moses did not invent Feast Days or Holy Convocations. God is the one who invented Feast Days and Holy Convocations and had it written into His (God's) Law, for Moses does not have a Law separate from God's law.

Who is talking in this set of scripture?

**Lev 23:1** And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

**Lev 23:2** (The Lord said) Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, Concerning the feasts of the LORD, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations, even these are my feasts.

**Lev 23:3** Six days shall work be done: but the seventh day is the sabbath of rest, an holy convocation; ye shall do no work therein: it is the sabbath of the LORD in all your dwellings.

It is God telling Moses to tell the children of Israel to keep God's Feast Days and to have holy convocations. God is the

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author of the Holy Days and of the Holy Convocations (Meetings).

So "No" we did not change our mind in regard to there being Holy Convocations (Meetings) on the Sabbath. What you and Nathaniel Burson are spreading throughout God's people is a false doctrine and we sincerely hope no one falls for this.

If you had been following along, we told everyone we would refrain from attaching an "Iron Sharpening Iron" to any article until two weeks after said article is printed. However, we did put a special heading on those articles. "What is Right and Wrong with this Article and Why?" It was meant to encourage other people to respond with an "Iron Sharpening Iron". Starting with Issue #84 and forward, we will mark these articles differently.

**Ads**

**Catherine Booth**

**(Copyright) by Eddie & Sue Hyatt (Grapevine, Texas)**

**AN EXAMPLE OF BOLD, SPIRIT-LED WORLD-CHANGING ACTIONLIFE AND ACTION**

A few minutes ago, Amazon delivered my first copy of *Catherine Booth: Advocate of Equality in Marriage and Ministry* by Ilene Kenney. Catherine Booth co-founded the Salvation Army with her husband, William.

Ilene did a wonderful job in writing this, giving us **an inspiring snapshot** of this amazing woman.

I hope you will purchase several copies to spread far and wide. Our big order for distribution is scheduled for delivery Sept. 17-19.

You can purchase copies today at amazon in **paperback (\$5 + s/h) and kindle e-book (\$3)**.

Catherine Booth (1829 - 1890), with her husband William Booth (1829 - 1912) co-founded the Salvation Army in 1865.

In his moving tribute to his wife and co-worker of 35 years, William called her "the mother who nurtured his children, the wife who had stood side-by-side with him in battle and a warrior who never flinched from a battle." He said his heart was full of gratitude because God had, for a season, lent him such a treasure. He called her his friend, his counselor and adviser.

This tribute conveys the love story that was the Booth's marriage.

Ilene Kenney and Paul, her husband and of 44 years, founded and co-pastor Victory Celebration Church in Houston, Texas. For the past 20 years, they have been caring for the poor and homeless in Houston, serving meals, operating a food pantry, and meeting spiritual needs. They minister on the streets of Houston, praying with people and sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

**CATHERINE BOOTH**  
Advocate for Equality in Marriage & Ministry

**Ilene Kenney**

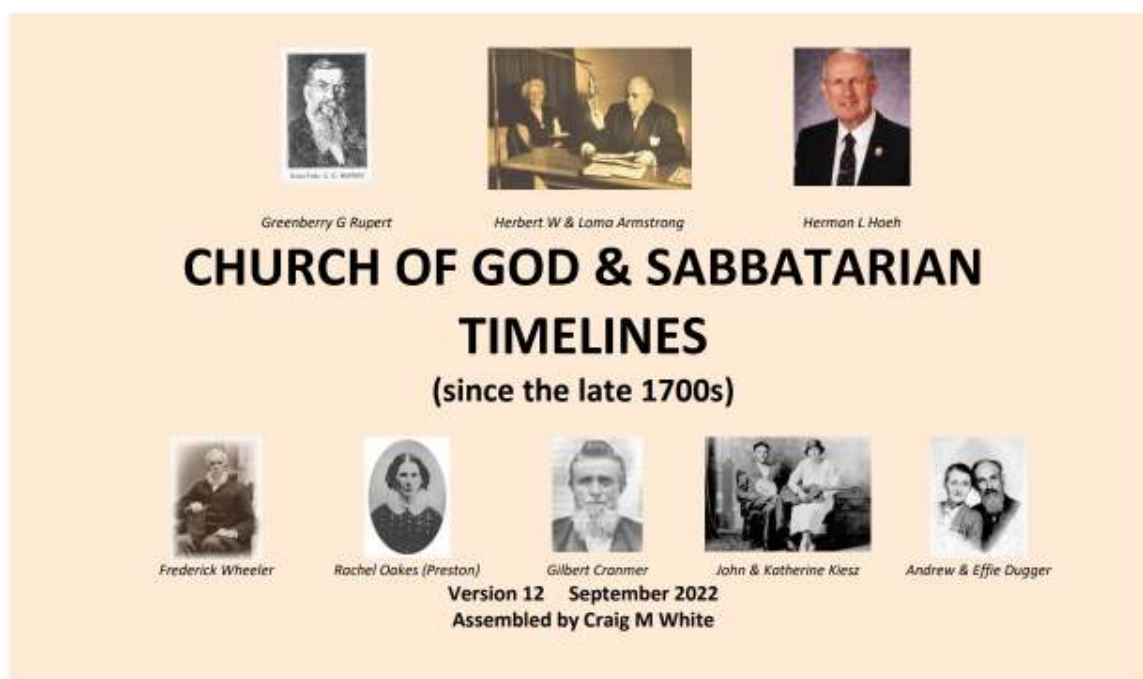


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**Other Items**  
(Poems, Jokes, Questions etc.)

**Church of God Timelines**  
(Copyright) by Craig White (Australia)



*Church of God Timelines* captures the major events in the Church of God and related communities since the late 1700s. Almost a year-by-year recording of key and interesting events can be found in the document which is thoroughly referenced. It also contains a number of appendices and an extensive bibliography for further research. Download at: [CHURCH OF GOD TIMELINE \(friendsofsabbath.org\)](http://friendsofsabbath.org)

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<http://www.friendsofsabbath.org/>

**Farewell, Your Majesty**  
(Copyright) by Dwight Fleming (Oroville, California)

We are all saddened by the death of Queen Elizabeth II. Her passing marks the end of an era, not just for the United Kingdom, but for the entire world. As the longest reigning British monarch, she served with grace and dignity that won the hearts of nearly everyone despite any human flaws. She was a great lady, not just because she had become queen,

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but because she was dedicated to serving God and country, which benefited the entire world by her example.

We have all seen her on TV throughout the years with many world leaders in grand ceremonies acting as a Royal Queen was expected to act. But she also had a great sense of humor which needs to be viewed to help offset any grief that we may feel for the loss of such a majestic lady. "Long live the Queen!" And live long is what she did by the grace of God.

This short video is a must-watch and will show a different side of Elizabeth than what you're familiar with:

<https://youtu.be/A-mO7rbYtgk>

The next video is longer but offers a respectful account of her last days:

<https://youtu.be/1H0SAmMPSw8>

## **Wayne Cole January 18, 1930 to September 4, 2022**

**(Copyright) by Craig White (Australia)**

**(This has been rearranged from what was sent to us.)**

**Email sent to Craig White on September 5, 2022:**

**C. Wayne Cole**

**January 18, 1930 -- September 4, 2022**

**I just spoke to Doris. Wayne died peacefully this morning at home at 9:55 a.m. He was 92.**

**Wayne was so happy to be able to spend quality time in the last few days with his two sons and his daughter, and also with his siblings. Wayne was still able to communicate with Doris yesterday. Doris said no service is currently being planned.**

**Wayne was a giant in my world. Connie and I are profoundly sad, but also relieved that he is no longer in any discomfort. They were a remarkable team for nearly 70 years, and such wonderful examples for all of us. Doris, you and your entire family are in our thoughts.....Bob & Connie**

**Sermon by Herman L. Hoeh:**

NB: Herman L Hoeh in a sermon on church history delivered on 14 March 1953 at Pasadena, California, stated:

- The holy days were kept by some in the Church of God with headquarters in Stanberry, Missouri and had some understanding of them
- Mentioned that Wayne Cole's uncle on his mother's side held to the 'British-Israel' doctrine

You can listen to the sermon [here](#). The information declared above commences around 16:30 minutes.

**The following is a letter sent to Craig White on May 31, 2008 from Wayne Cole:**

xxxxx forwarded your message to me regarding my Dad's association with both the CoG7 and also the Radio Church of God/Worldwide Church of God. I will try to answer your inquiry to your satisfaction.

My father was baptised in 1917 and was part of the CoG7thday from that time forward. He attended church in and near Fairview, OK until the family moved to Oregon in 1936. Then, he and the family attended with The Church of God in and around Jefferson, Oregon. In the late 1930s and into the mid-1940s the Church of God met in different school houses and had no regular pastor. At this time different ministers preached when available. Among those who preached at these services was Herbert W. Armstrong, Roy Daily, Rob Barnes and others.

In the early 1940s my father was ordained a "local elder" in the Church of God at Scrael Hill, near Jefferson, Oregon. (The church had built a building by this time). My Dad did not preach. I never heard him give a sermon. But

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he did conduct lessons, Bible Studies and was more or less in charge of the Church Services. He always introduced the minister -- if one was visiting for the sermon. My father was also a member of the Board of Trustees for the Oregon Conference of The Church of God 7th Day during the early and mid-1940s.

In 1945 my parents attended the Feast of Tabernacles in Belknap Springs, OR with the Herbert Armstrong group. This was their first attendance at the F. of Tab. From then on, they slowly began to observe all the Holy Days. This evolved over a period of several years, but they believed the Holy Days were to be observed. In 1947 my brother Raymond Cole attended Ambassador College during its first year. He was one of the pioneer students. Even though my parents continued to attend services with the Church of God 7th Day at Scrael Hill, they were slowly transferring their allegiance to the work of HWA. I then attended AC in 1950 and my folks were becoming even more entrenched in the work of HWA. By 1954, my dad and mom totally ceased their participation with CoG7 and attended full time with the Radio Church of God. My Dad was never an "Elder" in the Radio Church of God, as HWA did not feel the ordination from CoG7 should transfer. He was, however, a deacon in the Radio Church of God.

I believe the report you may have heard that my grandfather observed the Feast Days as early as 1917 is in error. Both my paternal and maternal grandparents were Sabbath keepers and both accepted the "British Israel" teachings in the early 1900s, though I do not know the actual history. I believe the 1917 reference may have been that my dad was baptised at the age of 18 in 1917. On the maternal side of my family, one of my mother's uncles was a Sabbath keeping minister in the early 1900s. His name was Merritt Dickenson. I do not think he was ever aligned with CoG7 but worked as an independent, itinerant minister in western Oklahoma.

I hope this is reasonably clear and answers some of your questions. If there are others, I will try to supply some info.

Take care.  
Wayne Cole

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## **Holy Days 2022**

**Passover – April 16, 2022 (Observed at Sunset the Evening Before)**

**Unleavened Bread – April 16-22, 2022**

**Pentecost – June 5, 2022**

**Trumpets - September 26, 2022**

**Atonement – October 5, 2022**

**Tabernacles – October 10-16, 2022**

**Last Great Day – October 17, 2022**