

The Model Prayer

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Articles
(Length – At Our Discretion)

The Model Prayer (Part One): Introduction
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Prayer is an intrinsic part of the religion revealed in the pages of Scripture. The Old Testament records many instances of faithful men and women humbly requesting mercy and aid from the God of heaven and earth, whether it is Daniel beseeching God to forgive Israel for her many sins (Daniel 9) or Hannah requesting a son, whom she would dedicate to God for His use (I Samuel 2). A study of the Old Testament prayers reveals a wide range of subjects, attitudes, circumstances, and styles in which God’s people have communicated with the Lord of all.

In Jesus’ time, the act of prayer had devolved mainly into hypocritical public prayers and memorized rote prayers. Because Jesus had shown Himself to be so different from other teachers of God’s way of life, His disciples were understandably confused about how they should pray. When they ask Him to teach them how to pray (Luke 11:1), Jesus responds with what has often been called—mistakenly— “the Lord’s Prayer” (see Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4; the real “Lord’s Prayer” appears in John 17). He does not intend us to recite this prayer mindlessly but offers an outline for our own far longer, deeper, and more personal prayers to the Father in heaven.

1. Does Jesus set an example of frequent prayer? Luke 5:16; Mark 1:35.

Comment: The apostle John provides a primary principle of living for those who follow Christ: “He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked” (I John 2:6). In terms of prayer, our Savior spoke to

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His Father often. He would often send His disciples away or go on His own into the wilderness to find a private place to pray. It seems to have been a habit for Him to rise early, well before dawn, to pray. Before significant decisions, He would pray all night (Luke 6:12)!

He instructs His disciples to pray always (Luke 21:36), that is, to make it a consistent and regular part of our worship of God. Throughout His long conversation with the Twelve on His final Passover, knowing He would be separated from them later that night, He counsels them to ask the Father in His name for the things they need (John 14:13-14; 15:7, 16; 16:23-24, 26-27). Through prayer, they, too, had direct access to the Father, and He would respond to them in love as He had to Christ Himself. As Jesus says, “Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full” (John 16:24).

2. What additional advice does Jesus give His disciples about prayer? Matthew 6:5-8.

Comment: Jesus’ disciples had grown up in Judaism, which was dominated at the time by the Pharisees, pious laymen who observed and taught strict adherence to the law. However, as Jesus pointed out, the Pharisees put their traditions (their Oral Law, restrictions to keep them from sinning and becoming ritually impure) above the law of God. Their instruction on prayer, then, proved to be insincere, as they prayed publicly to receive the approbation of men rather than to honor God.

Thus, Jesus instructs His disciples to shun the example of these hypocrites. He teaches them to find a private place to pray, away from an audience, so that they could have genuine, one-on-one conversations with God. He also tells them to avoid going to the opposite extreme of using “vain repetitions,” rote prayers repeated endlessly. God is a real Person who desires a real relationship with those He calls. We should speak reverently and respectfully to Him, certainly, but we should not yammer at Him like an unhearing block of wood, stone, or metal, as the heathens treat their idols

3. What broad principles appear in His model prayer? Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4.

Comment: Jesus’ simple introduction, “In this manner, therefore, pray,” indicates that He intends the prayer to guide His disciples in their everyday prayers. (In fact, the verb “pray” is present tense, imperative mood in Greek, suggesting habitual performance.) It is a kind of outline or model on which they can hang their own words as their circumstances warrant.

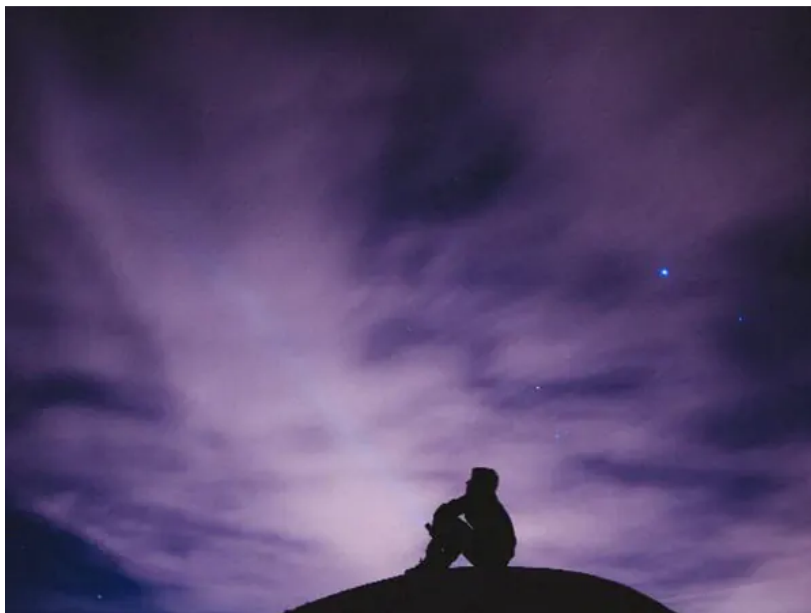
Generally, the outline provides a primary focal point of prayer: the Father Himself. Praise and honor of God begins and ends the prayer, forcing us to acknowledge the Eternal God’s holiness and power. We should never forget that the One listening to our words is the Almighty, Ever-living Sovereign of the universe and that we live and act by His grace.

After this, Jesus points to every Christian’s goal: the Kingdom of God. It is God’s goal, too, the height and culmination of His purpose for humanity. For millennia, the Father and Son have been working (John 5:17) to bring it to pass, first on earth during the Millennium and Great White Throne Judgment, then for eternity throughout the universe. It is God’s will that we cooperate in making it happen, so we must ensure it is top of mind as we pray.

Christ places our personal needs in the middle of the prayer, covering daily needs, forgiveness, and help with trials and Satan’s opposition. God realizes that we are still fleshly beings who need constant physical and spiritual maintenance and frequently fail to live up to His standards. We can take our needs to Him in prayer to receive the help we need, whether food for the table or a respite from the Devil’s attacks.

Jesus never intended His model prayer to cover every situation or problem. For instance, He leaves out praying for the church or the healing of the sick. But it does give us our priorities: God Himself, His Kingdom, and doing His will. If we keep those things in mind, our prayers will grow in spiritual maturity, and our lives will better represent our Savior before the world.

The Model Prayer (Part Two): Our Father in Heaven (Copyright) by Richard T. Ritenbaugh (Charlotte, North Carolina)



Prayer is a form of communication from subject to Sovereign, suggesting the former requesting aid from the latter, just as in ancient times supplicants would approach the king's throne for a boon. The English word *pray*—"to entreat, implore, plead, or request"—finds its source through French in the Latin word *prex*, which means "a request, supplication, petition, or prayer." It is very much in line with Paul's exhortation in Philippians 4:6, ". . . let your requests be made known to God."

Opening His instruction to His disciples on how to pray, Jesus highlights the Recipient of our requests, God the Father, who resides in heaven (Matthew 6:9). Listed first, as the salutation of the prayer, this instruction may be the most important for multiple reasons. Not only does it identify the Father as the Receiver of our petitions, but it also addresses Him in a reverential manner, stipulating the nature of the conversation: of a humble beseecher, hat in hand, asking for help from the Most High God.

The prayer's brief salutation, "Our Father in heaven," contains at least three elements critical to establishing the requester's proper frame of mind as he begins his prayer. It is always beneficial for a supplicant to know just Who he is asking to supply the answers to his requests.

1. Is God the Father of all? Ephesians 4:6.

Comment: In Scripture, each word is critical (see Deuteronomy 8:3; Matthew 4:4). The model prayer begins with the possessive pronoun "our," which provides a small detail that a praying person should heed. "Our" presupposes that others can claim the Father as the great God. Jesus, the Son of God, frequently calls Him "My Father" (see Matthew 20:23; Luke 10:22; John 8:38; 20:17; etc.), and in fact, He came to reveal the Father to us (John 1:18). Angels are sometimes called "sons of God" (Job 1:6; 2:1; 38:7; Psalm 29:1; 89:6), so they can claim Him as Father too.

Editor's Note: Job 1:6, Job 2:1, Job 38:7, Psalm 29:1 and Psalm 89:6 do not say that angels are sons of God.
Heb 1:5 For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son? (Laura Lee)

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In Luke 3:38, the first man, Adam, is described as “the son of God.” By being descended from him, all humanity is likewise children of God through creation. As God Himself says in Jeremiah 32:27, “Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh.”

A distinctive sub-group of all human sons of God are those, Paul writes, who “are led by the Spirit of God” (Romans 8:14). These elect sons of God are the people who can legitimately call the Sovereign of the universe “our Father in heaven,” because God has specifically chosen them to become His spiritual children and bear His Spirit. By this shared Spirit, effective communication between earth and heaven can occur (see John 16:13-15; Romans 8:15-16; I Corinthians 2:10-16; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 6:18).

In Matthew 6:9, “our” reminds us that converted Christians are a special people to God (I Peter 2:9-10). He has opened the way for us to have a unique, personal relationship with Him, a Father-child relationship whom no others of His angelic or uncalled human children claim: to become His Firstfruits, the Bride of His beloved Son, and heirs of all things (James 1:18; Revelation 19:7-8; Galatians 4:7). He is *our* Father in an exclusive and wonderful way!

2. In what way is God a Father? John 1:12-13.

Comment: A Christian’s relationship with God is rightly analogous to that of a human child with his human father. The Bible describes a process of spiritual growth from birth to maturity (and ultimately glorification) that the Father begins through a summons to His Son (John 6:44). Christ then works to bring us to belief and repentance to the point that we accept Him as our Savior and commit to a life of submission to God. God then gives us His Spirit. When this occurs, regeneration happens (see Titus 3:5); it is a new birth—a new man is created (see Colossians 3:10), born spiritually into true life (Romans 6:4; I Peter 3:18). The recent convert begins to learn and grow—just like a human baby—striving to mature “to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ” (Ephesians 4:13). The apostle John puts it slightly differently: “Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and . . . whatever is born of God overcomes the world” (I John 5:1, 4; see John 16:33).

Like a human father, God the Father cares for His children, providing them the benefits they need to thrive in their new life (Psalm 103:1-14; see I Peter 5:7, 10; II Peter 1:2-4). Jesus promises, “Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you. . . . Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full” (John 16:23-24).

3. Why is the distinction “in heaven” significant? Ephesians 2:4-6.

Comment: Jesus’ instruction for us to address the Father as “our Father in heaven” does more than distinguish Him from our earthly fathers. For starters, it raises our sights from the earthly to the heavenly just by mentioning the place where God lives (see Revelation 4:1-11). In this way, it inspires us to focus our minds on godly, spiritual things rather than the material things and circumstances of this world.

It should also remind us that our true position, even as we live within the confines of earth, is seated with Him “in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus” (Ephesians 2:6). While adding to the realization of our unique status with God, it points toward our responsibilities as God’s children: to live godly in this age (Titus 2:12) and be witnesses of Him and His way of life before the world (Matthew 5:16; Philippians 2:14-15; I Peter 2:12). The author of Hebrews explains that the faithful, whom Jesus says are not of this world (John 17:14, 16), “seek a homeland. . . . But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country” (Hebrews 11:14, 16). In seeking their heavenly homeland, they take on its characteristics and model them before the world.

If we think on these things as we begin our prayers to our heavenly Father, we should be in the right frame of mind to communicate with Him effectively.

The Model Prayer (Part Three): Hallowed Be Your Name (Copyright) by Richard T. Ritenbaugh (Charlotte, North Carolina)



Jesus' Model Prayer begins with a salutation to the Father in heaven. It continues—as many ancient greetings to deities or royalty do—with a desire for His blessedness and reign to increase. In the ancient Middle East, petitioners of kings and emperors used exultant language to praise and honor their lords. For instance, when Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego addressed Nebuchadnezzar after he called them before him for refusing to bow before his golden image, they said: “O king, live forever!” (Daniel 3:9; see also Daniel 2:4; 5:10; 6:6, 21; I Kings 1:31; etc.). “Long live the king!” (I Samuel 10:24) conveys a similar sentiment.

A related blessing or wish of well-being also appears in letters and royal decrees. Darius' declaration lauding the God of Israel after pulling Daniel from the lion's den expresses his wish, “Peace be multiplied to you,” to everyone in his empire (Daniel 6:25; see Ezra 4:17; 5:7; 7:12; etc.). Biblical writers, especially the apostle Paul, use this form in their epistles, praying for God's blessing on the recipients: “Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ” (Romans 1:7; I Corinthians 1:3; II Corinthians 1:2; Galatians 1:3; etc.).

However, as a salutation, our Savior's words in His instructive prayer, “Hallowed be Your name” (Matthew 6:9), stand alone in its request. It faintly echoes David's address to God in Psalm 8:1, “O LORD, our Lord, how excellent is Your name in all the earth” (see also verse 9), but Jesus' formula adds the elements of holiness and the desire for an increase in the true worship of God. Its memorable and concise phrasing demands further examination.

1. What does it mean to “hallow” something? Exodus 20:11; Jeremiah 17:24.

Comment: “Hallow” or “hallowed” appears 31 times in Scripture and only twice in the New Testament, both in versions of this prayer (Matthew 6:9; Luke 11:2). The Greek word underlying it, used 28 times, is *hagiazō*, which means “to separate, consecrate; cleanse, purify, sanctify; regard or reverence as holy” (*Mounce's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*). Many modern translations of Matthew 6:9 drop the traditional literal translation of Matthew 6:9 to explain the verse in simpler terms: “. . . may your name be treated as holy” (*Lexham English Bible*); “. . . your name be honored as holy” (*Christian Standard Bible*); “. . . may your name be kept holy” (*New Living Translation*).

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In the Old Testament, hallowing or sanctifying a thing appears most often in contexts dealing with God Himself or the Sabbath. In reality, only God can *make* something truly holy, as when He created and hallowed the Sabbath by resting on the seventh day (Genesis 2:1-3). The best sinful humans can do is to *regard* or *treat* a sanctified thing as holy, and so God commands in the fourth commandment, “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy” (Exodus 20:8). Jeremiah 17:24 illustrates that people can hallow the Sabbath—treat it as holy time—by doing no work on it. In other words, humans hallow something God has sanctified by obeying His instructions regarding it.

2. Why does God want people to treat His name as holy? Exodus 20:7.

Comment: In our culture, one’s name means little, most often merely as a way of identifying and distinguishing people. We can glimpse how significant it was to people in biblical times when we realize that we link reputation or prestige to a person’s name. We use phrases like “he ruined the family name” or “his name is mud” to express that someone is of low repute or character.

An individual’s name meant far more than that in ancient times. Then, a person and his or her name were bound together, the name representing the person’s essence. In the Old Testament, certain persons’ names defined them. For example, Jacob means “heel-catcher,” characterizing his underhanded, deceptive nature, but God renames him Israel, “one who prevails with God,” after his conversion. Christ Himself is named Jesus, “Savior.” God’s names likewise identify His character traits: He is Eternal, Creator, Almighty, our Banner, our Healer, our Sanctifier, our Peace, our Righteousness, our Shepherd, our Master, etc.

Thus, the request in Matthew 6:9—and God’s command in the third commandment (Exodus 20:7)—means more than just how we use or pronounce God’s names. It implies that we revere what God’s names stand for. He desires that we regard His names and thus Him and His character reverently, taking the pursuit of Him and His way of life seriously as a matter of profound aspiration.

3. How can one hallow God’s name? Isaiah 29:22-24; Colossians 3:17.

Comment: Recall that “hallow” (*hagiazō*) has the basic meaning of “to separate.” It pictures one thing separated from another or many things into groups. For instance, when growers reap their crops—say, apples—they divide the produce into various categories according to size and quality. Workers segregate the usable but less attractive apples for crushing into applesauce while packaging the high-quality fruit for sale at grocery stores.

A similar idea is present in hallowing or sanctifying something: The best is put in its own category and treated with greater care. In the case of God, people are to put Him in His own exalted category, in which He has no rivals. As He says of Himself in Isaiah 46:9, “For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me.”

The apostle Paul declares in Ephesians 3:14-15 that “the whole family in heaven and earth is named” from the Father, meaning that He is the ultimate Ruler over all things. Further, “God has highly exalted [Jesus Christ] and given Him the name which is above every name” (Philippians 2:9). These facts should establish that His excellent name is truly the highest in all the universe, and He is due all praise and honor and obedience for His sovereign position over all things in heaven and earth.

The proper response of His people, then, is to come to a true understanding of God and learn to follow His teachings, as He prophesies Israel will do once He gives them His Spirit in the age to come. The elect are currently experiencing this process in this age, absorbing His teaching and through many trials figuring out how to practice His ways, continually keeping Him in the center of their lives. They hallow His name in their praise of Him and in their obedience to Him in every word and deed.

In the end, “Hallowed be Your name” expresses the supplicant’s desire to please the Father in every facet of life and witness His glory to the world.

The Model Prayer (Part Four): Your Kingdom Come (Copyright) by Richard T. Ritenbaugh (Charlotte, North Carolina)



In the salutation to His Model Prayer, Jesus draws immediate attention to the Father’s divine nature and holiness (Matthew 6:9). His intention is to fix the petitioner’s mind on the preeminence and purity of Almighty God so that the individual realizes his place within the relationship. The person who prays to the Father is a lowly supplicant seeking favor and help from the most high and holy God.

Jesus’ words in Matthew 6:10 continue this theme of God’s superiority. In English, “Your kingdom come” sounds like a request or desire for a future, divine government to establish righteous rule over this world. While this prophetic interpretation is a correct view—and probably the most common one—it points to far more: God’s ultimate sovereignty. His rule is not limited to the future Kingdom that Jesus Christ will bring with Him at His return but is a present reality, especially for those He has called into it in this age.

When added to the traits of divinity and holiness, God’s sovereignty completes a powerful triad that both humbles and assures a petitioner before His throne. He has brought his requests before One who has the right, the character, and the authority to grant them, which sparks and sustains confidence—faith—that God will decide in his favor. Every prayer reminds the child of God that he can trust his divine Sovereign to act in his best interests.

1. What does “the Kingdom of God” entail? Matthew 3:1-2; Mark 1:15.

Comment: Even before Christ’s ministry began; the prophet John prepared the way for Jesus’ central message: “The kingdom of God is at hand!” Ironically, the idea of a “Kingdom of God” was not new. It is the Old Testament’s core idea, for Israel was God’s Kingdom on earth, the nation over which God ruled directly. John the Baptist’s cry in the wilderness signified a change in understanding that Jesus would explain throughout His ministry and inaugurate through His church.

The Greek word underlying “kingdom” is *basileia* (*Strong’s #932*), which means “a kingdom” or “a realm,” that is, the area or country that a king governs. However, it can also denote “royal or kingly power, authority, dominion,” a king’s reign or rule, or even his royal dignity. So, it not only speaks of a king’s geographical domain, but it also refers to his authority and right to govern—in other words, his sovereignty.

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The idea of the Kingdom of God, then, is not limited to a specific place or even a particular time. It is the reign or rule of God wherever and whenever it is in effect. Thus, the apostle Paul can write in Colossians 1:13 that God’s converted people have already been “conveyed into the kingdom of the Son of His love.” Jesus’ ministry proclaimed the good news of the coming of that Kingdom, but not just its culmination in the dim mists of the future. He announced that the Father was opening an entrance into that Kingdom immediately for a chosen few (John 1:12-13; 6:35-40; see Matthew 22:1-14). Those who responded positively to His call would come under Christ’s rule in this life (Luke 12:32; John 4:23-24; Acts 2:39; I Thessalonians 2:12; Hebrews 12:28).

2. How extensive is God’s sovereignty? Psalm 145:13; Ephesians 1:18-23.

Comment: There is no limit to the dominion and rule of God. Paul describes it in I Timothy 6:15-16:

... He who is the blessed and only Potentate [margin, *Sovereign*], the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, who no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen.

The God we serve possesses all authority and power in the universe. No one stands above Him. Kings and other leaders of this world have their positions only at God’s leave (Daniel 4:17; Romans 13:1). While it may appear to an individual’s eyes that the world is in chaos and evil men have seized control of events, the great Sovereign of the universe maintains His dominion over all things. He is bringing His plan to fruition despite the machinations of men and the seeming hopelessness of present circumstances (Isaiah 46:10-11; 55:11; Ezekiel 12:25). We need never doubt His power and authority both to accomplish His grand purposes and provide for our relatively inconsequential needs.

3. If God’s Kingdom will be established through His inevitable sovereignty, why must we pray for it to come? Hebrews 10:22-23.

Comment: When a converted person prays, “Your kingdom come,” he confesses his hope to God, voicing his desire for God’s direct rule, which he shares with the undisputed Lord over all things. In this way, he comes into a unity of purpose with Him and asks God to continue accomplishing His purpose, not only in him but also in others whom He will call and prepare for the same goal (see I Timothy 2:3-4; Romans 10:1). As the author of Hebrews suggests, this expression of solidarity with God’s purpose is founded on the sure reality of His faithfulness (see I Corinthians 1:7-9).

This petition also requests that God move world events toward the return of Christ to establish His Kingdom on earth. In this way, the petitioner expresses his desire for the dissolution of this current, evil, anti-God system and the arrival of goodness and peace for all. This is the sense of the first-century Christian cry, “*Maranatha!*” an Aramaic term that means “O Lord, come!” (I Corinthians 16:22; see Revelation 22:20). It calls out for the end of humanity’s sins and miseries and the beginning of a new world where God dwells with men and all the faithful have entered the joy of the Lord (see Revelation 21:3-5; Matthew 25:21, 23).

The Model Prayer (Part Five): Your Will Be Done **(Copyright) by Richard T. Ritenbaugh (Charlotte, North Carolina)**

Jesus Christ’s Model Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) begins with three petitions that comprise a set: “Our Father who is in heaven, [1] may your name be treated as holy. [2] May your kingdom come, [3] may your will be done on earth as it is in heaven” (Matthew 6:9-10, *Lexham English Bible*). In short, one who prays is to ask for God to receive due reverence, His plan to come to fruition, and His instructions to be followed. These three requests concern spiritual matters, indicating that such things should be top-of-mind for those who approach God’s throne.

The third of these petitions, asking for the Father’s will to be done on earth as in heaven, contrasts the obedience of God’s heavenly servants with the general disobedience and rebellion among earthly humans. When God commands an angel to do something for Him, the angel responds immediately and carries out his task thoroughly (Daniel 9:20-23; 10:10-14).

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However, in Romans 8:7, the apostle Paul describes human beings as at “enmity [hostile, hateful, having deep-seated ill-will] against God; for [the carnal mind] is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.” Through David, speaking of “the children of men,” God says, “They have all turned aside, they have together become corrupt; there is none who does good, no, not one” (Psalm 14:2-3). The petition requests, not just help for the petitioner in obeying Him, but a sea-change in the attitude of humanity toward God and His instruction.

God’s plan involves bringing all humanity into subjection to the Father (I Corinthians 15:23-28). Paul, quoting Isaiah 45:23, writes, “As I live, says the LORD, every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall confess to God” (Romans 14:11). The prayer’s third petition looks forward to this day while reminding the Christian that he must himself imitate the Father’s angelic servants in carrying out God’s will with enthusiasm and devotion.

1. What is God’s will? Romans 12:2.

Comment: Technically, discussion of personal will involves an individual’s volition: the ability to make conscious choices and decisions, including communicating intentions (wishes, desires, plans) and issuing commands to make his will known. God created human beings in His image and likeness, and since men and women have personal wills, we can be sure that God does as well. As He is the Supreme Being, His will prevails in the universe. He has revealed His will throughout His Word, the Bible, and it will be done (Isaiah 55:11; Matthew 5:18; Hebrews 6:17). His will, then, is what God wants to occur both in His overarching purpose (see Ephesians 1:11; Revelation 21:1-7) as well as in individual lives (see Jeremiah 28:11; I Timothy 2:4).

The apostle Paul assures Christians that God’s will is “good and acceptable and perfect.” In one sense, our lives as servants of Christ, through a process of transformation of the mind from carnal to godly, are dedicated to discerning His will, realizing its wonders and benefits, and conforming to its demands until we share the mind and character of God (Hebrews 13:20-21). As Jesus says in John 7:17, “If anyone wills to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority.”

2. How can a person know God’s will? Deuteronomy 29:29.

Comment: God’s will can be known through revelation, which is the supernatural disclosure of God’s purposes and instructions through various means such as direct communication, inspiration, visions, dreams, and signs. As mentioned earlier, God has assembled these revelations in the sixty-six canonical books of the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments.

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Isaiah 8:16 prophesies that God’s testimony—the fullness of His revelation, which Paul calls “the whole counsel of God” (Acts 20:27)—would be bound and sealed among Christ’s disciples, establishing the biblical canon for all time. If this is the proper interpretation of this verse, it precludes any “new revelation.” We have in God’s Word all we need for salvation.

3. How can a person understand God’s will? I Corinthians 2:9-16.

Comment: While the words of God’s revealed will have been read by millions or billions of people in the pages of the Bible, they cannot be understood except in the most basic way without the engagement of God’s Holy Spirit. As Paul writes, “Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God” (I Corinthians 2:11; see John 14:16-17, 26; 16:13-15). Without the anointing of the Holy Spirit given through the laying on of hands (Acts 8:17; 9:17; II Timothy 1:6), Scripture’s revelations are veiled in mystery. Yet, with it, an individual can “have the mind of Christ” (verse 16).

In the context of His parables, Jesus tells His disciples in Matthew 13:11, 16, “[I]t has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them [the great multitudes] it has not been given. . . . But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear.” This remarkable, unique gift of His Spirit puts all of God’s people under the obligation to seek His will in everything and practice it with understanding and diligence. In this way, the saints put on the new man day by day and make a proper witness of God’s grace and righteous way of life.

The Model Prayer (Part Six): Our Daily Bread
(Copyright) by Richard T. Ritenbaugh (Charlotte, North Carolina)



Depending on how we count its phrases, Jesus Christ’s Model Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) can be said to contain eight of them. The first four cover addressing, praising, and harmonizing with God and His purposes, particularly the advancement of His Kingdom. The prayer does not turn to the supplicant’s physical needs until the fifth phrase, beginning with, “Give us this day our daily bread” (verse 11). Yet, even this phrase contains more than meets the eye.

As the “staff of life,” bread is a well-known catchall term for food in general. In turn, the idea of God’s supplying food to His creatures stands for His wondrous providence of everything necessary to maintain human life. Humans also require water, air, shelter, clothing, temperate climates, and many other necessities of life. God provides all these things and more on a second-by-second basis. In our prayers, Jesus wants us both to acknowledge what God provides so freely

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and abundantly and to convey our extraordinary needs to Him as the Giver of all good and needed things.

1. What is “our daily bread”? Exodus 16:4-5, 14-24.

Comment: In Matthew 6:11, Jesus is probably alluding to one of the great miracles of all time, God’s supplying of food to the Israelites in the wilderness every day for 38 years, except on the weekly Sabbath. In this daily miracle, a substance the Israelites called manna (meaning “What is it?”)—later poetically called “bread of heaven” and “angels’ food” (Psalm 78:23-25)—appeared on the ground each morning in quantities sufficient to feed millions of people. It lasted only one day; leaving it over for another day would cause it to breed worms and stink. So, the miracle of manna became a test for the Israelites to trust God to feed them adequately each day.

Our Savior’s expression, “our daily bread,” is not an easy one to pin down because the Greek word for “daily,” *epiousion* (*Strong’s* #1967), appears in the New Testament only in Matthew 6:11 and nowhere else in Greek literature. Depending on the root word they link it to, scholars argue that the word can mean “necessary” or “essential”; “for this day” or “daily”; “for the following day”; or “for the future”! Early church fathers like Chrysostom understood it to mean “daily” or “for the coming day,” assuming that a Christian would pray in the morning upon awakening and ask for food sufficient for that day’s activity.

In another context in His Sermon on the Mount—in fact, later in this same chapter—Jesus uses the phrase “sufficient for the day” (Matthew 6:34), and He may intend the same idea in the Model Prayer. The context in which it appears is a passage on not worrying about physical needs like breath, clothing, food, and drink (Matthew 6:25-34). He urges His disciples to exercise faith in God to supply their needs, which He already knows and readily fulfills for those whose primary priorities are seeking His Kingdom and righteousness.

2. Does physical bread have a spiritual counterpart? Deuteronomy 8:3; Matthew 4:4; Luke 4:4.

Comment: In Deuteronomy 8:3, God draws a straight line between the Israelites eating bread He supplied from heaven and consuming and using His Word. The miracle of the manna was a daily lesson to impress on them that real living requires the individual to conduct his life in obedience to God’s instructions. He urges them in Deuteronomy 30:15-20 to “choose life,” which He defines as “to love the LORD your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments, His statutes, and His judgments, that you may live and multiply; and the LORD your God will bless you . . .” (verse 16).

Jesus’ response to the Devil’s temptation in Matthew 4:4 and Luke 4:4, where He quotes Deuteronomy 8:3, strikes the same chord. He was famished, having fasted for forty days, and Satan suggested that He could save Himself the weakness and pain by turning stones into physical bread, something the Creator God could easily do. But Jesus understood the Adversary’s temptation: to put His physical life before His spiritual life. He would never do this, knowing that, as the apostle Paul would later put it in Romans 14:17, “the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.”

Our requests for daily bread, then, also cover instruction from God through His Word to enhance our walk on the path to His Kingdom. As Peter advises in II Peter 3:18, “But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” Paul concurs, writing, “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom” (Colossians 3:16), “increasing in the knowledge of God” (Colossians 1:10), and “rightly dividing the word of truth” (II Timothy 2:15). Scripture commends the Bereans of Acts 17:11 for “receiv[ing] the word with all readiness, and search[ing] the Scriptures daily,” just as the Model Prayer suggests.

3. Does bread have an even higher antitype? John 6:32-40, 48-58.

Comment: Jesus Christ titles Himself “the Bread of Life”: “For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world” (John 6:33). Our Savior not only gave His life in sacrifice for the remission of sins, but He also says that He gives His flesh and blood to those who believe in Him so they can have eternal life.

The metaphor Jesus uses in this chapter—which the Jews considered to be horrific and macabre—parallels

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others found in Scripture like “putting on Christ,” “putting on the new man,” and “walking in His steps.” Notice John 6:56: “He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him.” The verbs “eats” and “drinks” are active case present participles, suggesting ongoing activity. Those who continue to feed on or ingest Christ—symbolic of learning about Him, obeying Him, imitating His example, and growing spiritually—remain in an active relationship with Him.

When we ask God to give us our daily bread, we ask for far more than food for our stomachs. It is a request for complete nourishment for our bodies, our minds, and our spiritual lives, for the only sure, life-giving sustenance comes from God Himself.

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“One is Taken and the Other Left...”

(Copyright) by Rich Traver (Clifton, Colorado)

In this season which focuses on the Second Coming of Christ and the establishment of the millennial Kingdom of God on Earth, there’s a corresponding belief system that will impact vast numbers of sincere believers.

In the past, there was an event that shook the foundations of what we know as the fundamentalist persuasion. Are we about to see a similar repeat of that spiritual earthquake just ahead?

A century and three quarters ago, an anticipation of an imminent event gripped a major segment of the religious world here in the United States. That supposedly pending event was the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. It was alleged, and widely accepted, that He would appear in the month of October of 1844. The fact that no such thing happened on or even around the announced date led to what is known as the “Great Disappointment of 1844”. (*This preceded the time when the rapture teaching took hold a generation later!*)

Wikipedia has this: “The **Great Disappointment** in the Millerite movement was the reaction that followed Baptist preacher William Miller’s proclamations that Jesus Christ would return to the Earth by 1844, what he called the Advent. His study of the Daniel 8 prophecy during the Second Great Awakening led him to the conclusion that Daniel’s “cleansing of the sanctuary” was cleansing of the world from sin when Christ would come, and he and many others prepared, but October 22, 1844 came, and they were disappointed.

“These events paved the way for the Adventists who formed the Seventh-day Adventist Church. They contended that what had happened on October 22 was not Jesus’ return, as Miller had thought, but the start of Jesus’ final work of atonement, the cleansing in the heavenly sanctuary, leading up to the Second Coming.” (That being what we might see as a face-saving explanation.)

Wikipedia continues: “The **rapture** is an eschatological theological position held by some Christians, particularly within branches of American evangelicalism, consisting of an end-time event when all Christian believers who are alive, along with resurrected believers, will rise “in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air.” The origin of the term extends from Paul the Apostle’s First Epistle to the Thessalonians in the Bible, in which he uses the Greek word **harpazo** (Ancient Greek: ἁρπάζω), meaning “to snatch away” or “to seize,” and explains that believers in Jesus Christ would be snatched away from earth into the air.

“The idea of a rapture as it is currently defined is not found in historic Christianity but is a relatively recent doctrine of Evangelical Protestantism. The term is most frequently used among Evangelical Protestant theologians in the United States. **Rapture** has also been used for a union with God for eternal life in Heaven.” “This view of eschatology is referred to as premillennial dispensationalism. (It’s not the only view!)

“Differing viewpoints exist about the exact timing of the rapture and whether Christ’s return would occur in one event or two. Pre-tribulationism distinguishes the rapture from the second coming of Jesus Christ mentioned in the Gospel of Matthew, 2nd Thessalonians, and Revelation. This view holds that the rapture would precede the seven-year Tribulation, which would culminate in Christ’s second coming and be followed by a thousand-year Messianic Kingdom. Pre-

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tribulationism is the most widely held view among Christians believing in the rapture today, although this view is disputed within evangelicalism. Some assert a post-tribulation rapture.” (Which is more in keeping with the Church of God position.)

On an internet religious website, the following post has: *“The rapture of the church will kick off the tribulation. Make sure you are rapture ready. The rapture is going to strike without warning. The rapture is going to be one of the most astonishing events to ever occur.”*

As we can see, another even Greater Disappointment is looming that’s to come upon sincere believers. That disappointment coming as people realize that such an event will not happen before the tribulation as was affirmed to them for decades!

The evangelical / fundamentalist world fully expects protection from the extreme trials of the Great Tribulation. The mechanism for that being the “Rapture”. It provides a great hope for many – the **answer to their fears** of persecution and tribulation prophesied to come on the world.

But there are clear problems with the rapture as presented in the evangelical communities.

One rapture advocate explains: *“Jesus Prophesied the Rapture”* He says, *“For clarity, allow me to define a couple of terms so that I will not be misunderstood below. “Phase 1” will refer to the first part of Christ’s second coming, which we all call the “rapture” (His return for believers occurring prior to the tribulation period to resurrect and / or glorify the physical bodies of believers and bring them back to Heaven with Him).*

“Phase 2” will refer to the second part of Christ’s second coming, which is often called the “second advent” (Second Coming) This ‘scholar’ admits that the rapture is not actually the Second Coming!

From this admission, we can see that some of their own teachers recognize that there are problems with the theory as it’s taught. Those problems include the timing question and the obvious admission that the rapture itself is not the full and complete Second Coming where Jesus assumes direct power over the nations!

Thus, the need to explain Christ’s Second Coming happening in actually two distinct and separate occasions.

This I recognized as a teenager in the early sixties. My Baptist background was of this persuasion.

But there’s another area where there’s a problem with the idea. It’s a problem created in association with the premise that the event exists for the primary purpose of **providing protection** to saints of the end-time. Saints are provided with protection from the Tribulation by being ‘snatched-up’ into heaven for the duration, and in simpler belief systems, for eternity! When, “one is taken and the other is left” as we read in Luke 17: 34-36.

Author of the above quote admits as much. Many other pre-tribulation advocates aren’t as candid!

But that isn’t the only ‘problem’!

“Associating the Rapture with the Last Trump, as presented in 1st Corinthians 15:52, places the event AFTER the Great Tribulation, rather than before it! Essential to the (rapture) theory is its occurring before the 42 month – (3½ year) tribulation period. The seventh (Last) Trump of Revelation 11:15-18 is the occasion of the First Resurrection. (Re.20:6) The Rapture is presented as being the occasion of the First Resurrection also. This anomaly places several (seven) Trumpets after the “Last” Trump, and another resurrection occurring before the “First” Resurrection!

The Saints are in it described as being taken to heaven for protection before the Tribulation, yet in 1st Thessalonians 4:15-16 we see the dead in Christ rising up from their graves to meet the returning Lord in the air at His Second Coming, AFTER the Tribulation. Such things happen when a prophetic event is misplaced in time. The Rapture Theory obviously has serious problems when reconsidered in the light of clear Scriptures!”

So, even the evangelicals themselves recognize their problem!!

But, focusing on the “protection” aspect (which is posed as the underlying reason for the Rapture event), we are drawn to ask just why the deceased saints are raised at this point in time? Aren’t the deceased in their graves fully protected from the Tribulation?

Then again, the saints who are “alive and remaining”: The accompanying resurrection of the dead saints (occurring just moments before the living are ‘changed’) (1st Thessalonians 4:13-17) is the occasion for the flesh-to-spirit change of the

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living at the time. IF they are changed into their spirit bodies in that instant, WHY would they need to be taken off to Heaven for the duration? Wouldn't their spirit status be sufficient 'protection' to exempt them from any harm evil men would attempt against them?

It's the purpose of this treatise, not to point out or to chide the error of a particular belief system, but to make us aware of a pending "Greater Disappointment" to come upon an even greater segment of the religious communities than in 1844. What are we to do when the realization dawns on so many otherwise 'sincere believers'? There will be an opportunity for those of us who know the scriptures regarding this event to acquaint people to the realities of the time.

There'll very likely be people who 'throw-in the towel' and give up on their former belief systems entirely as they find themselves where they thought they'd never be. We've seen something like that happen in the recent past. There will be others who'll enter 'listening mode' after realizing the anomalies associated with their former persuasion, who will be open to hearing the truth about the event we know as the Second Coming. It's not just a religious teaching, but a **real event** in the history of the world. All of us, religious or not, will at some point in our future, see the establishment of the Millennial Kingdom of God on Earth. It's fundamental to the foundation of our Faith to know what's happening and why, and from the present perspective, WHEN!

When the 'catching-up-of-the-saints' is put in its proper time setting, the anomalies of a two-phase Second Coming and the 'protection from the Tribulation' issue will be resolved. The 'rapture' event will be after the Tribulation, not before it. There's the clarifying difference.

Will we be up to the task once the obvious becomes realized in the evangelical community?

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The King is Coming!!!!
(Copyright) by Dwight Fleming (Orville, California)

Get ready for what we have all been waiting for. Yes, the King is coming! The King of planets, that is.

Jupiter is the largest planet in our solar system which makes it the king of planets. On September 26, it will be in opposition to the Earth which occurs about once every 13 months. Jupiter takes about eleven earth years to orbit the sun. The Earth takes 365 and one quarter days to orbit the sun. Since Jupiter is moving much slower in its orbit, the earth is able to catch up with Jupiter every 13 months.

This year, opposition will occur on September 26th. However, this year something extra ordinary is on the menu. Since the Earth's orbit and Jupiter's orbit are both elliptical and not perfect circles, the distance between Earth and Jupiter will vary at each opposition.

This year, Jupiter will come its closest to Earth since 1963. Some of you weren't even born yet. Jupiter will be approximately 367 million miles away from Earth at opposition. This is similar to the distance in 1963. This means that Jupiter will appear larger than normal. Look for it in the eastern sky after sunset. You should be able to see it if the sky is clear. It will be the brightest star in the sky. You can find Jupiter shining brightly any time before or after September 26th when it rises above the horizon.

Also, I find the timing of this year's opposition especially interesting since it may have special meaning. September 26th, this year, marks the Feast of Trumpets. The Feast of Trumpets occurs on the 1st day of the seventh month of the Jewish Calendar. It marks the beginning of the New Year and is called "Rosh Hashanah" as you may have noticed on your Gregorian Calendar.

For those who understand the symbolism of these special holy days, it pictures the return of Jesus Christ to establish His kingdom upon the earth and to fight against the armies of the Beast as depicted in Revelation 19 and 20. A trumpet was

used anciently to sound a warning and to wake people up to give them time to prepare for what is coming. What is ahead for the next year?

https://youtu.be/fEWhVlc_7W8 Jupiter = 1,300 Earths (2 minutes)

The Russian Military Threat Beyond America’s Southern Border

(Copyright) by Richard Markland (London, Ohio)

The American people are domesticated in their view of dangers facing the country. What is taking place in Washington, the invasion of the southern border region by illegal aliens, empty store shelves due to the supply chain crisis, inflation, out of control crime, the China virus, and the crisis in the nation’s schools dominate the concerns of most Americans.

In 2020, nations such as Russia, China, North Korea, and Iran became emboldened due to what can only be described as a weakened and disgraced President Biden and his administration, which has become an embarrassment to America’s allies and a laughingstock to the nation’s enemies abroad.

If Americans are asked if they are concerned about a military threat by this country’s enemies, it’s unlikely that it is a major concern since the United States is the world’s number one dominant military superpower.

After the debacle in Afghanistan, does the United States have the will to use its military might? President Biden stated before the United Nations in 2020 that America’s weapon of choice will be diplomacy. This is proving to be true, and if it becomes the nation’s long-term foreign policy agenda, an unfolding nightmare is developing rapidly.

A Neglected Crisis Not Viewed as Such

As this article is written, Russia has amassed over 125,000 troops and heavy artillery on the Ukrainian border. There are also 35,000 Russian troops fighting alongside separatists inside Ukraine.

For months a Russian presence has been under the watchful eye of Ukrainian leaders and the Biden administration. The mainstream media, however, has put the military buildup on the backburner, and concentrated mostly on COVID, and the countless domestic problems facing the country. America’s enemies are now able to take advantage of the country’s weakened state.

Another Foreign Policy Blunder in the Making?

If what is taking place on the Ukrainian-Russian border becomes a full-scale invasion, it will have long-term consequences in the coming months and years, much to the detriment of not only the United States, but Britain, Canada, and Western nations.

On January 19, 2022, President Biden suggested during a press conference that a “minor incursion” by Russia into Ukrainian territory “could result in a measured response by the United States and allies.”

As reported by The Associated Press, “But Biden also prompted consternation among allies by saying the responses to a Russian Invasion ‘depends on what it does.’”

“It’s one thing if it’s a minor incursion and then we end up having a fight about what to do and not do, et cetera,” he said.

“It prompted a quick response by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky. ‘We want to remind the great powers that there are no minor incursions and small nations. Just as there are no minor casualties and little grief from the loss of loved ones,’ he tweeted.”

The very next day administration officials were out in force clarifying President Biden’s verbal blunder. The damage, however, had already been done. Never in the history of the U.S. have administration officials had to clarify what a sitting president said.

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It was reported on Fox News that what President Biden stated was discussed by his advisory team in private and was not meant for the American people as well as the nation’s allies and enemies.

Allies around the world have been put on notice that the United States cannot be relied upon after what took place in Afghanistan. The unfolding crisis in Ukraine will be a further display of America’s all talk and no action foreign policy agenda.

It’s Only a Matter of Time

Not only is diplomacy now the weapon of choice by the United States, but appeasement has been obvious in talks between President Biden and Russian President Vladimir Putin, as well as Secretary of State Anthony Blinken and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrow.

Vladimir Putin only understands and respects military strength by his enemies. He is willing to allow his people to suffer if it means the Motherland is able to return to its former glory. Appeasement is the green light for a coming Russian invasion, and the blame lies squarely on the shoulders of poor American leadership when it takes place.

As defined by Merriam Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary Tenth Edition: **Appeasement:** (1) To pacify or a submissive state (2) To buy off by concessions (3) To sacrifice principles (4) To become agreeable

Not only will Russia invade Ukraine, but it will advance the reclaim territory from countries that have seceded. It’s not a matter of if, but when Russia becomes the empire, it once was.

The Ominous Threat to America

While the seriousness of the unfolding crisis in Ukraine is not understood for what it is by America’s leaders and people, America is about to see what happens when its enemies are emboldened due to weakness through appeasement.

On January 20, 2022, The Associated Press reported that Russia has offered to send “military assets to Cuba and Venezuela if the U.S. and its allies don’t curtail their military activities on Russia’s doorstep.”

When Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov was asked by reporters if it is possible Russia will send a missile deployment to Cuba and Venezuela, he responded: “Russia is thinking about how to ensure its security in the context of the current situation.”

If anyone does not believe the Russian threat is real, according to The Associated Press, “In December 2018, Russia briefly dispatched a pair of its nuclear-capable Tu-160 bombers to Venezuela as a show of support for Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro.”

Americans should be alarmed by the possibility of a Russian presence within striking distance. Considering how much of the media’s focus is on domestic issues it should not come as a surprise that next to nothing was stated.

America’s Aloof and Carefree Lifestyle

Americans have never had so much information at its disposal, yet every form of entertainment has become the great American distraction. Far too many people are aloof and carefree when it comes to the problems they are facing at home and abroad.

America is confused and godless. Drugs freely flow across the nation’s southern border region. Wokeness plagues the nation, radically altering the nation’s culture, and poisoning the minds of the most vulnerable generation in American history.

A Warning to America

Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28 are both prophetic in regard to what is going to happen to the United States, the British descended peoples and the Jewish people, all ancestors of ancient Israel.

Why has America become a military superpower in name only?

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Leviticus 26:19- “And I will break the pride of your power...”

The United States is no longer respected because it no longer has the will to step forward by way of its actions. It is hesitant and has become ashamed of its past. It has convinced itself that it has been too big for its britches.

America's pride in its military capability is in words only. The humiliating surrender in Afghanistan let the nation's allies and enemies alike know that the United States now carries a big stick but is afraid to use it. Americans do not realize the significance of why America is in an irreversible decline.

A National Punishment is Coming

God is aware of the American condition. He sees what happens when pure evil becomes so pervasive that judgment for disobedience to Him is the only way America will come to its senses.

Deuteronomy 32:25-29, 35- “Outside, the sword will bring death (a full-fledged invasion) and inside, terror will strike (in all forms), both young men and young women, both infants and the aged. (28) But Israel (the descendants of ancient Israel, America, the British descended peoples and the Jewish people) is a senseless nation (are senseless nations); the people are foolish (silly and aloof), without understanding (of what's ahead according to the Bible). (29) Oh, that they were wise and could understand this. (35) I will take revenge (hold people accountable); I will pay them back. In due time their feet will slip. Their day of disaster will arrive, and their destiny (the deadly direction they are headed) will overtake them.”

America Must Choose

America will not repent/change as a nation until the prophesied great tribulation takes place in the near future (Matthew 24:21), but there is still time for individual repentance.

Deuteronomy 30:19-20- “Today I have given you the choice between life and death, between blessings and curses. Now I call on heaven and earth to witness the choice you make, Oh that you would choose life, so that you and your descendants might live! (20) You can make this choice by loving the Lord your God, obeying Him, and committing yourself firmly to Him. This is the key to your life. And if you love and obey the Lord, you will live long in the land the Lord swore to give your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.”

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) ...*

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\$129 Garden
\$149 Lake-view
\$169 Beachfront

There are 3 options for Suites...

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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<http://daveantion.com/>

Branson Missouri Feast
(Copyright) by Gary Miller (Pocahontas, Arkansas)

FIRST DAY OF FEAST OF TABERNACLES:

Location and Time of Services

Services will be held at the RecPlex, 1501 Branson Hills Parkway, Branson, MO. The first Holy Day, Monday, October 10, 2022, services will start at 11:00 a.m. Potluck will follow services. A Feast schedule will be handed out on the first day.

How many FOTs are left in this era? Indications are: not many. Stay the course.

We look forward to seeing everyone there. If there are any questions, feel free to let us know.

Safe travels
Yahweh Bless
Gary Miller

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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 Sherry Blackledge (Sonora, California)

Thank you so much for your writing on the Sabbath. I'm sorry that some didn't understand the point you were making. The Sabbath is so much more than going to church. The 4th Commandment says: Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. (Exodus 20:8.) How many times did you go to church and not one mention of God, or Christ or anything spiritual was mentioned after the service? Most of the conversations involved what we did during the week or projects we were hoping to accomplish or the most important one, where should we go for lunch?

Don't misunderstand, I love talking to my brethren and catching up, but is that what the Sabbath is about? On the Sabbath we're not to talk of idle things. Besides a day of rest, aren't we to focus on our Creator and our Savior?

You said too many people rely on the church for growth and understanding. So true! How can we grow if we only receive milk. Most people don't want to discuss anything that is deep. Most people don't want to hear anything that is different from what they have been taught from booklets. Are we so afraid to listen to something different because it might make sense? Isn't that why God gives us His Holy Spirit, so that we can discern truth from error? Are we not strong enough yet?

Yes, the church is the mother. She is to help us with learning the basics. But we are to go on from there to the meat. God wants a personal relationship with each of us! He will work with each of us according to His good will. The question is will we answer? Or do we need permission first from the mother? I'm sorry, I don't mean to be so harsh. But what will happen if at some point we as brethren are not allowed to meet together? Will we lose faith? Will we fall away? It is only our strength in Christ that will get us through. How are we strengthened in Him? We keep the commandments and build a relationship with Him. Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy. A very important commandment that many don't truly appreciate.

I believe there is a right way to meet together on the Sabbath. But it is hard to find those who want to keep it in a way that honors our Father.

Isaiah 58:13 *If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the LORD, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words*

You said :

To make the Sabbath a *delight*, a day of *rest*, "church" should be a time to hang out, in a comfortable environment, and talk about the Bible with brethren/friends. **That can be restful, AND fun, AND educational.**

I agree with you! It can also be a time to discuss with others what our Father has shown us. The Holy Spirit moves in those who are obeying and listening. Keeping the Sabbath Holy isn't the same as going to church.

Thank you, Nathaniel, for this writing.

In regard to: Keep The Sabbath Sabbath

Article by Nathaniel Burson

Comments by Laura Lee (Bismarck, North Dakota)

Our advice to anyone reading Nathaniel Burson's articles is to be careful as some of the things he says to encourage people to break the law of God are very subtle. Through the years we have seen some of these subtleties but have let them pass not feeling they were a big deal in light of the overall message of some of his articles. Some of his older articles were much better than what he is teaching in his newer articles. Nathaniel does have a background in the Churches of God and is probably second generation.

We generally do not put out such warnings in regard to all articles that a person has written but we feel that in light of, especially his article called "Keep The Sabbath Sabbath" and the response we received in regard to it, we feel a warning at this time is appropriate.

We here, did not misunderstand Nathaniel Burson's article titled "Keep The Sabbath Sabbath", we understood it all too well. For those who are praising this article, we would ask you to take another look, because deceptions such as are promoted in this article are what will keep some of you from making that first resurrection. Remember it is very easy to fall prey to things which have just enough truth mixed in with the lie or deception. This is such an article. What follows is what we have to say in regard to this article and the one teaching it. We will clearly mark when we are quoting from Nathaniels article by highlighting it in yellow.

If I tell someone to start keeping the Sabbath, their first thought is "but how can I do that, if there are no Sabbath-keeping churches nearby??" It has become thoroughly ingrained in the mind of every Christian that keeping the **Sabbath/Sunday holy means** going to church. They believe that is the beginning and the end of the intent of God's commandment on the subject.

Here he seems to be lumping Sunday worship with the Sabbath and insinuating that Sunday worship is the same as Saturday Sabbath worship.

And yet... it isn't. Because God never said that. In fact, **He never once commanded you to go to church, not in the entire Bible.** Think about that! So why did God *never* command anyone to go to church? More importantly, if it's not important enough to Him to say something about it... why is it SO important to you, and everyone else?...

Here he is teaching that you cannot find a command any place in the entire Bible to meet for worship on the Sabbath. This is totally untrue. See Lev. 23:1-3.

Leviticus 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.*

This is the only time the word "convocation" (assembly) was used in connection with the weekly Sabbath. **It's a generic, passing comment** that says nothing about what "assembly" meant. Did everyone come to the tabernacle? Or only the men? For how long? What did they do? All it says is "an holy assembly", after underlining three more times that this was a Sabbath of REST.

He claims that "an holy convocation" is a generic, passing comment. Wake up people, the command to assemble on the Sabbath day is a command from God and it is written in the Law of God. It is to be kept. It is not a generic, passing comment as Nathaniel claims.

The aforementioned "church of the firstborn", **who sleep now in heaven awaiting the resurrection**, is the only body of people in the universe qualified to have the respect and admiration and obedience that you give to **your own pale shadow of the true church of God.**

Here Nathaniel is totally putting down The Church of God and at the same time telling us the only true church consists of

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those “who sleep now in heaven awaiting the resurrection”. There is no one sleeping in heaven awaiting the resurrection. All of God’s Saints are either dead in the ground on earth awaiting the resurrection or they are alive keeping God’s commandments as best they know how and more than likely associated with other Sabbath Keepers whether of their own family by birth or through The Church of God.

THE PURPOSE OF THE SABBATH

Only once in the Bible is there a command to assemble on the weekly Sabbath day, in Leviticus 23:3. But look at how God qualified that...

Leviticus 23:1-2 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 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.

These are God’s feasts... which MOSES commanded Israel to gather together for! It was not God who commanded an assembly on the Sabbath, it was Moses who proclaimed it to be a holy convocation! Do you realize what that means?? It means that these were things MOSES commanded Israel to gather for... which makes them a part of MOSES’ covenant!

The feasts themselves are God’s, they are binding, and they must be “kept” – just like the Sabbath must be “kept”. But the idea of going to church on these days is a law of Moses! That’s why it is only mentioned once in the Bible, and why “holy convocation” is not a part of the fourth commandment or any other spiritual law – because this was a law for the Old Covenant!

So, let me get this straight, God only has ownership of the Feast Days but the “Holy Convocations” are only a part of Moses “Old Covenant” Law? Nathaniel is teaching you to break the Law of God by telling you that the commanded assemblies are Moses Law and not God’s Law. It is God telling Moses what to say. Moses has no law and Moses has no covenant. The Law is God’s Law, and the “Old Covenant” is God’s covenant.

Acts 15:21 For Moses of old time hath in every city them that preach him, being read in the synagogues every sabbath day.

And since they had to be together to hear Moses, He commanded them to gather into one place, to hear the letters of the law! But they could have been learning the spirit of those laws, if only they had trusted their father, and not their mother!

For those who understand this point, you cannot keep the spirit of the law without keeping the letter of the law. So here again Nathaniel is teaching you that you only need to keep the spirit of the law. He is claiming that Moses Law was the letter of the Law and God’s Law is the Spirit of the Law and Moses Law is obsolete. Again, Moses does not have a law anymore than Donner own’s Donner’s pass. Moses delivered and wrote down the law for God, but it was God’s Law.

The only difference between God’s Old Covenant and God’s New Covenant is that they were unable to keep the Old Covenant for very long on their own. In the New Covenant the Letter of the Law is still to be kept but an addition to that was added in that you now must also keep the “Spirit of the Law”. For example, the letter of the law meant that if you physically murdered someone you broke the Law of God. With the New Covenant you now commit murder by just thinking to murder someone. The law has now become more difficult to keep except for one thing. Now we have God’s Holy Spirit to help us keep the Law of God. Under the Old Covenant very few people were ever given God’s Holy Spirit, but now all who are called and chosen have God’s Holy Spirit to help them keep both the letter of the Law and the spirit of the Law.

Just to be clear, if you physically murder someone, you have broken both the letter of the law and the spirit of the law, and this applies to any sin that you commit.

To make the Sabbath a delight, a day of rest, “church” should be a time to hang out, in a comfortable environment, and talk about the Bible with brethren/friends. That can be restful, AND fun, AND educational. But no church on Earth practices that today.

When Nathaniel makes the statement “no church on Earth practices that today”, I believe he is talking nonsense. In 1995

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when Worldwide broke into pieces many of those who stopped keeping the Sabbath and Holy Days were happy to be leaving just for many of the reasons Nathaniel lists in this article. Those of us who chose to continue to keep the Sabbath and Holy Days were disappointed to say the least, because who would we now keep these days with? Who would we meet with and who would teach us. Most of us did not find them to be a burden and we were happy to meet with others and discuss the sermon or other scripture. Most of us loved the Sabbath and the Brethren and we hung out with each other a lot.

I remember getting some sort of letter from Worldwide saying they were taking my name from their roles and when United formed, both Darwin and I joined them and by 2000 we were disfellowshipped from there and although we both attended with Living for a while, they at one point told us we would have to call the Minister in Minnesota if we ever wanted to attend again. Both United and Living here in North Dakota locked their doors so you could not attend if you were even one minute late. And no these are not or should not be the things that happen in assembling for Sabbath Services. So, people who had to live through these sorts of practices were being tested and could have used them as excuses to leave the Sabbath Assemblies and Holy Days all together.

We did not, we advertised in the local newspaper for people to attend Bible Studies and later Sabbath Assemblies at our house. Though we didn't get much response for that, we started the newsletter in 2001 and we got a great response to that, and it helped many of the scattered brethren all over the world. We sought people to assemble with whether through bible study, home Sabbath Assemblies or through the newsletter. Why would we do that? Not just because it is a command but because you need those relationships in order to grow. I don't care if you always agreed or not, but at least we had others to bounce our crazy ideas off of and to in the end hopefully all end up coming to the same conclusions as the Law of God is concerned. In the end we all have to be one in purpose and one with the law of God. We all need not just God but other brethren to get us there. So, Sabbath Assemblies are commanded for a reason. Attend when and if you are able to. There are still phone hookups and streaming out there even today if you have no one else to attend with. The main thing is to keep in touch with other Sabbath Keeping people.

Hebrews 10:24-25 *And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.*

As I said at the beginning, this doesn't command you to go to church – and now you can see why. Rather, it commands that young Christian who has found flaws in his first mother not to slink away in the night, not to *forsake* those who helped him grow the first few years *without first considering what's wrong with his brethren and helping them do better!*

He owes this group of people the benefit of the understanding God has shown him – the Golden Rule requires it. If he sees something wrong with the teachings, *he has a responsibility to provoke them to do good works* instead of the evil works they're doing now!

And he has a responsibility to do this three times; after the first and second admonition, the heretic – whether member or minister, angel, or church – must be rejected (Titus 3:10-11, Galatians 1:8). “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together” doesn't mean *accept their sins and live with it for the sake of fellowship*, like everyone thinks it does!

It *doesn't* mean stay there “because you HAVE to go to church somewhere”, **because no such command exists in the Bible**. It means be a man and help these people who helped you to see their sins, and if they don't, know that **Hebrews 10:26-27** awaits them now that you have corrected them, and turned their sins of ignorance into willful sins of rebellion.

Heb 10:24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

Heb 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some *is*; but exhorting *one another*: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Heb 10:26 For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,

Heb 10:27 But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.

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Heb 10:28 He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses:

Heb 10:29 Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden underfoot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?

We are to assemble to provoke each other unto love and good works. It doesn't say go to the assembly and look for sins and then hit them over the head with the Bible until they see it all your way. Who told you that your way matched what the Bible says. Look at verse 28 which Nathaniel skipped altogether here. If you are teaching against Moses law, you despise that law or in other words you despise the Law of God. It doesn't matter if Nathaniel believes Moses law should be kept or not, when you are teaching against Moses Law as Nathaniel is doing in this article you are the one who is sinning, and the Law of God applies to you whether you believe it or not.

INVISIBLE CHURCHES

Keeping the Sabbath is a test. It always was (Exodus 16:4). And the more people you have keeping it with you, the less of a test it is. "Keeping the Sabbath" – not working but resting instead – requires faith. It could cost you money, jobs, friends, and so on.

But "going to church" requires no faith, it simply requires you to get in your car and show up. In fact, it makes "keeping the Sabbath" require less faith, making it less of a test! You are, in effect, crowd-sourcing Sabbath keeping. You get everyone to do it together, which means it's easier for each of you to do as you share the burden, the fear, and the hardships of Sabbath keeping.

It is this matter of faith that makes this such an offensive doctrine to churchgoers. Because they only know how to keep it with a group of like-minded people, and *the idea of keeping it without a church is terrifying!* It is *frightening* to be without the support of a mother, terrifying to be alone in the hands of God.

Think about it. Keeping the Sabbath requires that you rest – that's all God ever said. But going to church requires that you physically go somewhere and try your best to stay awake. Thus, going to church is, by definition, a *work of the flesh*, a physical work of the law!

Which is why the Jews had synagogues in every city all over the world! *Because it was a part of their covenant!* Choke that down, digest that meat – *going to church is an Old Covenant institution!* But why? Why would church be commanded only in the Old Covenant, and not in the New Covenant? Because it's what Israel asked for!

Don't fall for this one. It takes more faith to publicly show people that you keep God's Law by showing up in Sabbath Assemblies. It requires no faith at all to sit home and sleep (rest) all day. The test of the Sabbath is that you keep it publicly because the rest of the world does not. It is a test to others in regard to what the Bible says and that there are actually people willing to be ridiculed and put to death for their faith in God. God did this for a reason. It is to show others the truth of God. How do you do that if you are sleeping all day.

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!

And this is how we get strange untrue doctrines because you have set yourself up to live life unopposed by anyone. This article "Keep The Sabbath Sabbath" is not meat, it isn't even milk. It is a false doctrine in more than one way. When I originally said, "What isn't wrong with this article," I meant it. I did not misunderstand a single thing in this article.

For those who do not know what a "New Covenant Christian" is go to:

New Covenant Theology from Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Covenant_theology

New Covenant theology (or **NCT**) is a [Christian theological](#) position teaching that the person and work of Jesus Christ is the central focus of the Bible.^[1] One distinctive assertion of this school of thought is that [Old Testament Laws](#) have

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been [abrogated](#)^[2] or cancelled^[3] with [Jesus' crucifixion](#), and replaced with the [Law of Christ](#) of the [New Covenant](#). It shares similarities with, and yet is distinct from, [dispensationalism](#) and [Covenant theology](#).^[4]

The [hermeneutic](#) of the New Covenant theologian is [Christocentric](#): to let the New Testament interpret the Old Testament. This means that when the NT interprets an OT promise differently than the plain reading, then NCT concludes that that is how God interprets his promise—and it may be surprising to us.^[5]

The Old Covenant[\[edit\]](#)

The conditional (Exod. 19:5-6) treaty which God established with the ethnic descendants of Jacob at Mount Sinai – a covenant which formed the nation of Israel as a geopolitical entity, the sign of which was the Sabbath (Exod. 31:15–17), which was temporary in terms of its purpose and duration (Heb. 8:7–13), and which was superseded by the New Covenant (Jer. 31:31–33). (End Wikipedia)

In other words what a “New Covenant Christian” is, is someone who uses the New Testament as their foundation and tries to fit the Old Testament into that. (Just the opposite of Sabbath Keepers). They believe the law of Moses has been canceled and now keep what they call the Law of Christ as defined by the New Testament.

My description of a “New Covenant Christian” is as follows. It is a person who has morphed into a cross between a Saturday Sabbath Keeper and a Sunday Keeper. This is why Nathaniel teaches what he does. We knew for years there were problems with the things he sometimes said but until this article it was not absolutely clear where he was always coming from.

When we believe, we are talking to or interacting with a Saturday Sabbath Keeper we don't always question some of the questionable things they say until it becomes real clear. Nathaniel isn't the only one among us that has thrown out or canceled what they call Mosaic Law. Mosaic Law is God's Law and don't any of you forget it.

Because of Nathaniel's morphed “New Covenant Views” he is probably not getting along with Sunday Keepers any better than he does with Sabbath Keepers and if he has been in your assembly or church teaching these things, I hope you didn't fall for it as some fell for this article called “Keep The Sabbath Sabbath”.

Isaiah 1:12-14 *When ye come to appear before me, who hath required this at your hand, ...the new moons and sabbaths, the calling of assemblies, I cannot away with; it is INIQUITY, even the solemn meeting. Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hateth: they are a trouble unto me; I am weary to bear them.*

God calls *their way of keeping the Sabbaths*, in PARTICULAR the “calling of assemblies”, and the “solemn meeting” an “iniquity”! He HATED the way Israel was keeping the Sabbath and the feasts, and He demanded of them “who required you to do this??” *Who commanded you to go to church this way, and make it such a soul-sucking experience?*

Isaiah Chapter One is talking about a rebellious people who are doing nothing but sinning and breaking God's Law. You cannot use these scriptures to declare that God is against sabbaths and assemblies as Nathaniel has done here. It is just another way he teaches against both Sabbaths and assemblies.

Mat 5:19 *Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.*

In Conclusion:

As I have always said, we can't possibly catch all error that goes into this newsletter, that is why when someone sees something that is wrong, they need to speak up. In the case of “Keep The Sabbath Sabbath”, more people liked the article than those who did not. If you are a true Sabbath Keeper and read this article you should have been able to use God's Holy Spirit to discern at least some of the things wrong with this article. If you actually thought, it was a great Sabbath article I would advise you to look at it all again with a Bible in one hand and internet access in the other hand. The premise of this article is to teach people to break the Saturday Sabbath Law and throw out God's Law any place it is called Moses Law. Moses Law is God's Law.

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[Mat 13:25](#) But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way.

[Mat 13:26](#) But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also.

[Mat 13:27](#) So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares?

[Mat 13:29](#) But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them.

[Mat 13:30](#) Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.

[Mat 13:36](#) Then Jesus sent the multitude away, and went into the house: and his disciples came unto him, saying, Declare unto us the parable of the tares of the field.

[Mat 13:38](#) The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one;

[Mat 13:40](#) As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world.

All is not lost. Perhaps Nathaniel was always a gentile and never had God's Holy Spirit. Anyone can understand the ways of a Sabbath Keeper without actually ever being one. After all he did say the following:

Going to church *could* be restful – but as I said, church as *practiced* is anything but. If churches cared more about substance and less about appearance, they wouldn't have to have all their kids dressed in tight, uncomfortable suits; they wouldn't have to dutifully sit there with a Bible in their laps **for 2 boring, endless hours praying for a power outage.**

Please pray for Nathaniel Burson and anyone who thought this article was great.

In regard to: The Little Horn of David

Article by Dwight Fleming

Comments by Ray Daly (Lincoln, North Dakota)

I'd like to make a few comments on Dwight Fleming's article "The Little Horn of David". While I find him to be right, I wish to add to what he told us. For example, he was speaking of the "kingship" as it was sent "westward". Or that is as I see it, because he used the word "eagle", and this pertains to "the west". I'll just add to it based on my research into the subject.

Just prior to the final invasion of the northern tribes of Israel, some 90% of the tribes of Ephraim, the half tribe of Manasseh, and a few thousands of each of the other 5 tribes living in the north "migrated". First, they stopped in Judea with their "brother Simeon". Before the Babylonian invasion of Judea, these Samaritan tribes migrated west (the eagle) to Carthage on the NW corner of Africa. Carthage had been a trade center for Tyrus, the youngest son of Japheth (today's China). There they became the "Carthaginian Empire". And when they went, they took "Ephraim's kingship" with them.

Later, before Babylon's invasion of Judea, the majority of the tribes of Judah and Benjamin also packed up and went "west" (the eagle), but they continued onto the "northwest", and settled in today's southern Ireland. (Note: A number of WCG+ historians have written on this.) Thus, the "throne of Judea" went with them. So, both thrones were now in the west/the eagle.

Take the above and note that in the 200's AD, Rome invaded today's Spain (then "Iberia", a word that means "Hebrew"), where the half tribe of Dan had settled in the days of the Judges. When they "dwelt in ships". These Danites then moved into southern Ireland and forced the Judeans to move out. Judah moving into today's Scotland, and Benjamin going to

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today's "Northern Ireland". Likely pointing to how it is the "southern and northern Irish" do not get along.

Now, when the Judeans went "northwest", Jeremiah took the king's daughters, numerous Hebrew written historical writings, and the "Lia fail" stone. The latter was the symbol of kingship for the Judeans. But, when the Danites arrived in their homeland, the Lia fail stone was taken with Judah into today's Scotland.

Then, in the early 300's AD, Rome invaded the Israelites of the Carthaginian empire, and these Israelites had to move to their present homelands in the north. But, at this same time, there began to be a few wars to see which "kingdom" had the right to the "Lia fail stone". After a time, Ephraim won out.

But not too long ago (I do not recall the year at all) Ephraim gave the Lia fail stone back to Judah/Scotland. This brings me to the time of Queen Elizabeth. For, she was of "Scotland", thus the queen of the Lia fail stone. Therefore, her son Charles, who is inheriting the throne, is also of Judah. For, the descendant line is carried through the woman, and not the man. IOW's, today, the "throne" lies with Judah, as it rightfully should be.

This is long enough, so will stop here. There is so much of the "Lia fail/throne" to take place in the future. But another time?

Announcements

Kenya Update 09-27-2022

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

Greetings Brethren,

Hope you had an uplifting Feast of Trumpets. The September 27, 2022, Kenya update is now posted at: Khofh.org

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<https://khofh.org/>

Messages from 09-22-2022

(Copyright) by Zac Poonen (Bangalore, India)

Here are TWO important messages (that were preached some years ago) that you must watch. Please listen to these messages carefully:

NEW COVENANT LIFE IN NEW COVENANT CHURCHES (Zac Poonen) (25 minutes)

<https://cfcindia.com/sermon/new-covenant-life-in-new-covenant-churches>

SOULISH OR SPIRITUAL (Zac Poonen) (49 minutes)

(with diagrams explaining spirit, soul, mind, emotions and will)

<https://cfcindia.com/sermon/soulish-or-spiritual-0>

And here is a message that describes how to build the church

THE CHURCH IS A THREE-STOREY BUILDING (Zac Poonen) (59 minutes)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x0jOb3JQqh4>

LATEST NEWS:

HINDI WORD FOR THE DAY

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Beginning October 1, we will be publishing a short video clip of Brother Zac Poonen daily, with Hindi translation, titled "Word for the Day".

We trust it will help Hindi-speaking people to be rooted in the Word of God.
This will be available on CFC Hindi YouTube channel:

https://youtube.com/channel/Uck0B6V1XqXWGOmBx_142YOw

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Papers, Articles, Studies, and Charts

(Copyright) by Craig White (Australia)

For those who may be interested, my papers site has had a major work over. Check it out at:

<https://www.friendsofsabbath.org/CW%20Articles,%20Notes,%20Charts/>

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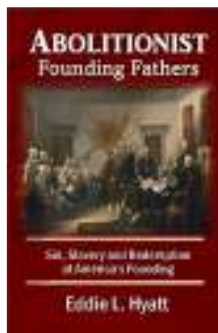
<http://www.friendsofsabbath.org/>

Ads

Slavery in America

(Copyright) by Eddie Hyatt (Grapevine, Texas)

A conversation between CNN host, Don Lemon, and British royalty expert, Hilary Fordwich, has gone viral after Fordwich turned the tables on Lemon and emphasized Great Britain's role in ending slavery when it was still being practiced in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and most of the world. Eddie has written a book on this issue showing that the unique characteristic of slavery in America (as well as Great Britain) was the moral outrage that arose against it. This book, *Abolitionist Founding Fathers*, documents the source of this outrage and will give you a whole new perspective on slavery in America. Click the cover to view or purchase on amazon.



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

Other Items

(Poems, Jokes, Questions etc.)

A Little Joke

Sent by Lorena Haar (Vancouver, Washington)

A young mother invited a lot of people over for a dinner one evening. So just before she sat down to eat that night, she asked her little girl if she would say a prayer. The little girl said, but I don't know what to say. So, her mother said, pray the words you think I would say! So, the little girl prayed, Dear God, why did I invite all these people here for dinner tonight?

The Economic Ninja

(Copyright) by Dwight Fleming (Oroville, California)

The Economic Ninja has a message for the wise. He shares how his understanding of God's cycles helped him with past investments. He then encourages us to be spiritually ready for what may be ahead. Take a few minutes to hear his prudent message. We have nothing to fear. Yet, we do need to be wise and "redeem the time."

"See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise. Redeeming the time because the days are evil" (Ephesians 5:15).

Remember, when Christ returns, He will ask you how much you gained by trading. This won't be a matter of salvation but how faithful you were with what God gave you. This will determine your position in God's kingdom. Learning to wisely handle the matters of this world prepares us to be leaders in the new world that Christ will establish at His return.

<https://youtu.be/eSj8MwUIpt4> Economic Cycle Ending Soon, Be Ready! (12 minutes)

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

Have a Really Great Feast!