

You Are My Witnesses

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PAGE 3 **Article**

The Tent of God

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PAGE 12 **Article**

Challenge Black Voters: Anti-Black-Racism Education!

(Copyright 2023) by Richard Frates
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PAGE 15 **Article**

Rewards of Glory

(Copyright 2023) by Dwight Fleming
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PAGE 17 **Article**

It Began in Turkey

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PAGE 18 **Article**

What is Biblical Leavening?

(Copyright 2010) by Gary C. Miller
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PAGE 20 **Short Article**

'Give Us This Day...'

(Copyright 2022) by James McBride
(United Kingdom)

PAGE 21 **Short Article**

This Was Found In Fin Whale's Throat

(Copyright 2022) by David Rives
(Lewisburg, Tennessee)

PAGE 22 **Short Article**

Crows in Israel, Flag?

(Copyright 2023) by James Steinle
(Swanville, Minnesota)

PAGE 23 **Short Article**

The “New” Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
October 21, 2023 --- Issue No. 142

Announcements

23 --- Messages from Zac Poonen

23 --- Kenya Update from William P. Goff

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1Co 14:26 How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying.

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Scriptures from the KJV

I'd like to start today's message with some "Idioms" I'm sure we're all familiar with idioms. Idioms are defined as = a language or style of speaking that is kind of strange or odd to a people.

(Let me give some examples :) That assignment was a "piece of cake" Now we are not talking about desert here, what we are saying is that the assignment (or task that we had to do) was quite easy to accomplish.

Some other common "idioms" are: "He let the cat out of the bag" (Meaning: He disclosed a secret.)

"You can't judge a book by its cover. This idiom doesn't only apply to books but can be used for everything in general. Essentially (for lack of a better word) it means that you should not decide on something based on just outward appearance.

Here's another one that can apply to almost everything that we purchase nowadays: That "Cost an arm and a leg." Speaking of legs, how about this common one: "Break a Leg"

Idioms are just another language that we sometimes use communicating with one another. Language itself is a system that enables us to communicate intelligibly with one another. One definition for "language" is: a way of communicating by a system of formalized sounds, symbols, signs, even gestures, or the like used as a means of communicating with each other.

Now "language" itself is a big subject.... It's believed that there are around 6 or 7 Thousand different languages in the world today. And it's also said that between 50% and 90% of languages spoken at the beginning of the twenty-first century will probably have become extinct by the year 2100.

(Do you remember "Rip Van Winkle" it was a short story written by Washington Irving, published back in 1819 about a man who fell asleep for twenty years, and then he awakes to discover some changes that have taken place in the world around him.

Now Rip would have been in a heap of trouble trying to communicate with people when he woke up, if he had slept for [let's say 2,000 years, instead of 20 years] He would have needed someone to interpret for him with a strong call for "Vernaculars" to say the least, so others could understand exactly what he was saying.

(Hold that thought, because we're coming back there a little later in today's message.)

While I was doing this little study about languages, the "origins" of languages was addressed, and to my surprise, the "Tower of Babel" was mentioned. At first my eyes lit up, but then I realized it was referred to as a "fairy tale" or "fable."

Quote: "Humans have speculated about the origins of language throughout history. The Biblical Myth of the "Tower of Babel" is one such account. It is claimed (and I'm still quoting here) that the existence of "myths" in the Bible would now be admitted by nearly everyone, including probably all Roman Catholics and a majority of Protestants".

(Let's hope the "church of God" doesn't make that list of unbelievers if it hasn't already.) Now "language" is Not the main topic of my message today, but "language" does play in, because what I want to address today, is a subject that has often been spoken about in the church, but with nothing more than "speculation" "opinion" and even "fables", but it never seems to be communicated with much Scriptural "soundness". But this ought not to be, because we are the church, "The Pillar and Ground of The truth", Not "The pillar and Ground of "speculation" "obscurity" or "fables".

The “New” Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
October 21, 2023 --- Issue No. 142

Now the subject that I want to address today concerns the “Two Witnesses” of Revelation 11 (And if time permits, the “place of safety” according to the Scriptures.)

Now I don’t claim to be an expert on this subject (far from it) But I do believe that the Scriptures are a lot clearer concerning these issues than we may have realized in times past.

And I’m hoping that today’s message will begin to “*hit the nail on the head*” concerning who, yes who, these witnesses are, and where those who are accounted worthy to escape from what is surely coming, where they will be protected, and what they will be doing during that 3 ½ year period.

Now over the years I’m sure we’ve all heard countless discussions, comments, and opinions concerning who these witnesses may be. And I’m sure we’re aware that there have been numerous individuals claiming to be one (or more) of the witnesses. But their true identity according to the Scriptures is actually quite clear, but seems to have remained to this day, shrouded in secrecy. But “secrets” are not to be kept from the cog. Secrets are to be revealed. Now there’s another saying that we hear from time to time, and I’m not sure if it’s an “idiom” or not, but I’m sure we’ve all heard it, and probably all experienced it occasionally when searching for something that we just can’t seem to find (even though it may be right there in front of our eyes.)

Sometimes when we’re anxiously looking for something (and don’t get me wrong here, I’m not anxiously looking for the “two witnesses” {never was})

(Same goes for the “place of safety”) I knew a church family that was obsessed with trying to locate the “place of safety” (literally searching the Scriptures daily, trying to find it) to me, that was ridiculous, even if one could locate it, only those “accounted worthy” will be there.) (I always told them, better to be obsessed with walking the walk.) (Getting back to what I’m trying to say here):

Sometimes when you’re anxiously looking for something, looking here, and looking there and looking everywhere, but just can’t seem to find it, someone will step in, point it out, and say: *it’s right there! “If it was a snake, it would have bit you!”*

I believe this is the case with the “two witnesses” their identity has been right in front of our eyes, but we just couldn’t see it. Maybe because we spent too much time focusing on men speculating on the obscure Scriptures that concern the issue, rather than “first” acknowledging the clear ones, and believing what they say. God not only “doesn’t lie”, He can’t lie. We need to believe God; we need to believe what He says.

Remember, according to our Lord, according to Peter, according to Jude, and probably countless others, our biggest obstacle to truth, and properly understanding God’s word, is man and his deception. “*Take heed that no man deceive you because many men “will come” (better put today, many men “have” come) and deceive many. There were false prophets among the people, even as there “shall be” (better put “are”) false teachers among you. Beware; certain men have crept in, ungodly men. Etc. etc.*

So today, we’re going to be examining the clear Scriptures that pertain to this subject, and then allow the not so clear ones to fit into their proper places.

Now I know that what I have to say today will be considered by some heresy but that’s okay, fact is, it’s probably “good” because “heresy” is not necessarily a “bad” thing, on the contrary. Heresy is just an opinion or doctrine that doesn’t go along with what is normally taught or believed.

I know a man, his name was Paul, and at times, he was considered a preacher of heresy, and he was proud of it. (And I’m not talking about Saul, when he was persecuting Christians; I’m talking about after Damascus, when his name was changed to Paul. (Acts 24:14).

Now there’s another kind of heresy that is “bad” it’s called “damnable heresy”. But brethren, I warn you to be quite careful here, not to get your “heresies” mixed up, because we live at a time when many call what is good bad and what is bad good.

The “New” Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
October 21, 2023 --- Issue No. 142

Now before we move on concerning who these witnesses are, and what the church will be doing during their reign, let us quickly refresh our memory concerning God’s view about “secrets”, because the time is at hand brethren, the witnesses (who will be given Extraordinary Authority, Strength & Power) are not too far from coming on the scene.

(Not turning, but in Amos 3:7 we are told: *“Surely the Lord God will do “nothing” but He revealeth His secret unto His servants the prophets.”*

“Servants the prophets” include His church today. Psalm 25:14 says: *“The secret of the Lord is with them that fear Him.”*

John 15:15 says: *“Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what His Lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard from the Father I have made known unto you.”*

My point here is that these witnesses are not going to show up on the scene and take God’s true servants by surprise. Remember, we are not to be in darkness, we are of the day, children of light, and watching.

Now it’s been a belief in the church (at least to my knowledge) that the work of the church, the work of *“preaching the Gospel to the world as a witness”* will come to a close and end as the “Two Witnesses” of revelation 11 come on the scene, and the church is hidden away, and taken to a *“place of safety”* in the *“wilderness”*.

Now there are numerous Scriptures, when used in and by themselves, can easily lead people to that conclusion, especially when most pulpits have us thinking in that direction (or more accurately put, we can easily be led astray by false or deceived men, if we don’t do our homework, like those of Berea.) The Philadelphian’s for sure will be protected, but all together in a hidden central location? I think not. If we study and define the Greek words used and consider all the Scriptures that pertain to the subject at hand, we find God’s plan a little different, and a bit more revealing concerning “where” His church will be protected, and “what” His church will be doing during the time of the two witnesses. A time when the whole world will be quite confused and in the dark, with God’s two witnesses on the scene, and the false prophet and man of sin on the scene at the same time. The world is going to need some light, some guidance. Especially the innumerable multitude that will come out of the Great Tribulation.

Now let’s begin looking at some Scriptures concerning who these witnesses may be. First let’s look at what I call “Biblical Speculation”. Then we will read the black and white crystal-clear Scriptures concerning who these witnesses are.

In John 21:22-23 we read where our Lord made a statement that the Apostle John may “tarry” until His return. That saying went out among the brethren that the Apostle John should not die. But, as John elaborated at the end of verse 23, our Lord didn’t say John “shall not die” but may tarry until His return.

Now “Foxye’s Book of Martyrs” records a lot of history concerning the deaths of the Apostles (most were martyred.) But according to John Foxye, the Apostle John was not martyred, but died of old age (at 99 or 100 yrs. old) and was buried in Ephesus.

Now this account is probably true, because the church grape vine back in those days worked just as well as it does today. Remember, the brethren believed that John couldn’t die, especially after seeing how the Romans tried to kill him and failed.

We all know that John was exiled to the isle of Patmos, but why was he sent there in the first place? The Romans were trying to destroy this “Christian” movement, and John was a powerful leader. So, they arrested him and brought him to Rome, where they proceeded to boil him in oil to show the people that John “could” die.

But their plan failed, because just as God had protected Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego from the fiery furnace, and just like God protected Daniel from the Lions, God also protected the Apostle John from the boiling oil.

(Now you will not find that account in the Scriptures, but if you check secular history, you will find (in numerous ways) that the oil boiling is a true story.)

So, the Romans exiled John to Patmos, where he received and wrote the book of revelation.

The “New” Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
October 21, 2023 --- Issue No. 142

Now according to “Foxy’s Book of Martyrs” John was eventually released from Patmos, returned to Ephesus, and died a natural death and was buried at approximately 99 or 100 years old.

(But Never Martyred!)

Now the Apostle John is asleep (dead) in the grave in Ephesus, waiting to be resurrected. But understand something here; John will not be resurrected a spirit being (Not Yet) because he has to be martyred yet. Mark 10:35-39

Remember the day John and James came to our Lord requesting to sit on His right and left in the Kingdom? Our Lord asked them both a question that day. He asked: “*Can you (James & John) drink of the cup I’m going to drink of? And be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?*” They answered, “*we can*” And our Lord said to them “*you shall indeed drink of the cup that I drink of, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with.*” (James and John were told that they were going to be martyred.) Now James was martyred, but John apparently was not. So, when John is resurrected, he will first be resurrected flesh and blood, in order to accomplish the mission he has been commissioned to soon do, including martyrdom. (We will see that next, as we turn to the clear black and white Scriptures concerning who the witnesses are.)

Okay, end of “Bible Speculation.” Now let us look at exactly what the Scriptures say concerning the witnesses. And let us understand something that is very important: We have a God who means what He says and says what He means. We need to believe Him.

Revelation 10:1-11

And I “John” saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire: And he had in his hand a little book open: and he set his right foot upon the sea, and his left on the earth. (I believe the placing of his feet tells us that what he is about to say or do will affect the entire world) and he “cried” with a loud voice, as a lion roareth. (By the way, in the Greek the word “cry” of Matthew 25:6 [referred to as the midnight “cry”] comes out of this Greek word translated “cried” in Revelation 10:3) I believe they are the same cry, announcing: “the bridegroom cometh”.

And when he had cried, seven thunders uttered their voices. (Now we may not know exactly what the seven thunders are, but we do know when they will sound, directly after the mighty angel’s cries.) Now in verse 5 to 7 the mighty angel tells us that there should be “time no longer” and that “the mystery of God should be finished, as he had declared to his servants the prophets.”

Now let us carefully read the few remaining verses here starting in verse 8: *And the voice which I (John) heard from heaven spake unto me again, and said, go (John) and take the little book that is open in the hand of the angel which standeth upon the sea and upon the earth. And I (John) went unto the angel, and said unto him, Give me the little book. And he said unto me, Take it and eat it up (John) and it shall make your belly bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth sweet as honey. And I (John) took the little book out of the angels hand and ate it up; and it was in my mouth sweet as honey: and as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter. Now look at verse 11 and let us believe what God is saying here: And he said unto me, Thou (John) you must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and Kings.*

(Brethren, that hasn’t happened yet, but soon will.) Look at the very next verse (Man divided the Bible into chapters, the next verse is chapter 11:1)

(Revelation 11:1 please)

“And there was given me (John) a “reed” like unto a “rod” (Apostle John speaking here) and the angel stood, saying, Rise (John) and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship there in.” That hasn’t happened yet, and that word “rise” used here can and is often used to mean rise from sleep or even from death, like in Matthew 27:52 where the graves were opened after Christ’s resurrection and the dead bodies of the Saints “arose” back to flesh and blood life.

2, But the court which is without the temple (John) leave out and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles; and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months.

The “New” Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
October 21, 2023 --- Issue No. 142

3, *And I will give power unto my “two witnesses” and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.*

(Now please note verse 4, which further describes the two witnesses :)

4, *“These are my “two olive trees” and the “two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth.”*

Let’s stop right here and realize something.... The Scripture clearly says that the “two witnesses” are “two olive trees” **and** “two candlesticks.”

So, in some manner, the two “olive trees” and the “two candlesticks” (or lamp stands, same Greek word) symbolize the “two witnesses.” Now we can speculate all day about what these “candlesticks” & “olive trees” represent, and probably come to the wrong conclusion every time... Or, we can let the bible interpret itself, and come to the right conclusion.

(The big question is: are we going to believe what the “God Breathed” Scriptures say?)

Trees in the Bible usually represent men. Olive trees in ancient times is where they got the oil to burn in the candlesticks or lamp-stands. The book of Zechariah chapter four elaborates a lot concerning all this, including the two “anointed ones” and what they will be like when they come on the scene. (If you’re looking for two men dressed in suits and ties, you are in for a Big Surprise.)

Candlesticks or Lamp stands I believe always represent the churches. There were originally seven lamp Stands. So, one might ask “why only two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth during the Great Tribulation? The book of Zechariah chapter four goes from seven candle sticks (representing all seven churches) to only two candle sticks at the end time. Why? Because there are only two churches left at the end of the age, Laodicea, and Philadelphia.

Before we go any further, let’s identify the second “Olive Tree” or witness. Many like to speculate that it will be Moses. But instead of speculating, why don’t we just believe God? He clearly tells us who it is. Malachi 4:5-6. *Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.* Now some get confused here thinking that maybe John the Baptist fulfilled that, or maybe some other man. Brethren, John the Baptist was prophesied to come as a ‘messenger’, and also prophesied to come in the “spirit” of Elijah” that word “sprit” is talking about disposition, attitude, character. Elijah was a rough and tough character; he feared no man. And so was John the Baptist, who also feared no man. Even spoke openly about King Herod’s brother Philip’s wife, that it was not lawful to have her. God raises up people to accomplish His will. We do the same. Sometimes when a company needs to fire some employees, they will hire a particular type of person to accomplish the job. (The right person for the right job.)

But please note that in Malachi 4:5 there is no mention of sending anyone in the “spirit” of Elijah. It plainly says He will send *“Elijah the Prophet” before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.* (There is only one Elijah the Prophet that I know of, the Tishbite.) And funny thing about Elijah, far as I know, he came on the scene out of nowhere, he just showed up. Now he is going to do it again. But after being asleep for thousands of years (same with the Apostle John) won’t people have a hard time comprehending what they have to say? According to Zechariah, both their attire and their speech will be odd to say the least.

Let’s turn to the book of Zechariah, because Zechariah speaks of the two witnesses, and the Spiritual Temple of God which is the church of God. This is all relevant to today’s message because the completion of the building of the church which our Lord began 2,000 years ago will be completed during the reign of the witnesses.

Chapter four of Zechariah concerns the “Gold lamp stand” and the “Two olive trees”. In my last message we noted how the “lamp stand” (or chandelier) **always** symbolizes God’s church in the Scriptures, and how the “gold lamp stand” was first spoken of in Exodus 25:31 where Moses was instructed to make it out of “**pure**” gold.

The “pure gold” (as we spoke of and elaborated on in the last message) represented the “churches” high standard of perfection with all the impurities refined out, leaving no spots, no blemishes, not even a wrinkle. Yes, the completed development (in us) of the Holy Righteous Character of the Father Himself.

The “New” Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
October 21, 2023 --- Issue No. 142

Let us always remember brethren “*There is simplicity in Christ Jesus*” He’s not trying to confuse us, or complicate things. And He always gives us the physical, so we can better understand the spiritual.

Now verse 4 through 10 of Zechariah 4 speaks of how the hands of zerubbabel laid the foundation of the house of God (the church) and that his hands will also finish it, and not by might, or by power of men, but by God’s Spirit.

In Zechariah 4:11 This question is now asked by Zechariah: “*What are these two olive trees upon the right side of the candlestick, and upon the left side thereof?*”

12, *And I answered again, and said unto him what be these two “olive branches” which through the two golden pipes empty the golden oil out of themselves?*

(Notice back in verse 2, there were **seven** pipes feeding the oil to the **seven** lamps (or churches) but now only **two** pipes feeding oil.) Why? Because now there are only **two** lamps (or churches) left at the time of this final witnessing, Philadelphia & Laodicea.)

13, *And he answered me and said, knowest thou not what these be? And I said, no, my lord.*

14, *Then said he, these are the two anointed ones, that stand by the lord of the whole earth.*

Brethren, there are “Two Olive Trees” (two anointed ones) that are going to be given tremendous power by the Almighty God in order for them to “witness” to this dying world. **And** there are “Two candlesticks” (two churches) that are also going to be witnessing to this world, along with the ‘two anointed ones’ as the oil of Truth (The Word of God) flows out of these “Two olive Trees” through the pipes, to illuminate the lamps of “Two candlesticks” or churches.

Now the Philadelphians are going to be protected as they are witnessing through the Great Tribulation, but the Laodiceans’ are not. But before we address those Scriptures that concern being “kept” from the hour of temptation that is coming upon the whole world to try them, and how the Philadelphians will be nourished at a place prepared for them in the wilderness, let us notice something quite “odd” in verse 12 of Zachariah 4. Here, the two anointed ones are referred to as “two “branches”. That word translated “branches” means = shibboleth. Shibboleth is defined as = a peculiarity of pronunciation, behavior, mode or dress, that distinguishes a particular class or set of persons, a slogan, idiom, or catchword, a common saying with little “current” meaning.

Could this verse be telling us that the “two anointed ones” are going to show up on the scene a bit “strange”, a bit “odd” to say the least, in their attire, in their speech, in their behavior?

Yes, and how will this be resolved? How will the masses clearly understand what they are saying and doing? Won’t some have questions? Understand God is not the author of confusion, He has His church (His lamp stands) His shining lights scattered all around this earth. And as the two olive trees (His two witnesses) do their witnessing, His church will also be witnessing, elaborating on what the two anointed ones are saying and doing. Those two men Elijah and Apostle John will be pouring out the oil that the church (the lamp stands) will be using to illuminate their lights.

Didn’t Daniel hear the man clothed in linen say that when the “power of the holy people” shall be scattered, these things shall be accomplished? That “scattering” of God’s holy people is history now brethren.

(If you think God is going to hide His church, His candlesticks, His lights, during the time when their light will be needed more than ever before in the history of mankind, think again, and remember “who we are” :)

Matthew 5:14 “you are the light of the world, a city that is set on a hill cannot be hid.”

15, *Neither do men light a “candle” and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick (same exact word used in Revelation 11:4 where He says His witnesses are “two candlesticks) “and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.*

16, *Let your lights so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your father which is in heaven.”*

The “New” Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
October 21, 2023 --- Issue No. 142

In Acts 1:8 Christ's last words to His disciples was: *“you shall be **“witnesses”** unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”* (That word translated “part” means = farthest, final (of place or time) latter end.

In Matthew 28:19 the church is given the Great Commission *“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them.”*

20, teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and, lo, I am with you (with His church) always, EVEN UNTO THE END OF THE AGE.

The age doesn't end at the rise of the “two witnesses” neither does the church age end at that time. On the contrary, at the rise of the “two witnesses” the church will be shifted into “High Gear” to say the least, as it is “awaken” from the “slumbering sleep” (that it is currently in.) Remember, the “Midnight Cry” of Matthew 25, is where the virgins arise and “trim” their lamps, at the announcing of the bridegroom's return.

Brethren, we have a Big Job ahead of us. We need to be ready; the church needs to be what the Scriptures call “complete.” Zechariah was commissioned by God to encourage the people in their unfinished responsibility to complete the building of the temple... Now rather than exhort them to action with strong words of rebuke, Zechariah seeks to encourage them to action by reminding them of the importance of the temple, and the importance of its building being completed.

We also need to be reminded of the importance of the “Spiritual” Temple, which Temple we are. Yes, the importance of our High Calling. The church, brethren, the Ecclesia must be complete before the return of our Savior.

Now those who returned from exile were concerned about rebuilding the physical temple, but those people were not merely building a building, every physical detail concerning the building of that “physical temple” (right down to the minutest detail) holds spiritual significance for the completion of the building of us, His “Spiritual Temple”. (Remember: *“Christ is going to present to **“Himself”** a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.”*)

Zechariah's message goes far beyond physical walls & structures, his spectacular apocalyptic imagery and graphic detail points to our day today and the completion of the building of “us” His church, His ecclesia, His Spiritual Temple.

The building of His church that Christ began nearly 2,000 years ago is going to be completed now, during the reign of His “witnesses”. And any and all truth that we may still be lacking is going to be clarified, rectified & restored at this time. (Calendar issues – Passover issues – all soon to be set straight.) Remember Christ told His disciples that Elijah truly shall come first, and *“restore all things”*. (Matthew 17:11) He was speaking of the Tishbite here. John the Baptist didn't restore all things, that “reconstituting” is just ahead of us now.

And when He gives Power to His “two olive trees” He will also be giving power to His “two candlesticks” (those spiritual gifts will be flowing, confirming The Word with those “signs follow”! (Just like when the building of the church was first begun.)

His end time church will not be tucked away in some hidden place but will be boldly “witnessing” to this world, as they are “nourished” by the two “olive trees.”

Now just as “Genesis” is the book of beginnings, Revelation is the book of consummation. In it, God's plan for mankind is brought to completion. That includes this world being “judged” and Judgments include “legalities” & “procedures” (Revelation 1 starting in verse one.)

*“The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto Him, to show unto His servants (that's us I hope) things that must shortly come to pass; and He sent his angel unto His servant John: 2, Who bear **“record”** of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he (John that is) saw.*

(That word “record” that John “bears” means = to be a witness, to testify, to give or have testimony.)

The “New” Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
October 21, 2023 --- Issue No. 142

3, Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophesy And keep those things that are written therein: for the time is at hand.

(And remember; prophecy is history written in advance. If God says it's going to happen, it will happen.) (And that word “testimony” in Rev 11:7 where it says: “after “the witnesses” finish their “testimony” they will be killed” that word “testimony” is the same Greek word used back in Rev 1:2 (translated record) where John says: that he (himself) bear “record” [or testifies] and is also used a second time in that same verse where John also says: that he “testifies” of Jesus Christ, and all things that he himself saw.)

Now I'm not that bright a man, (and I don't mean to get back to more “idioms” again) but isn't testimony favored when it comes directly from the “horse's mouth” (an “eyewitness”?)

(When the Apostle John is witnessing, he wouldn't be talking “hearsay evidence” he will be testifying with “I saw” evidence.

I want to quickly address some of the Scriptures that pertain to the “Philadelphians” protection, and the “place of safety”, as I bring today's message to a close. (Revelation 3:10 please)

I feel we have some “preconceived ideas” concerning the “place of safety”.

Again, we need to verify all of our beliefs with God's Word.

Revelation 3:10 (speaking to the Philadelphia church Christ says: “*Because you have kept the word of my patience, I also will keep you from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon the whole world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.*”

That word “keep” (Strong's 5083) is defined as: to guard (from loss or injury, properly, **by keeping the eye upon**; and thus differing from 2892, which implies a fortress or full military lines of apparatus.

(A “fortress” is a large, fortified place, where those being protected are gathered together. But the word used for “keep” here, differs from that type of group protection.)

“Keep” here speaks of protection “**by keeping the eye upon**”. Back in Zechariah 4, where it speaks about the day of small things, in verse 10 it says that the “plummet” will be back in the hand of Zerubbabel **with the seven eyes of the Lord which run to & fro through the whole earth**.

Revelation 5:6 tells us that the “seven eyes” are the seven spirits of God sent forth into all the earth (“sent forth” means = on a mission, and “spirits” here very well can mean “powerful angels”).

2 Chronicles 16:9 tells us that the eyes of the Lord run to & fro throughout the whole earth, to show Him strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect towards Him. (Same “perfect” we spoke about in that last message “complete”). (Another place to look at is in Revelation 12.)

Starting in Rev 12:14 “*And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.*”

(The words I want to look at are: “wilderness” - “place” – “nourished”).

Wilderness: Strong's 2048 = Lonesome, waste.

Place: Strong's 5117 = a spot, (general in space, but limited by occupancy)

Nourished: Strong's 5142 = to stiffen, fatten (by implication, to cherish (with food etc.), pamper, feed, nourish.

I think many in God's church have a preconceived idea that when the Great tribulation begins and the “two witnesses” arrive on the scene, that they will go from their ‘air-conditioned homes, to some air-conditioned bus, to some all-inclusive

The “New” Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
October 21, 2023 --- Issue No. 142

resort, to ride out the 3 ½ year tribulation in relative comfort”.

(All I'm trying to say here is that these verses don't exactly support that, but we do know that those “accounted worthy” WILL BE PROTECTED!)

(Psalm 91:1-11 may play into the Great tribulation that is coming.)

(Now I want to conclude in the book of Isaiah.)

The beginning chapters of Isaiah are filled with judgment upon immoral and idolatrous men. Judah has sinned; the surrounding nations have sinned; the whole earth has sinned. Judgment must come because God cannot allow such blatant sin to go unpunished forever.

Isaiah also declares a message of hope, that our Lord & Savior is returning as Sovereign, wearing a Crown, and He is going to use His servants, His chosen, His church to witness for Him, to proclaim to the inhabitants of this earth **who the real God is!**

Isaiah 43:1 begins elaborating on the restoration, and who, yes who will declare it to the nations.

Isaiah 43:1 “*But now, this is what the LORD says— he who created you, Jacob, he who formed you, Israel:*

“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have summoned you by name; you are mine.

² *When you pass through the waters,*

I will be with you;

and when you pass through the rivers, they

will not sweep over you. When you walk

through the fire, you will not be burned;

the flames will not set you ablaze.

³ *For I am the LORD your God,*

the Holy One of Israel, your Savior; I gave

Egypt for your ransom,

Cush and Seba in your stead.

⁴ *Since you are precious and honored in my sight,*

and because I love you,

I will give people in exchange for you, nations in

exchange for your life. ⁵Do not be afraid, for I am with

you; I will bring your children from the east and

gather you from the west. ⁶I will say to the north,

‘Give them up!’ and to the south, ‘Do not hold them

back.’ Bring my sons from afar

and my daughters from the ends of the earth— ⁷

everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for

my glory, whom I formed and made.”

⁸ *Lead out those who have eyes but are blind,*

who have ears but are deaf. (Lead out from where? Tribulation.)

⁹ *All the nations gather together and the peoples assemble. Which of their gods*

foretold this and proclaimed to us the former things?

Let them bring in their witnesses to prove they were right, so that

*others may hear and say, “It is true.” ¹⁰“**You are my witnesses,**”*

declares the LORD, “and my servant whom I have chosen, so that

you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. Before

me no god was formed, nor will there be one after me.

¹¹ *I, even I, am the LORD, and apart from me there is*

The “New” Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
October 21, 2023 --- Issue No. 142

*no savior. ¹² I have revealed and saved and proclaimed— I, and not some foreign god among you. **You are my witnesses,**” declares the LORD, “that I am God. ¹³ Yes, and from ancient days I am he. No one can deliver out of my hand. When I act, who can reverse it?”*

See William P. Goff’s other articles at:
[Goff, William P. – Church of God, Bismarck \(church-of-god-bismarck.org\)](http://church-of-god-bismarck.org)

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The Tent of God

(Copyright 2023) by Ronny H. Graham (Charlotte, North Carolina)



Like many children, my sisters and I would construct tents by lining up a few kitchen chairs and draping a sheet or two over the top. We would then play for hours in our newly built abode, pretending to be pioneers, roughing it inside the house. In time, I would graduate to roughing it in the great outdoors, first in our or a friend’s backyard and then in the woods.

Later in life, I figured out that tent camping entailed a lot of work with little time for pleasure. Once, while hunting, I camped in a canvas tent. It rained quite a bit that trip, and a nice belly of water pooled on top, ready to drip into the tent. When that happens, if someone accidentally touched it, it would leak from then on. When one is six feet tall, and the tent’s top is only five feet off the ground, a person must become a contortionist not to brush the ceiling. My wife informed me early

The “New” Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
October 21, 2023 --- Issue No. 142

in our marriage that she would love to go camping anytime, so long as it was in an RV!

Temporary Dwellings

Living in tents is a significant subject in Scripture. The first mention of them is in Genesis 4:20, informing us that some of Cain’s descendants, early cowboys, “dwelt in tents and [had] livestock.” The Patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, lived in tents as a way of life for many decades. Throughout their wilderness trek, the children of Israel lived in tents.

For the most part, the Bible’s imagery focuses on tents as temporary dwellings. Even the Israelites dwelling in tents or booths for forty years in the wilderness symbolizes impermanence. Although tents were among the earliest habitations of men, it is hard for us to imagine living in a tent for any significant length of time. Forty years would seem like an eternity!

But, living in them for that long, the Israelites made them as comfortable and ornate as possible. Archeologists found a similar tent, still intact, in the tomb of an Egyptian queen, a contemporary of Solomon. Its makers had stitched together the tent’s interior lining in a mosaic of thousands of pieces of dyed gazelle hide—in bright pink, deep golden yellow, pale primrose, bluish green, and pale blue—with thread to match. Many such tents were artistically woven like tapestries.

The looks of the exteriors of such tents, often called “houses of hair,” left much to be desired, but they were functional. Usually, they were made of woven goat hair since when goat hair gets wet, it contracts and forms a seal, reducing leaks. If it tore, the owner would easily weave a patch into the area to repair it. One might think such black tents would be hot, but they maintained a cool temperature even in the desert heat. A tent of this kind could take up to a year to weave and construct, but when done, it could accommodate as many as ten people.

Tent living as a way of life has all but disappeared. Some Arabians try to keep their desert lifestyle alive by living in traditional tents during the more moderate months of the year. Even so, in the winter, they return to their houses.

In the ancient Middle East, living in a tent daily for years or even a lifetime, as the Patriarchs did, was a way of life. Genesis 18:1, 6, 9 show Abraham sitting in the tent door in the heat of the day. Trees stood nearby, so he may have pitched his tent near them to provide shade or a windbreak. It appears Sarah was in the same tent.

However, Genesis 24:67 says Sarah had her own tent, which may have been the case in her later years. It was not uncommon for wives to have separate tents, but the wife’s tent was often attached to the main tent, separated from it by a curtain. Still, most camps were set up around the patriarch. If Sarah had a separate tent, it was most likely adjacent to Abraham’s.

A Life in a Tent

Abraham spent his early life in Ur of the Chaldees, a city on the Euphrates River with well-built houses and all the comforts that world offered. Why would he choose to become a lifetime sojourner living in a temporary dwelling? This change took unwavering faith, as Hebrews 11:8-10 attests:

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

We often read about biblical characters and have difficulty grasping what they experienced or how hard their lives must have been. In Abraham’s case, it may help us to keep I John 2:15 in mind: “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.” How many things did Abraham leave behind? Abraham and Moses were alike in terms of what they gave up. They lived the good life in their youth, Moses as a prince in the wealthiest, most powerful nation on earth at the time, and Abraham as the scion of a rich, blue-blooded family. Yet, they both walked away from all their things to follow a God they could not see—and live the rest of their lives in tents, to boot!

Early in my working career, I held a supervisory position, in which I tried not to expect others to do a job that I had not done myself. While working with the Army, I often saw the brass send a lieutenant fresh out of college—who, from all appearances, had never gotten his hands dirty—to manage a platoon of veteran enlisted men, some of whom had been

The “New” Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
October 21, 2023 --- Issue No. 142

in the Army for a couple of decades. I worked for several sergeants and master sergeants whom I could imagine having no qualms following into battle—and then there were some officers and even one full-bird colonel I would not follow across the room!

God does the same. He asks nothing of us that He has not experienced himself—even living in a tent! In Hebrews 4:15, the author writes, “For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are.” When we think of the Israelites in the wilderness, we imagine the God of Israel leading His people by the pillar of cloud and fire, but we may not picture Him living in the “tent of meeting.” He had a tent of His own right in the middle of the camp! The God of the Old Testament, Jesus Christ, dwelt in a tent, the Tabernacle, alongside the Israelites every step of the way through the wilderness!

An Unusual Tent

But this was not the last time Jesus would live in a tent.

Notice John 1:14: “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.” God became a flesh-and-blood human being just like us, and as Hebrews 4:15 declares, He suffered temptation as we do. The apostle John adds that He “dwelt among us.” The word translated as “dwelt” more literally means “to tabernacle,” “to encamp,” or “to pitch a tent.” Here, John refers to the human body as a tent or tabernacle, a temporary dwelling.

Paul confirms this in II Corinthians 5:1-5:

For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven, if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked. For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life. Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

Paul metaphorically describes our physical bodies in terms of a tent, a temporary dwelling, that we live in all the days of our lives. In it, we await the fulfillment of the same promise that Abraham, Moses, and all the other heroes of faith are still waiting for: the “house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.” He means the glorious, incorruptible, immortal body God will give His elect in the first resurrection (I Corinthians 15:50-53; see I John 3:2).

Tent Rules

He writes in verse 5 that “He who has prepared us for this very thing is God.” “This very thing” refers to being “further clothed” by eternal life in a spiritual body God has prepared for us. But He also prepares us for it! We spend much of our converted lives going through circumstances directed by God to train us for life as spirit beings. As Paul says, the gift of His Spirit is just a taste of the full spiritual life we are guaranteed to enjoy then.

In the American Civil War, as in all wars, many soldiers were captured and became prisoners. One prisoner, John Ransom, a Union soldier captured in a battle in Tennessee, was transported to Andersonville, Georgia, a notorious prisoner of war camp. He kept a detailed diary of what he and his fellow prisoners faced.

When new prisoners arrived, they did not just pick a tent or get assigned to one where they would stay for the duration. Despite all the captives being Union army soldiers, each man had to fight a cutthroat battle of survival from the time he arrived until he left or died. For starters, a prisoner had to be invited to join a group occupying a tent. If this happened, he had to live by strict rules, or his tent-mates would turn him out—and in a POW camp, one did not want to face all its hardships alone.

Upon his arrival, John tried to join a particular group but was informed it had no space. The only way he could enter was if someone died, and as mortality was high, he eventually received an invitation. The tent rules there were both practical and necessary. Occupants were expected to bathe daily, keep lice and other vermin to a minimum, exercise regularly, and drink only boiled water. Fighting with others in the tent was forbidden. Instead, they were to keep a cheerful disposition, for a bad attitude would destroy the morale of all the tent’s occupants. The rules urged everyone living in the tent to look out for his tent-mates and have their interests always at heart. Finally, they were to be on guard against bands

The “New” Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
October 21, 2023 --- Issue No. 142

of raiders who terrorized the camp by beating inmates, stealing, and even murdering them to get the tiniest morsel of food, article of clothing, or other valuable item.

Just as the prisoners at Andersonville, we must live as cleanly as possible, dwell in peace with our brethren, and have our tent-mates’ best interests at heart. We, too, need to keep our heads on a swivel because our adversary the Devil, like those godless raiders in the POW camp, is always seeking an opportunity to destroy God’s tent-dwellers and rob them of their inheritance (I Peter 5:8-9).

In Psalm 15:1, David asks, “LORD, who may abide in Your tabernacle? Who may dwell in Your holy hill?” The answer to this question appears in the psalm’s remaining verses as a list of “tent rules” for God’s people to follow. If we follow them, we will be prepared for eternal life, and not only that, as David writes, we “shall never be moved”—we will be rewarded with a fixed, eternal dwelling place! So, God prepares us for life and rulership in His Kingdom.

Sarah’s Tent

Abraham was a type of God the Father, and Isaac, a type of His Son Jesus Christ. Abraham, believing the promises God had given him, looked forward to the time he would receive them, considering his years living in his temporary dwelling a small thing to endure. He reared Isaac to fear God, and he also dwelt in a tent, a temporary dwelling, for the rest of his life.

After the death of his wife, Abraham sent his servant to find a wife for Isaac (Genesis 24:1-4). The servant found Rebekah among their kinfolk in Haran and brought her back to Isaac in Canaan, Israel’s future Promised Land. When she arrived, Isaac immediately took her into his mother’s tent, and they became one in marriage (Genesis 24:67).

God the Father has called and chosen us as His own special people to become the bride of His Son. The Father is preparing us to dwell on His holy hill and enter His Son’s tent to become one with God! If, like Abraham and Moses, we see this as our divinely promised future, is there anything we would not leave behind to reach it? Are there any “tent rules” we would not keep to prepare for it?

So, like Abraham, we look forward to a holy, eternal city, New Jerusalem, which will descend from heaven after the final judgment. Even so, a voice from heaven describes that event in “tent terms” in Revelation 21:3: “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.” At that time, God’s purpose fulfilled, we will dwell with Him, not in a goat-hair tent, as comfortable and ornate as they may have been, but in His glorious, many-roomed house forever (John 14:2)!

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Challenge Black Voters: Anti-Black-Racism Education! (Copyright 2023) by Richard Frates (Easley, South Carolina)

What does “Racist-Equity” mean? Banish EQYALITY - Character or Merit: Black or white is all that matters. Base state policy on race instead. Pander to Black Racism: School district Canceled - **Advance Math** “in the name of “**Equity**” “Because it attracted too many Asians and Whites.” What does “inclusion” mean? Exclude reality and truth, invite depravity and deception. Truth is Color-blind - Race Irrelevant. Shock Black and White Leftist snakes with truthful messages: Number 7 - Black racism on display: Justify racist motivated riots and crime - Harvest Black Votes?

1. Black America: “Love God and your neighbor “as yourself” is critical.” As yourself means consider your White neighbor as Black as yourself and your Black neighbor as White as yourself. Praise God.

The "New" Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
October 21, 2023 --- Issue No. 142

2. Black America: White and black - Leftist Snakes: Preach race is critical to divide, control black minds and votes. Black or white, who believe or preach race is "critical" are Damned Racist.
3. Black America: Who infected you with "Victim Psychology"? And your white neighbor is why? Victim minds are like clay - easily molded and driven to hate in the bloody hands of Devil-Media. Love your white neighbor cures "victim" of white neighbor!
4. Black America: Devils dig up the past to plant - Victim-Psychology - and Hate the innocent. History is forever: Blacks are driven by Leftist Snakes to HATE forever! **Repent** if this describes you: Innocent of guilty irrelevant black or white is all that matters?
5. Black America: Devil-Media owns your mind: 95% of Blacks voting Democrat for racist advantages is "Systemic" Black Racism. Systemic means "total complete."
6. Black America: Thank God for Uncle Tom, blacks who are not black enough and white people they are FREE to obey God and "Love your neighbor as yourself."
7. Black America: **Black racist motivated riots, in fake love for black criminals, is Americas real hate crime! Are most blacks racist or do they really love black criminals?**
8. Black America: Why does Devil-Media - ONLY - use black criminals to inspire black racist motivated riots? Only option the Devils know white America is not racist and black racism and crime must be justified.
9. Black America: Why hate your Black Brother - Justice Clarence Thomas? Black and White Snakes: Hate blacks who escape from the democratic party Hate White America Plantation.
10. Black America: Love God and your neighbor, as yourself is: Salvation. Hate white America and blacks who do not hate white America guarantees you - Hell.
11. Black America: Why is effective law enforcement absent in black neighborhoods and police ridiculed by black leaders? Because safe black and white integrated neighborhoods would terrorize the Democratic Party!
12. Black America: Free yourselves from the Democratic party - Hate White America Plantation. Democratic party snakes will never set you free!
13. Black America: **George Floyd had enough drugs in him to - KILL SEVEN MEN - George killed himself. The police are innocent but condemned to appease hateful black racist.**
14. Black America: **Devil-Media, Democrats, and black racist activist: Use black criminals as - Hate white America insurance - to control black minds and votes.**
15. Black America: Social Justice and "Equal Justice Under Law" is all judged the Same Race in Court - Education and the Workplace. Black racist hate equal justice because it disarms justification to hate and accuse based on race!
16. Black America: University Devils and Leftist Snakes Preach: "Blacks cannot be Racist." That poison planted in your mind will drag you to hell. It Justifies - **Killing white, men, women, and children** as fighting racism!
17. Black America: Whites today innocent: Did Not lynch black or white criminals of the past. Blacks today are - innocent - who did Not - riot, kill white people, or attack police because of - FAKE LOVE - for George Floyd.

LOVE: Endures, overlooks an offence, and Rejoices in Truth: HATE: Digs up justification to be offended, accuse the innocent, riot, praise the wicked and Rejoices in Deception! Truth is Power: 2 Corinthians 10:4-5 "The weapons we fight with" "Have divine power to demolish strongholds." "We demolish arguments - against the knowledge of God."

The "New" Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
October 21, 2023 --- Issue No. 142

Honest Billboard Ad: Uncivil rights law - the evil seed of "Systemic-Black-Racism." Only white can be guilty and Black Accusers: Forever racially offended - Licensed to extort money. White can never be racially offended - therefore the forever target. **Color-Blind-Justice** - will take money out of Uncivil - Systemic Black Racism Law: Then black racist activist and their damned lawyers: Like Vultures will fly away.

AMERICAS FUTURE: If - Color Blind Justice - is Not imposed and black racist rioters are not forcefully stopped. Devil Media will shout the alarm: Black racists will find justification to be offended, drag white men, women, and children out of homes and cars and beat them to death! Then Devil-Media and democratic party snakes will defend their - black MINDSLAVES OF HATE - voters and blame the bloodshed on White America!

Truthful Billboard Ad: **Devil-Worship is the - Evil-Motive for "Non-Discrimination Law."** The law "Discriminates" against God and - Licenses Sexual Perverts to condemn those who believe God. Hate Crime Law: Only black racist activist and sexual perverts are allowed to Hate.

"The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom" the fear of Devil-Media the beginning of madness! The "fear of God" has been sucked out of the hearts and minds of congress and Judges by Devil-Media, and Education.

Brothers and sisters: Hell fire is your destiny unless you – Repent. Judgment Day - is the day of your death you will Not remember being dead. God paid our debt of sin: Jesus Christ Crucified is Light that shines beyond the grave. Praise God.

See Richard Frate's other articles at:

[Frates, Richard – Church of God, Bismarck \(church-of-god-bismarck.org\)](http://church-of-god-bismarck.org)

Rewards of Glory

(Copyright 2023) by Dwight Fleming (Oroville, California)

"Behold, I [Jesus] am coming soon, and My **reward** is with Me, to give to each one according to what he has done" (Revelation 22:12).

Many Christians believe that heaven or eternal life will be their reward. However, salvation is a free gift and cannot be earned. No amount of good works will earn you salvation (Ephesians 2:8-9). Rather, it is by the grace of God through faith.

Consequently, many Christians only focus on the scriptures that pertain to salvation often ignoring the Old Testament which is foundational to understanding the plan of God. If doing good works doesn't earn us salvation, then why should we bother? If putting forth effort to better understand God or the Bible doesn't earn us salvation, then why should we spend time doing so? Are good works only vain effort?

"But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must **believe** that He is, **and** that He is a **rewarder** of those who **diligently** seek Him" (Hebrews 11:6). One definition of **diligent**: "having or showing care and conscientiousness in one's **work** or duties."

So, we must not only believe that God exists, but we must also believe that God is a **rewarder** of our efforts (work) to seek Him. This would certainly include our obedience to Him (See Isaiah 55).

For those who would suffer persecution for the sake of following Christ, Jesus said that our **reward** is great in heaven (Matthew 5:11-12). He did **not** say that our reward **is** heaven, but that our reward is **in** heaven. Many Christians wrongly believe that they will go to heaven when they die. Rather, the Bible teaches that those dead in Christ are waiting in their graves for the resurrection at Christ's return. See Corinthians 15.

The "New" Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
October 21, 2023 --- Issue No. 142

Briefly, the Resurrection will occur at the Last Trump. I contend that this will occur on a future Pentecost (Feast of Firstfruits). Jesus will gather the resurrected saints in the clouds from the four winds (Matthew 24:29-31). He will return to heaven with them for the marriage of the Lamb (Revelation 19:1-9). Afterwards, the wrath of God will be poured out upon the inhabitants of the earth to avenge the blood of the saints (See Revelation 15:1-7). This will lead to Christ returning to earth with His Bride to make war against the Beast on the following Feast of Trumpets (Revelation 19:11-21). We will then rule with Christ for a thousand years upon the earth (Revelation 5:9-10). This needs further study but is a brief summary for now.

The main subject of this letter is the **Rewards** that God offers for our obedience and service to Him. It is often overlooked by many who think that salvation is the only worthy goal. Our repentance and acceptance of Christ's shed blood to atone for our sins and the receiving of the Holy Spirit upon baptism is what allows us to receive the gift of salvation. But then what?

This is important for all Christians to understand. When you were born, you were naked. When you are born into God's kingdom at the Resurrection, do you want to be standing there butt naked on the Sea of Glass while others are clothed with white robes of righteousness? Is this why Christ gave the warning in Revelation 16:15: "Behold, I am coming like a thief. Blessed is the one who remains awake and **clothed**, so that he will not go naked and let his shame be exposed."

Yes, you will be in God's kingdom and have eternal life but you may have some regrets that you failed to put forth diligent effort (work) to grow in the Spirit. "Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, **clothe** yourselves with hearts of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience" (Colossians 3:12).

Lance Wallnau touches upon the **Rewards** of God for Christians who obey God's calling and commandments. Which does not earn us salvation but is part of God's plan to make us sons and daughters of His kingdom and rulers with Christ. You will find his message stimulating even if you don't agree with everything that he says.

Here is the link to Lance's message on Divine Rewards:

<https://rumble.com/v3cffxu-mysteries-about-divine-rewards-and-the-next-life-revealed-here.html>

See Dwight Fleming's other articles at:

[Fleming, Dwight – Church of God, Bismarck \(church-of-god-bismarck.org\)](http://church-of-god-bismarck.org)

It Began in Turkey

(Copyright 2009) by Jonathan Gray (Thames, New Zealand)

A MOST STARTLING DISCOVERY ABOUT OUR ORIGINS

You might call it very small and insignificant.

SMALL? YES...BUT SO IMPORTANT!!!

Here is an object that ended its days as a piece of rag - to enable someone to get a better grip on a handle. That happened one day 4,000 long years ago. But it survived - was dug up and saw daylight again recently.

And would you believe, this has now turned out to be the world's oldest known scrap of textile. It was found at Cayonu in S.E. Turkey.

And that points up this amazing fact:

Did you know, according to the evidence it is **TURKEY**, not South America, not Africa, not Iraq or Egypt, that civilization began?

The “New” Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
October 21, 2023 --- Issue No. 142

You'll hear all sorts of theories. But I'm talking about the hard-core evidence, here.

Does this surprise you?

IT BEGAN IN TURKEY

Yes, it's in Turkey that we find the FIRST cultivation of plants and true CEREALS.

It is in Turkey we find the FIRST DOMESTICATION OF ANIMALS.

It is in Turkey we find the FIRST woven TEXTILES.

It is in Turkey that we find the FIRST POTTERY.

It is in Turkey that we find the world's FIRST metallurgical FACTORY.

It's in Turkey that we find the FIRST known USE OF METALLURGY.

It is in Turkey that we find the FIRST known indications of CITIES built according to specific plans.

And it is in Turkey that we find the ORIGINS of our LANGUAGE.

SKEPTICAL REACTIONS

And do you know, the findings of scientists involved in these discoveries have been greeted more with skepticism than any enthusiastic acceptance. Mesopotamia and Egypt “have to” be the cradle of civilization, they say.

To accept Turkey as the origin of such things, goes against traditional thinking. Turkey should have hardly any civilization at all at that early time.

But, nevertheless, the findings do show that the replanting of world civilization after the Great Global Disaster, was in Turkey!

AND LANGUAGES TOO

Are you ready for this? Here's another bombshell. This news broke on December 1, 2003. And it left segments of the scientific world in shock.

It was announced that the roots of our language had also been traced to Turkey!

Auckland University researchers have stunned academics around the world by tracing the origins of the English language to Turkish farmers.

Associate Professor Russell Gray and PhD student Quentin Atkinson published their research in the British journal Nature.

Gray was encouraged that his research had been supported in the United States by Stanford University's eminent geneticist Luigi Luca Cavalli-Sforza?

Gray and Atkinson had analyzed thousands of words from 87 languages (past and present) to find out when the various branches of the Indo-European family tree started diverging.

* We looked at words from different languages that were clearly related and grouped them in sets.

*The researchers then used sophisticated computer programs to do the analysis and build language trees.

*Gray said Hittite (an extinct Anatolian language) was the first major language group to branch from the Indo-European trunk.

The "New" Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
October 21, 2023 --- Issue No. 142

*Over subsequent millennia the same trunk sprouted Tocharian, Armenian, Greek, Albanian, Iranian, Indic, Slavic, Baltic, Germanic, French/Iberian, Italic and Celtic language groups.

*Gray said the findings had wider implications than just language development.

*Languages, like genes, provided vital clues about human history, he said.

Does that ring a bell? I recall reading somewhere in the book of Genesis that the sole survivors of the Great Flood landed in their vessel in the Ararat mountains of TURKEY, to begin a new world. Yes, TURKEY.

So, there you are. Now that will throw a cat among the pigeons!

See Jonathan Gray's other articles at:

[Gray, Jonathan – Church of God, Bismarck \(church-of-god-bismarck.org\)](http://church-of-god-bismarck.org)

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What is Biblical Leavening? **(Copyright 2010) by Gary C. Miller (Pocahontas, Arkansas)**

("He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him." [Prv. 18:13])

As Passover approaches, we begin preparing to remove leavening from our dwellings (Ex. 12:19). As you know most all groups who observe the Days of Unleavened Bread say leavening includes all modern leavening agents such as baking powders and baking soda, even egg whites. But what really is Scriptural leavening? What is the Bible teaching on this subject?

For about 20 years we have taught that Biblical leavening is yeast. Here is why. The primary references are Ex.12:15,18:

"Seven days shall you eat unleavened ("unfermented", NWT; SEC 4682) bread... even the first day you shall put away leaven ("yeast" GN; SEC 7603) out of your houses..." "...you shall eat unleavened (SEC 4682) bread, until the one and twentieth day of the month" (KJV).

Strong's Concordance says the word translated "leaven" (SEC 7603) is: "barm or yeast cake." Barm is "the foamy yeast that appears on the surface of fermenting malt liquors" (Websters).

The more authoritative Gesenius says of this word: "fermentation, leaven." In the Greek (SEC 2219), leaven is "yeast, leaven:" "a little yeast ferments the whole lump of dough..." (1 Cor 5:6; Arndt, Gingrich Lexicon, p. 340). Unleavened (SEC 4682) means "what is sweet, i.e. unfermented bread" (Gesenius). The Biblical principle is fermentation. Websters says leaven is "a substance, such as yeast, used to produce fermentation, especially in dough."

The Biblical principle is not to eat yeast or bread made with yeast during these days. It is NOT, as commonly taught, "The principle of 'puffing up.'"

Fermentation is "the breakdown of complex molecules in organic compounds by a ferment such as yeast or bacteria" (Websters). More specifically, this change is produced by the action of an enzyme. The yeast plant or bacteria produces the enzyme which ferments the starches and sugars producing ethanol, which is driven off during baking, and carbon dioxide which causes the dough to swell or rise.

The “New” Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
October 21, 2023 --- Issue No. 142

These facts unmistakably show fermentation must be the process by which bread is Scripturally leavened by yeast. Consequently, baking soda, baking powders, or eggs are not Biblical leavening. They do not produce the enzymatic fermentation process.

See Gary Miller’s other articles at:

Miller, Gary C. – Church of God, Bismarck (church-of-god-bismarck.org)

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<http://www icyahweh.org/>

‘Give Us This Day...’
(Copyright 2022) by James McBride (United Kingdom)

Our world and all its institutions is fast sinking into a cesspit of anarchy. The restrictions imposed by governments worldwide under the pretext of climate change, protection from disease, diversity *etc.* are stirring widespread opposition from farmers, from transport workers—and not least from the increasingly restless populace as they battle with the resulting consequences of inflation and the soaring cost of living.

A cohort of relatively young trendy leaders (*e.g.*, in Canada, France, New Zealand, The Netherlands) have bought into the grand plan, hatched behind closed doors, for ‘saving the world’. They vigorously pursue the goals of so-called *Agenda 2030* and *zero carbon*, and are aided by subservient, compliant governments and councils worldwide.

Nor does religion escape. Driven by the papacy (powered by Jesuits) the global agenda is to blend the faiths under the banner of the ‘common good’—as exemplified by ‘Chrislam’, the merging of Christianity and Islam—while claiming, contrary to Scripture (Acts 4:12), that all paths lead to the same ‘god’. In this it is increasingly supported by leading Protestant evangelicals.

All true followers of Jesus Christ need to be aware of this global movement, which undermines our freedom of thought, our freedom to worship—and *prepare*. Guns won’t stop it, and stored food will eventually become exhausted (or stolen). Martyrdom may be the price we pay for loyalty to our Saviour—but the outcome is a role in God’s eternal spirit Family.

Trust Him

It is vital in dark times that we each, daily enhance and deepen our trust in Him for every need. The ‘*Lord’s prayer*’ is not just a prayer formula— ‘...*give us this day our daily bread*’—but a guidepost for our everyday life.

The record of God’s supportive dealings with His people is writ large in Scripture. Jacob’s family were delivered from severe famine (Genesis 41); through Moses God fed and watered Israel for forty years. In a time of prolonged drought, He nourished Elijah through ravens (I Kings 17:4-6); He miraculously fed a widow in her need (*vv.13-17*). *Trust Him!*

See James McBride’s other articles at:

McBride, James – Church of God, Bismarck (church-of-god-bismarck.org)

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

This Was Found In Fin Whale's Throat

(Copyright 2022) by David Rives (Lewisburg, Tennessee)



There are two main types of whales – baleen and toothed. Baleen whales feed by filtering enormous amounts of water through their baleen, or plates of bristle-like keratin rather than teeth. Evolutionary scientists have been curious for years as to how the whales can eat without choking or drowning due to the large amounts of water that enter their mouths.

These whales lunge-feed, so the force of water entering their mouths via baleen is very powerful. While dissecting fin whales (attained from an Icelandic whaling station), researchers found a fascinating feature that allows these whales to eat without choking – an oral plug, like a trapdoor, far back in their mouths that blocks the route into the respiratory and digestive systems.

This plug is controlled by muscles that work together to allow for breathing and swallowing at the correct times.

These whales are also to move and close off the larynx. These two features are complex in the design of these whales using both passive and active muscles for sealing off certain parts and allowing other parts to open for the right timing of pushing food or air along.

Why are secularists so surprised that these whales would have these special features? They see these features as adaptations that allowed evolution of marine animals from past land animals. They also believe these adaptations are changes that have caused the evolution of whales into lunge-feeders and therefore caused the larger size of these marine giants.

We aren't surprised that our Creator would create these amazing whales with special features for breathing and swallowing, while eating and swimming, from the beginning.

On day five of creation, God created ocean life, including whales. In their DNA, He gave them any codes needed to best function as whales, never changing from or into another animal.

I'm David Rives.

Truly, the heavens declare the glory of God.

See David Rives other articles at:

[Rives, David – Church of God, Bismarck \(church-of-god-bismarck.org\)](http://church-of-god-bismarck.org)

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To learn more, visit: <https://davidrivesministries.org/>

Crows in Israel, Flag?

(Copyright 2023) by James Steinle (Swanville, Minnesota)

Short Video Must See:

<https://twitter.com/russiaisntenemy/status/1710728785228669327?s=51&t=67rKSIHI9bToxxoc61Ya4w>

Crows in Israel tear down Israeli flags in different parts of the country. Shocking to see! Esp. as 600 killed, 2000 injured in headlines today.

Signs of the times?

See James Steinle's other articles at:

[Steinle, James – Church of God, Bismarck \(church-of-god-bismarck.org\)](http://church-of-god-bismarck.org)

Announcements

Announcement from Zac Poonen (October 11, 2023)

MESSAGES

Following Jesus Who Died to Self Every Day

<https://rlcf.church/media/sermons/following-jesus-who-died-to-self-every-day>

Manifesting God's Wisdom Through Our Lives

<https://www.cfcdubaichurch.com/sermons/20231008-01/>

The Higher New-Covenant Standard

<https://rlcf.church/media/sermons/the-higher-new-covenant-standard>

LISTEN TO THIS CHALLENGING MESSAGE TO YOUNG PEOPLE

Secrets of the Lord's Joy - By Robert David (18 minutes only)

<https://cfcindia.com/sermon/secrets-of-the-lord's-joy>

CFC Bangalore

<https://cfcindia.com>

The “New” Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
October 21, 2023 --- Issue No. 142

Announcement from William P. Goff (October 14, 2023)

Greetings Brethren,
The October 14, 2023, Kenya Update is now posted at:

<http://www.khofh.org>

Hope all of you had a wonderful and joyous Feast of Tabernacles.
Bill Goff

Holy Days 2024

Passover – April 23, 2024 (Observed at Sunset the Evening Before)

Passover/Unleavened Bread – April 23-29, 2024

Pentecost – June 12, 2024

Trumpets - October 3, 2024

Atonement – October 12, 2024

Tabernacles –October 17, 2024, to October 23, 2024

Last Great Day – October 24, 2024

Notes