

Women CAN be Pastors and Leaders: Here's Why

by Dianne D. McDonnell (Arlington, Texas)

Many of us have grown up with the traditional view that denies a woman a role as a "servant" -the Greek *diakonos*-- of God---i.e. a minister, or even as a church leader. Yet today, one of the most vital issues of our time is women's FULL participation in the church, and women being free to use any spiritual gift that God gives to them. It becomes especially vital for us to have a correct understanding as we draw close to the end of the age. Both Joel and Peter remind us that God has plans for women as well as men to prophesy, "your sons and your daughters will prophesy" in the end time, Acts 2:17 and 18. God wants us to be ready to LISTEN to these women when that time comes, and not just dismiss a message coming from God with some human ideas of "functional subordination". That concept comes primarily from a misunderstanding of 1 Tim 2:12.

Are Women Not to Teach Men?

Millions of women in the past and the present have been impacted by Paul's words to Timothy in 1 Tim 2:12. It is translated in the King James as, "But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence". A scripture of this

Continued on page 9

The Book of Revelations Made Simple

by Rhoda Foust (Williamsburg, Indiana)

Many find Revelation extremely hard to understand because they are confused with all the symbolism, overlaps, inserts, and descriptions. Some have decided it is just prophecy of future events, not really important for salvation, so they have pushed it aside in their studies. Since it is a revelation from Yeshua the Christ, given to His church, I think every follower of Christ would want to know what His message is. To begin this study it is important to know that after the personal messages to the seven churches of Asia the actual prophecy begins in chapter six with the seven seals. As we look at these seven seals we find that they are an overview of the age in which we live at present, and starts during the early church period, at the apostles time and ends at the end of the chapter with "For the great day of His wrath is come, and who shall be able to stand?" The seven seals have within them:

- 1) The seven trumpets,
- 2) the three woes, and
- 3) the seven vials (bowls) of Yahweh's wrath, called plagues.

These events are listed inside the covers of different events, ie

Continued on page 7

Why Love the Lie?

by Laura Lee (Bismarck, North Dakota)

Isaiah 30:9-11 That this is a rebellious people, lying (deceptive) children, children that will not hear the law of the Lord: Which say to the seers, see not; and to the prophets, prophesy not unto us right (true) things, speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits (deceptions and illusions):

We live in a generation of rebellious people who do not want to hear the law of God, but would rather be lied to. Because people want to be lied to We are told in 2 Timothy 4:3-4: For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching (desirous of hearing something pleasant) ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth (fact and reality), and shall be turned unto fables (an invention, a falsehood).

People would rather hear of good things all the time rather than to endure the truth of reality. Only a converted mind will see and hear the word of God even if the reality isn't always good or what we want to hear. For example, in our world people die. It happens every day. If someone close to us dies, we don't want to hear that, so then should those telling us sugar coat this news some how? How does one sugar

Continued on page 8

God and the Gays -- Chapter #3

by David Ben-Ariel (Toledo, Ohio)

Chapter Three

ONCE GAY, ALWAYS GAY?

If we accept the Bible as the literal Word of God, and believe that God says what He means and means what He says, then we can't escape the fact that God expressly forbids any premarital or extramarital sex. The Bible doesn't fool around, it gets straight to the point. The Hebrew God isn't shy. He's also not ashamed of the anatomy He's equipped humans with. He pulls no punches and doesn't allow anyone to pervert His plans. Within the Instruction Manual that God gave to Israel (to give to the world), were explicit blueprints for building successful relationships between both God and man. That scriptural foundation assures us of strong and stable bonds, blessed by God (Ps. 127:1). Anything that contradicts God's building codes undermines and condemns itself.

Continued on page 3

Discipleship and Stewardship

A Cure for Doctrinal Chaos and Organizational Disunity -- Part #1

by B. L. Cocherell (San Jose, California)

At some point in the timelessness of eternity, the Sovereign God embarked upon the greatest and grandest of all his creations; he began the process of creating beings just like himself (Phil. 3:21; 1 Jn. 3:2). It is his intent to bring these beings into his family as his sons and to share with them all he has created and all that he will ever create throughout eternity.

Moreover, it is his intent to grant his sons the same life essence that he possesses, which is the highest form of life--immortality on the divine plane of existence (i.e., life that springs forth from itself and is not dependent on any other source to sustain it because it is

Continued on page 4

LETTERS SECTION

("Works/Grace..." continued from
Issue #35)

Works/Grace? (01-13-04)

by **Ronald Barlow**
(Huntsville, Texas)

Laura Lee (North Dakota) writes (cont.):

Moses was not allowed to enter the new land because he did not obey God: Numbers 20:12 "And the Lord spake unto Moses and Aaron, **Because ye believed me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel**, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them." Moses did not give God the glory when he smote the rock as God commanded him to. Psalm 106:32-33 "They angered him (Moses) also at the waters of strife, so that it went ill with Moses for their sakes: Because they provoked his spirit, so that **he (Moses) spake unadvisedly with his lips.**"

All through the book of Joshua, they speak of keeping God's law as given to Moses. This is all an example for people everywhere to show that you will not enter into the new land unless you keep God's law. In the Old Testament it was a physical location that they were not allowed to enter because they did not keep God's law. For all people today, it is eternal life that they will not enter into unless they keep the law of God. Matthew 19:17 "And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: **but if thou wilt enter into LIFE, keep the COMMANDMENTS.**" Revelation 22:14-15 "Blessed are **they that do his Commandments, that they may have right to the tree of Life**, and may enter in through the gates into the city. For **without (eternal life)** are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie"

Ronald Barlow (Texas) writes:

This same figure is written in the letter to the Hebrews in Chapter 3, admonishing the Hebrews, to exhort one another daily while it is still today, lest any of them harden their heart as their brethren in the wilderness, as in the rebellion, who could not enter the promise. Moses and the works of the law (Torah) could not bring them into the promise. Only by their faith could they enter through Joshua (Jesus), the promised Seed of Abraham.

But in spite of the testimony of Moses, I have found there are some in the Messianic Jewish community who are "Pharisees", who believe, (Acts 15:5) who insist that we must be Torah observant to receive the promises of God.

Laura Lee (North Dakota) writes:

I am not a Messianic Jew, but I do believe that none of us will enter into eternal life with God if we do not keep His law. The Bible tells us this over and over from cover to cover. What on earth would be the purpose of life now versus later if it's going to be the same wars, murders, rapes etc.? If sin gets to live on why not just give everyone eternal life right away?

Do people even think logically anymore (if they ever did)? If you do not keep God's law you will not enter the promised land of eternal life. That was one of the lessons of Moses and Joshua.

Ronald Barlow (Texas) writes:

It is true the Pharisees sit in Moses seat declaring the law, (Matt. 23:2), however, Christ Jesus also declared Pharisees to be blind leaders of the blind who would fall into a ditch. (Matt. 15:14) Those who follow Moses are blinded (2 Cor. 3:15; 4:3-4) to the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ, of grace by faith (Eph. 2:8), not of works of the law least any man should boast. We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works (Gal. 5:22) which God prepared before hand that we should walk in them. Christ Jesus is the end of the Law to those who believe. (Rom. 10:4)

Laura Lee (North Dakota) writes:

Christ Jesus was the one that gave the law to Moses in the wilderness for Christ was with them for the whole 40 years: 1 Corinthians 10:4 "And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ." Christ was the God of the Old Testament as well as of the New Testament.

2 Corinthians 3:15 "But even unto this day when Moses is read, the veil is upon their heart." This verse says nothing about people who follow Moses in the law of God, as being blind. What this is talking about is that even unto this day when people read their Bibles (the law of God), that they do not understand what they are reading. That veil is only lifted when you start to obey God and have His Spirit dwelling in you. The Pharisees were called blind guides because they read the law of God but they did not do what they read. This is similar to what you say, believe in Christ but His law is done away. So you talk about Christ but you don't have to do anything, except whatever you want to do? If you believe that, I am sorry for you, that you will have to learn the hard way in the school of hard Knox.

Ronald Barlow (Texas) writes:

If we will not believe James or Moses, will we believe the very testimony of Jesus

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Christ Himself, who declared to the Samaritan woman at the well (John 4:20-24) that the Law of Moses concerning Temple
Continued on Page 12

“God and the...” continued from page 1)

The Bible bluntly states: 1) There's no room in its quarters for "gay rights." Homosexuality isn't within the bounds of acceptable behavior. Its practice isn't permissible within the Christian Camp and will quickly find itself dumped outside of the City limits (Rev. 22:15). Anyone who dares to defy this ban automatically excludes himself from society at large and brings the death penalty upon himself (Gen. 2:17). We're not supposed to tolerate any deviation, whatsoever, from the "strait and narrow" path of our God. 2) Cross-dressing, transvestism, is also out of the question (Deut. 22:5). God doesn't want any "half-breeds" to promote their hybrid ideas that don't mix too well with God's Word (Lev. 19:19). There's no ifs, ands, or buts about it - no quack psychological explanations or accepted justifications: it's not allowed! Everything's to be black and white, right or wrong, male or female; there's no sense in blurring distinctions or causing unnecessary confusion (Ezek. 22:26). 3) Gay prostitutes shouldn't even attempt to walk the streets, because they'll find out the hard way that it's a dead end (Deut. 23:17-18).

God wants to spare us all and safeguard our homes and minds. He doesn't want us to go past the point of no-return! Once you break down one moral barrier it's easier to break down another. Once the floodgates of hell are opened, everyone's swept away and sexual anarchy reigns!

The barometer of a nation's fall from grace and descent into depravity - just before national captivity and deportation - is whenever homosexuality begins to lose its purposeful stigma (Rom. 1:28). That and every other Biblically-attached stigma is to help keep us in line, remind us of what we're doing, and force us to pay the fine. Instead of attacking the doctor's diagnosis, we should concentrate on improving our condition!

We're free to ignore or reject the scripture's counsel against homosexual activities, but we shouldn't pretend that the Bible's silent on the subject. If someone continues to smoke even after they've read the Surgeon General's warnings against it, so be it. But they shouldn't deny that they've voluntarily increased their risks of contracting a variety of diseases.

Reason for Living

Our reason for living shouldn't be sex - but to develop a proper relationship with God! Life is meant to be far more meaningful than momentary physical pleasures. When Jesus said that "man shouldn't live by bread alone," He revealed there's another dimension - the spiritual - that completes us

and transcends the mundane. Our daily request for "bread" (in the Lord's prayer sample) isn't only a humble petition to meet all our physical needs, but that we'll also be spiritually sustained (Jn. 6:35).

The supreme purpose in our respective lives should be to know and become more like our Father in Heaven (Mat. 5:48). Especially when you consider God created each kind after its kind, and then He made mankind after the God kind! We're offered the opportunity to increasingly bear the divine image and more closely resemble Him (in characteristics) daily. We're urged to live compatible with His glorious Kingdom.

If we want to be on God's wavelength, come up to His level, and live in peace and harmony (with the law and order of His universe) - we need to realize and accept that certain "trees, food, and fruits" aren't kosher, but are off-limits, taboo! We need to avoid those pitfalls and steer clear of such danger-zones if we're to survive this unique journey (Prov. 4:15). We don't want to become another casualty along the way (Prov. 15:10). God hasn't singled out the gays for any special treatment - or persecution! He's not homophobic, racist, or sexist: God is Love.

And because God loves us all, He has high hopes and dreams for us. That's why God's graciously given us some guidelines and helpful instructions for happy, healthy, and wholesome living: the Tree of Life (1 Jn. 5:3). These voluntary restrictions (you are a free moral-agent) are intended to enhance our lives and enable us to truly enjoy our experiences as humans (Jn. 10:10; Deut. 4:40). They gently regulate our food, thoughts, worship, behavior, drink - every facet of our lives - and benefit every fiber of our being. Sin is sin (Rom. 3:23). Transgression - the breaking - of these practical principles is self-destructive (1 Jn. 3:4; Ezek. 18:31). God forbids any hanky-panky, plain and simple! He doesn't target homosexuals or put them first in the line-up of sex-offenders (1 Cor. 6:9).

We need to put everything in context, within perspective and Biblical focus. Too often today, especially on the too many talk-shows (Mat. 12:36), things are too easily distorted, twisted, and confused. These vital issues are usually viewed from the wrong angle, broached with dishonest motivations and questioned by prejudiced people (Gen. 3:1). How they live for the applause of their "broad-minded" crowd (Jn. 12:34)! Generally, you can't reason with such a mob-mentality or argue with their sick minds (Mat. 7:6). God condemns those "enlightened" hosts who turn things upside down (Isa. 5:20; 2 Cor. 11:14). Regardless of their ratings or rantings, they're not too popular with God. We don't have to remain slaves to sin. Christ

can set us free (Jn. 8:36). Should the living dwell among the dead (Jn. 5:25)? Why stay down and out, when you're able to improve your situation, rise above your circumstances, and be within God's grace (Col. 2:13)?

Once gay always gay? How about once an adulterer always an adulterer? Better yet, once a sinner always a sinner (1 Cor. 6:11; 1 Jn. 1:9)? WHO says so? Only if you choose to become a "hardened criminal." You can make progress toward perfection! You can refuse to go with the flow, change the course of your thought-patterns, and escape from the belly of the beast (Ephes. 2:1-6). You can stage a revolt and go free! You don't have to die in "Egypt."

Once a sinner, NOW a saint! There isn't any sin too great, or problem deep-rooted, or mind that's scarred, that Christ can't reach or touch or heal (Ps. 139:7-12; Mat. 15:30). Who would dare condemn whom God has forgiven (Rom. 8:1)? God sent Christ into your world to save, not destroy; to forgive, not damn; to help, not hurt (Lk. 9:56). Even Jesus' Hebrew name declares His good intentions toward us (Mat. 1:21).

Pulls From the Past

Without a doubt, there'll be strong pulls from the past and pressure to revert to old, familiar ways: testing our resolve, trying our mettle, and cross-examining our conversion (Deut. 8:2-3). They're to be expected (1 Pet. 4:12), but should be put in proper perspective (Heb. 12:11-13). The very fact that you're now a part of the "Resistance Movement," and engage in bitter conflicts (refusing to surrender), proves your patriotism and displays your determination to win (Ga. 5:17). God respects and will reward your efforts (Heb. 6:10; 11:6). They've been brought to His attention repeatedly (Ps. 116:15). You're not left to fend for yourself! You might feel like it, but you're not all alone. We have a Great Helper, an Unseen Assistant, who can handle anything that might befall us during this battle (Heb. 4:14-16).

When we're pardoned, WE'RE EMPOWERED to overcome our past (Jn. 1:12). God enables us to withstand the onslaught of sin, and remain within the good graces of our Governor (Isa. 9:11; Jude 24). Although you may still feel "gay," your reorientation hasn't taken full effect yet (Ephes. 4:23; Jas. 1:4), DON'T GET DISCOURAGED! Be happy that you've made progress, and that you're even trying to better yourself. That's a miracle in itself! Trust in God (Philip. 4:13). He'll see you through thick and thin, and He'll stay by your side (Isa. 43:1-2)! It's true that "We conquer by continuing." DON'T GIVE UP! Keep up the struggle: everything you believe in is worth fighting for! (Matt. 11:12). You can rest

assured that you're very precious to God. He knows you by name.

"Once gay always gay" is a LIE! It denies Christ's ability to save and slanders His sacrifice as insufficient! We don't have to believe that propaganda though it's repeated a thousand times. It's nothing more than psychological warfare (2 Cor. 2:11). It's jealously directed against those who've sobered up and have made an about-face in life (1 Pet. 5:8).

Conversion - change - is possible, but it demands patience. Purification is a process that takes time (1 Jn. 3:3; Isa. 48:10). It all begins in the mind. We don't have to remain subject to sin's every whim and desire (Rom. 6:14). Slowly but surely, the homosexual obsession will lose its hold over our lives. God can rid us of its side-effects, break our hobbling habits, and release us from the ball and chain of our past (Isa. 45:2).

Christ will gently assist and energize us as we carry on (Isa. 40:29). We're to unburden ourselves before the Father in heartfelt prayer (Mat. 11:28-30; 1 Pet. 5:7), like Jesus did when He was here (Heb. 5:7). Everyone's offered this opportunity of a lifetime: to start over, have a new lease on life, and to wipe the slate clean. It's our option. It's your choice.

Read the entire article at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/a2006-034-03.htm>

****to be continued in Issue #37****

("Discipleship and..." continued from page 1)

self-sustaining). See 1 Cor. 15:51-54; Rom. 2:7; 2 Tim. 1:9-10; 1 Pet. 4:6; Rev. 20:6.

Although it is the Sovereign Father's intent to increase his heavenly family, he will not bestow immortality upon a person or allow a person entry into his heavenly realm until he has absolute confidence in their commitment and loyalty to him and his way of life. Therefore, he has set in place a process through which each potential spirit-son must demonstrate their commitment and loyalty. During this process, each potential spirit-son must develop the character and the qualities that are a part of God the Father and his son, Jesus Christ. See Lev. 19:1-2; 1 Pet. 1-16.

The process of proving one's commitment and loyalty to the Father and his way of life begins in earnest the moment the Father adopts a person into his earthly family as a king-priest and continues until he is absolutely sure of a person's commitment and loyalty to him and his way of life.

Questions That Need to be Answered

In this present phase of the Sovereign Father's plan for the salvation of his human creation, many within the Father's earthly family of king-priests not only have to combat the human side of their nature and the evil of the world around them but also the evil that permeates many congregations of his people. Moreover, many are perplexed by doctrinal chaos and disunity within the Father's family. Because this condition should not exist among the Father's chosen ones, many feel that if the root cause were known, these problems could be eliminated or at least minimized. In their quest for a solution to these problems, many have asked themselves some or all of the following questions:

- Why is the Father's family not a single, unified, and structured organization?
- What is the root cause of the doctrinal chaos within the Father's family?
- Why is there a lack of powerful and dynamic spiritual leaders within his family?
- Why are the twenty-one plus spiritual gifts noted in the New Testament not being manifested in a major way within his family?
- What is the root cause of this pathetic condition that exist within the Father's family during this age?
- Is this root cause poor spiritual leadership, rebellious family members, some external force, world conditions during this age, or is it something entirely different?

If you have asked yourself some or all of these questions, read this entire study and you will find that the cause of doctrinal chaos and organizational disunity is something surprisingly basic that can be corrected with a small amount of effort from each member of the Father's family.

Believe it or not, the root cause for the pathetic condition that exists within the Father's family during this age is not from any outside source; it comes from a purely internal source. That source is each and every member of the Father's earthly family. Yes, you and I are the collective cause of this pathetic situation. Not only are we the cause but we are also the solution.

If the biblical concepts of discipleship and stewardship were clearly understood and diligently practiced during this age, doctrinal chaos and the lack of unity within the Father's family would be reduced to the point of being easily managed.

If you believe that the Sovereign Father's invitation to become a member of his earthly and heavenly family of king-priests is worthy of your total attention and commitment, and

that all other priorities, concerns, and endeavors are insignificant and unimportant when they are compared to the opportunity to be an immortal member of the Family of God, then understanding the significance of discipleship and stewardship is vitally important to you.

The reason it is vitally important to understand discipleship and stewardship is that these are the basic elements of the process that has been set in place during this age through which each person the Father calls to salvation can demonstrate their commitment and loyalty to him and his way of life.

The following study examines the process of discipleship and stewardship as practiced by the early church.

BEING A DISCIPLE

At the beginning of Christ's ministry, he chose twelve men to be his disciples and close companions to help him proclaim the coming Kingdom of God. He also chose seventy others and commissioned them to proclaim the same message. It is important to note that each of the men Jesus chose had the ability to learn what he had to teach them and to perform the task set before them. All that these men needed was to be taught what to proclaim, to be given the tools with which to carry out their task, and to be sent forth to fulfill their task. See Matt. 10:1-8; Lk. 10:1-24.

Christ did not choose a few thousand or a few hundred men, put them through years of preparation, pick the twelve who were the most qualified for more intense instruction, and then send the seventy lesser qualified out to prepare people for his arrival to proclaim his Father's good news message. He chose these eighty two men, because they had the ability to perform the task that they would be given to perform. The same is true of everyone whom the Father calls to salvation during this age. All that is necessary for one to succeed is to be taught what is expected of them and how to successfully perform what is expected; to be given the tools with which to carry out the task; and to be sent forth to fulfill the task. See Isa. 48:17; 2 Pet. 1:10; 1 Thes. 5:9.

The Commission

After his death and resurrection, Jesus met with his disciples and told them, *"I have been given all authority in heaven and earth. Therefore go and make disciples in all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the holy spirit, and then teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you; and be sure of this, that I am with you always, even to the end of the age"* (Matt. 28:18-20 TLB Para.).

Most people view the commission Jesus gave his disciples only as marching orders to proclaim the good news message in order to convert people throughout the world to the Sovereign Father's truth and way of truth in order for them to be saved from eternal death and have eternal life. However, is this the totality of what Christ meant or is there much more to the making of disciples?

Understanding The Commission

The commission given to the disciples and, by extension, to all whom the Sovereign Father calls to become a part of his earthly family of king-priests has the following two basic parts:

- The first part is to proclaim the Father's good news message to the world and to perform the rituals that facilitate the transformation of a person who believes this message into one of the Father's earthly children.
- The second part is to teach these individuals the truth and way of truth in order to help them grow in grace and in the knowledge of the Father and his son, live a righteous life, come to know the deep things of God, and enter the Father's kingdom as an immortal spirit-being.

Although both parts of Christ's commission to the elect are simple and direct, in the centuries since this commission was given, the elect have had great difficulty with the second part which deals with discipleship and stewardship within the Father's family.

What Is a Disciple?

Over time, the pragmatic meaning of the Greek word for disciple has taken on a completely different meaning in the minds of most who profess to follow the teachings of the Bible.

Although some modern word dictionaries get close to defining a disciple as a student, most only define a disciple as a follower of Christ or one who follows a teacher. Therefore, the interpretation of the Greek word for disciple and the true essence of a disciple of Christ is left to the interpretation of each individual.

The English word 'disciples' in Matthew 28:18-20 is translated from the Greek word 'matheteuo', which means intransitively 'to become a pupil' and transitively 'to make pupils', or 'to enroll as a scholar' (i.e., a student).

As a group, the Father's earthly children are identified 26 times in the Book of Acts by the Greek word 'matheteuo' (i.e., a pupil/student) and individually the elect are identified as 'mathetes' and 'mathetria', which mean respectively, a 'learner' and a 'female

pupil'.

A disciple is simply a person who is being educated in a certain discipline. For one who is a disciple of Christ, that discipline is the Father's truth and way of truth.

Discipleship is the process through which the Father's adopted children are taught his truth, his way of truth, the rules of conduct for the members of his family, and the philosophy behind these rules that make them holy, just, and good (Rom. 7:12). It is through one's voluntary proactive compliance to his truth, his way of truth, and his rules of conduct that one becomes a viable and beneficial member within his family of king-priests.

The English word 'teach' in Matthew 28:20 is translated from the Greek word 'didasko', which is a prolonged (causative) form of a primary verb 'dao' (to learn) or 'to teach' (in the same broad application). Didasko simply means to hold discourse with others in order to instruct them.

Because Jesus gave an instruction to enroll students from every nation to be taught the truth and way of truth, it seems logical that, if these students are to be taught, there would be an organizational system and a curriculum in place to facilitate their education. This is exactly what we see within the early church. We see an educational system in place; whereby, a newly enrolled student is taught and guided through the educational process by the holy spirit and by more spiritually mature individuals within a community of students, student scholars, and stewards of truth and the way of truth.

From the many references that identify the Father's earthly family and nation of king-priests as students who are being taught the Father's truth and way of truth, it is clearly important to understand what is to be taught and what a student's responsibilities are while being taught.

What does the average person know about being a responsible student of the Father's truth and way of truth before and after baptism? Sadly, in most cases not much. After baptism, few are taught what it actually means to be a responsible student or how to fulfill this aspect of one's spiritual development. Most are left to determine this for themselves, which sometimes leads many away from the path of righteousness and down a path that leads to spiritual destruction.

THE EARLY CHURCH

In order to gain a clear understanding of the importance of being a perpetual student of truth and a steward in the Father's family, it is necessary to know something about how and why the early church was modeled after the structure of ancient Israel. The following are some of the things the Bible tells us

about the organizational structure of national Israel, the Father's holy nation of earthly children, and the reasons for their existence:

Ancient Israel

- The organizational structure of national Israel in the wilderness and in the promised land was a theocracy.
- Ancient Israel was to be a nation of holy people who were to present themselves as an example of God's truth and way of truth to the nations of the world.
- The organizational structure of Israel fractured and eventually disappeared after God granted their request for a king to govern them.

The Early Church

- The organizational structure established by Christ for his Father's holy nation of king-priests on earth is a theocracy.
- The Father's children are a nation of holy people who are to present themselves as an example of his truth and way of truth and proclaim his good news message and his coming kingdom to the nations of the world.
- The organizational structure of the early church fractured and eventually disappeared when its members failed to continue in the "Faith Once Delivered" (Jude 1:3).

Within both of these organizational structures, there were teachers, students, and stewards of God's laws, precepts, and principles for the purpose of perpetuating the organizational structure and the perfecting of the knowledge, the understanding, and the practice of the truth and the way of truth among a holy people in order for them to carry out the purpose for their existence.

The Creator told the Israelites that he would teach them his statutes and judgments, so they could continue to live and to possess the land he would give them (See. Deut. 4:1-5). He instructed them to diligently teach his ways to their children throughout their generations (See Deut. 6:1-9). He taught them his civil law, his dietary law, and his law of worship, and he instructed them to observe his festivals in order to learn to have great respect for him (See Deut. 14:21-24). He forewarned any future king of Israel that he must write a copy of the law and review it throughout his life, so he would learn to have great respect for God (See Deut. 17:19).

The ancient Israelites were to be perpetual students of God's truth and the way of truth as noted in many texts that speak of

this learning process. In this respect, it is no different for the Father's holy nation of king-priests today. The Father's earthly children are also to be perpetual students and stewards of truth and the way of truth.

Although there are similarities between the educational process of the physical nation of ancient Israel and the Father's elect, which are a physical and a spiritual nation, there is a great difference between the educational goals set for ancient Israel and the Father's elect children. The Father's children are to learn both the letter and the spirit of his law, his plan for the salvation of humanity, and they are to proclaim his message to the world as a witness. Moreover, they are to learn what it means to be holy as he is holy and practice his truth and way of truth in order to become spiritually mature and enter his heavenly kingdom as immortal spirit-beings.

The entire educational process for the Father's family and nation of king-priests is to take place under the tutelage of their elder brother who is also their Savior, High Priest, and head of the Father's earthly family. Moreover, this educational process was established to function as a self-governing and self-perpetuating entity.

Feed My Sheep

In his account of the third time that Christ met with his disciples after his death and resurrection, John says that Christ asked Peter three times if he truly loved him and that, if he did, he should feed his sheep (Jn. 21:4-17). In this account, there are two Greek words translated into the English word 'feed'. The first Greek word translated into the English word 'feed' in this account is 'bosko', which means to pasture. By extension, it means 'to fodder', or 'to graze'. The second Greek word in this verse is 'poimaino', which means 'to tend as a shepherd'.

The meanings of the two Greek words 'bosko' and 'poimaino' help to make the meaning of Christ's allegorical instruction to Peter understandable. Peter was to shepherd those of the Father's family whom he had placed under Christ's stewardship. This shepherding not only included care and protection as a diligent, caring, and conscientious shepherd, but also the feeding of spiritual nourishment to the Father's children in order to facilitate their spiritual growth.

Christ's allegorical instruction for Peter to feed his sheep clearly shows the necessity for an educational system within the church to teach all elements of the Father's truth and way of truth to his earthly children.

Because the Father's holy family and nation of king-priests is a self-governing entity with an educational process that is to be self-perpetuating, all of its members must

participate in the process or there will be doctrinal chaos, a lack of unity, a nebulous concept of what the Father expects from each individual, and a general lack of spiritual power, which is exactly the condition that exists among the congregations and scattered members of the Father's earthly family during this age.

Organizational Structure

According to the apostle Paul, the following was the basic organizational structure of the early church: *"Now you are the body of Christ, and members in particular. And God has set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healing, helps, governments, diversities of languages. Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles? Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak other languages? do all interpret? But earnestly desire the best gifts. . ." (1 Cor. 12:27-31 KJV Para.).*

In Ephesians, chapter four, Paul gives us more insight into the structure of the early church and clearly explains the purpose and work of the church and the reason for its educational system: *"And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: 'That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplies, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, makes increase of the body to the edifying of itself in love'" (Eph. 4:11-16 KJV).*

Three of the primary reasons for this organizational structure are *"The perfecting of the saints, the work of the ministry, and the building of the body of Christ (i.e., the Father's earthly family)."* None of these things can be accomplished in a major way without the teaching, the learning, and the practicing of the Father's truth, his way of truth, and the rules of conduct for members of his family on an ongoing basis by students who clearly understand the goals of the educational process and the result of practicing what is learned.

The apostle Paul clearly revealed to the Corinthians and Ephesians that, besides the other functions and responsibilities within the

church, there were teachers of truth and the way of truth. Clearly, there would be no need for teachers if all members of the Father's family knew everything that there was to know about the Father, the Savior, and the truth and the way of truth.

The Early Church and Today

Shortly after the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we find a dynamic evangelizing church spreading The Father's truth throughout the world. However, as dynamic as this church was, it virtually disappeared from history after the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. From 70 to 120 A.D., there was very little recorded about the Father's true church. When historians began to write about the church again, they wrote of a dramatically different church from the one that embraced the teachings of Jesus Christ and the apostles. Today, we find churches that call themselves followers of Christ, yet the vast majority do not even faintly resemble the early church.

Why did the early church disappear? The simple truth is that those of the early church failed to continue to be diligent and responsible students and stewards of the Father's truth and way of truth. This failure of the students and stewards caused the failure of the educational system to be perpetuated within the early church, which has led to the continual fulfillment of the following prophecy:

The prophet Hosea was inspired to record, *"My people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge: because you have rejected knowledge, I will also reject you, that you shall not serve me as priest. Because you have forgotten your God's law, I will also forget your children"* (Hos. 4:6 Para.).

The scriptures clearly show that all who are a part of the Father's earthly family of king-priests are being groomed for positions of leadership within his heavenly family; therefore, it should come as no surprise that an educational system was set in place in the early church to educate the Father's children for their positions of rulership and service in his heavenly kingdom. See Matt. 5:3-5, 19:27-30; 1 Cor. 6:1-5; 2 Tim. 2:12; Rev. 2:26-29, 5:1-10.

Why is there no common formal educational system set in place within all the congregations of the Father's children to facilitate their education in his truth, his way of truth, and his rules of conduct for the members of his family? Could the reason be a lack of being taught individual and collective ownership of true discipleship and stewardship within the Father's family?

Why is it important to be educated in the Father's truth, his way of truth, and his rules of conduct, and the philosophy behind this truth and these rules? It is important because this knowledge and understanding will help

you understand how to fulfill your functions and responsibilities within the Father's family and in your spiritual walk. The following are things a disciple and a steward of the truth should know, understand, and do:

- Know the solutions to some of the spiritually life threatening situations that exist today.
- Improve your chances to participate in the first resurrection and enter the Kingdom of God.
- Become a more powerful and effective member of the Father's royal family and holy nation.
- Understand why doctrinal confusion and organizational disunity exists within the Father's royal family.
- Recognize your spiritual enemies and know how to deal with them through the Father's holy spirit.
- Know how to fulfill your responsibility to do a personal and a collective work for the Father and his Son.
- Have and act upon the knowledge and understanding that you absolutely guarantee that you escape God's wrath.

The apostle Paul also foretold a time when the Father's earthly children would reject his truth and way of truth: "*For the time will come when they [the elect] will not accept sound teaching... And they shall not pay attention to the truth, and shall turn it away, and shall be turned instead to fables*" (2 Tim. 4:3-4 Para.).

Many who fellowshiped in the congregations of the early church would not accept sound teaching. They sought out teachers who would teach things that were pleasing to them and things that did not require their obedience to the Father's laws, precepts, and principles. In order to deceive the gullible and the spiritually lazy, these teachers replaced truth with error and taught mysticism and other philosophies that appeal to human nature.

The answers to the perplexing questions concerning the demise and disappearance of the early church are only answered in part by the warnings of Jesus and the apostles. Additional answers are found hidden in the prophecy of Zechariah. Matthew, Mark, and John all record Jesus quoting Zechariah's prophecy, which foretold the scattering of Jesus' disciples after his death: "*All you shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd and the sheep shall be scattered abroad*" (Matt. 26:31 KJV). See also Mk. 14:27; Jn. 16:32.

This is an extremely important prophecy because the rest of the prophecy, which Jesus did not quote, allows us to understand why the apostolic church ceased to function and exist as a powerful entity: "*Awake, O*

sword, against my shepherd [Jesus], and against the man that is my fellow, says the Lord of hosts: smite the shepherd, and the sheep [the disciples] shall be scattered: and I will turn my hand upon [against] the little ones [the Father's elect children]" (Zech. 13:7 KJV).

The 'little ones' mentioned here are the Father's elect, which are noted in many scriptures as being 'little ones' (See Matt. 8:12, 18:3-10, 19:13-14; Mk. 9:42). Why would the Lord of hosts turn against the 'little ones'? And why did Jesus omit this portion of the prophecy?

The reason for the rejection of the 'little ones' is that they would reject the "Faith Once Delivered" and cease to be zealous students and stewards of truth. The reason that Jesus did not quote the rest of Zechariah's prophecy, is because it was a different prophecy, which would be fulfilled at a different time. Zechariah's prophecy begins its fulfillment during the apostolic church age and will continue until shortly before Christ's return.

Along with the demise and disappearance of the early church and its central governing structure, its educational system is also fractured and splintered into the haphazard system we see today. During the centuries that followed the early churches' demise, individuals and congregations were influenced by many counterfeits of the Father's truth and way of truth. Moreover, much of what is taught as truth today is false and was not taught or practiced by the early church.

One of the aspects and beliefs of the pseudo-Christianity that is pervasive within congregations of the Father's children is that disciples and stewards are people that have been baptized, received the holy spirit, financially support the church, and assemble with others of like mind, fellowship with them, and listen to sermons.

One individual aptly sums up the basic philosophy taught within many congregations of the Father's children during this age in the following four words: pray, pay, stay, and obey.

Although many see nothing wrong with this philosophy, it is not what Christ meant when he said, "*Go and enroll students in all the nations.*" The biblical definition of what it means to be a student of truth and a steward within the Sovereign Father's earthly family of king-priests is much more than what has been commonly taught for decades within the various congregations of the Father's elect.

The reason for a lack of the vital knowledge and understanding of the meaning of discipleship and stewardship is that the educational system of the early church has been replaced with that of false Christianity and its concept of discipleship

and stewardship. The only way for the true meaning of discipleship and stewardship to be reestablished within the Father's earthly family is to institute the biblically based educational and organizational system of the early church along with all of the laws that governed this system.

Read the entire article at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/a2006-036-01.htm>

****to be continued in Issue #37****

("The Book of Revelations..." continued from page 1)

the first of seven trumpets does not appear except in the seventh seal, the first woe is found in the fifth trumpet, the second woe is found in the sixth trumpet and the last or third woe is found in the last, seventh trumpet.

Seal: To summarize:

- 1) Rev. 6:2 is a symbol of many religions, mostly false.
- 2) Rev. 6:3-4 is a symbol of many conflicts and wars between nations.
- 3) Rev. 6:5-6 is a symbol of a worldly power controlling all food sources over the nations.
- 4) Rev. 6:7-8 one fourth of the world's population is exterminated by a world power, wars, famines, and wild animals.
- 5) Rev. 6:9-11 is the first of many groups of martyred by Satan's devices, and/or the great tribulation.
- 6) Rev. 6:12-17 are the upheavals of the heavens leading to the day of Yahweh's wrath described in Rev. 17.

These six seals are an outline of events leading up to the last and seventh seal which ushers in the day of Yahweh's wrath. We will later find inserts that fill in many details of what happens during these six seals, and later into the third woe within the seventh seal, during the great day of the Lord (his wrath).

Rev. 7:1-9 explains the sealing and naming of the twelve tribes of Israel, 12,000 to a tribe. In Rev. 7:9-17 John sees another group which "came out of great tribulation" and was cleansed by the blood of the Lamb.

In Rev. 8:1-6 we reach seal number seven where we find the introduction of the seven trumpets.

Rev. 8:7-13 explains events taking place at the beginning of and during the first four trumpets.

Rev. 9:1-11 introduces the first of the three woes. The first woe is found in the fifth trumpet.

Rev. 9:12-21 to Rev. 11:13. The second woe is a much longer woe. It is found in the

sixth trumpet.

Rev. 11:14 introduces the third woe, much longer still, which is in the seventh and last trumpet. This woe extends to the end of the last trumpet, which includes the seven plagues of Yahweh's wrath which are listed in Rev. 16:1-21 and climaxes in Rev. 19:11-21.

These scriptures take us through the seven seals, the overview outline of the events taking place in our age up to and through the wrath of Yahweh.

In order to follow this story flow the reader must read all the scriptures as given.

Next we go to the inserts that fill in many details of what is taking place in the world during this time span.

In the fifth seal (Rev. 6:9-11) we see a large number of Yahweh's servants and their brethren who had been killed, who were told they had to wait to be avenged until others, like themselves, would also be martyred.

In the sixth seal (Rev. 6:12-17) there's a great earthquake, the sun turns black and the moon turns red. The stars of heaven fall to the earth in great amounts. The heavens roll back and every mountain and island moves. Kings of the earth and great men hide in dens and caves wanting to die from fear. During this same seal (6th)--(Rev. 7) the tribes of Israel are sealed and a great multitude is saved during the great tribulation, which shows us there is great tribulation and martyrdom in the fifth and sixth seals.

During the seventh and last seal (Rev. 8) horrible and terrifying calamities attack one third of the earth and the elements of the heavens.

In this same seal (Rev. 9) men are tormented with something like poisonous insects, but could it be germ warfare, atomic bombs, etc.? A world war breaks out with two hundred million soldiers fighting, killing one third of mankind.

In the same seal (Rev. 10) John hears things in heaven he is not allowed to write about. He is told soon time (this age) will be no longer. And he would prophesy again before many nations.

In this same 7th seal (Rev. 11) the court of the temple of Yahweh will be overrun by Gentiles for the three and a half years that the two witnesses preach to the world. They are killed and resurrected to life. A great earthquake follows, causing one tenth of the city to fall and seven thousand people die as a result.

In Rev. 12 we have an insert, a thumbnail history of the nation of Israel and Yeshua's life and death. We see Satan, the accuser of the saints, cast to the earth, and his persecution of Israel and to those who keep the commandments of Yahweh, who have the testimony of Christ.

In Rev. 13:1-9 we find another insert

describing Satan's world-ruling political power, referred to as "the Beast" who is given power over the whole world to murder the saints and any who will not worship as he decrees.

Then the Beast's cohort, Satan's religious system, (Rev. 13:11-18) lead by a "man of sin" begins to perform magical feats, by the power of Satan, that deceives people into thinking he is Yahweh. He then forces, as many as are fooled, into taking the mark of the Beast. Those who refuse to be seduced will be executed.

John, in vision sees (Rev. 14:1-5) another group, 144,000 spiritual virgins, who were "redeemed" from among men, "being the first fruits unto Yahweh and to the Lamb". Then John sees three angels (messengers?) preaching a warning message to every nation on earth NOT to take the mark of the Beast. All the while the angels are predicting the fall of Babylon (false religion) and proclaiming any who take the mark will find themselves in the middle of the wrath of Yahweh (the seven last plagues). This all is taking place BEFORE the seven last plagues of Yahweh's wrath, but within the last trumpet.

An appeal and encouragement is given to the saints to be patient and they are promised that their deaths will be a great blessing (Rev. 14:12-14).

The two harvests of the earth (Rev. 14:14-20) are symbolic of the martyred saints in the first harvest and the wicked in the second harvest. Christ will claim the first for his own, and the other group will be cast into the winepress of the wrath of Yahweh (the seven last plagues) of which chapter fifteen introduces.

We now enter into the very last stages of the end of this age. Christ has claimed his own, those who are martyred by the wicked, and in Rev. 16: he unleashes his seven stages of wrath upon the rest of wicked mankind. In verse 16 is the only mention of the "battle of Armageddon" that so many speculate about, fearing that it is right around the corner, when it actually does not occur until the very end of this age, the last of the seven plagues of Yahweh's wrath. This battle is followed with the greatest earthquake that has ever happened with a storm, with a conservative estimate of sixty-five pound hailstones pounding the earth.

Rev. 17:1-11 is another descriptive insert of the union of the two super powers of the world, and how they are in confederation, ruling and deceiving the world. (Rev. 17:12-18 explains about ten existing countries who have not supported the Beast power, whom Yahweh uses to destroy Satan's religious system. They hate this religious power, and join the Beast (for military strength?) so they can proceed to totally destroy the powerfully

wealthy religious city.

In Rev. 18 we see how the destruction of this powerful commercial city affects the nations that have become wealthy trading and doing business with her. Verse 23-24 shows how she became wealthy.

Rev. 19 describes how the armies of the Beast and the ten nations go against the Word of Yahweh (Yeshua) in hopes of defeating him. But he comes as a warrior, followed by a great angelic army, crying out to the fowls of the air, "come, gather together unto the supper of the great Yahweh, eat the flesh of all men!" The Beast, the False Prophet, and those who worshipped and received the mark of the Beast were defeated and cast into the lake of fire, burning with brimstone. The rest were slain and their flesh fed to the fowls of the air.

This is the sad ending of our age which ends with chapter 19. But we read in Rev. 20:4 and 6, "And I saw thrones and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them, and I saw souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Yeshua, and for the word of God which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark, and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years, Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection; on such the second death has no power but they shall be priests of Yahweh and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

Article found on line at:
<http://darwinlauralee.com/a2006-036-02.htm>

THE END**

("Why Love the..." continued from page 1)

coat the fact that someone has now died? No matter how you tell a person that someone close to them has died the outcome will always be that a person has died. Telling a person that a loved one has died no matter how we tell them will never be good news. And the reality of death is that it hurts someone who is yet alive. Even if someone withholds from us for a period of time, the news that a loved one has died does that stop the fact that someone we loved died? Sooner or later all truth comes out so why do we want to hear fables?

People do not want to hear truth because people like sin. If people were to hear truth when it is presented to them they might become converted and have to give up their sin. Matthew 13:15: For this people's heart (seat of the intelligence) is waxed gross (stupid), and their ears are dull of hearing (They are deaf.), and their eyes they have

closed (They are blind); lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand (have the knowledge of those things which pertain to salvation) with their heart (seat of the intelligence), and should be converted (love and obedience of God), and I should heal (to free from errors and sins, to bring about a person's salvation) them.

Because people want to lie and be lied to they bring on their own deafness and blindness. A lie is not called a deception for nothing. When one only wants to hear good things or fables (fictions), their whole world eventually departs from reality and they are soon entrenched in fables so deep it is like quick sand. A person who's life is based on lies (fiction, fables) is not nor can it be based in truth or reality. God's whole world is based on truth and reality, so do we yet see the problem of living a life of fiction (lies, fables)?

When our love is for sin and we do not love the truth we are told in 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12: And with all deceivableness (deceit, deceitfulness) of unrighteousness (a deed violating law and justice, act of unrighteousness) in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth (of a truth, in reality, in fact, certainly), that they might be saved (to deliver from the penalties of the judgment). And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion (error which shows itself in action, a wrong mode of acting), that they should believe a lie (of perverse, deceitful precepts): That they all might be damned (pass judgment on the deeds and words of others) who believed not the truth (of a truth, in reality, in fact, certainly), but had pleasure in unrighteousness (a deed violating law and justice, act of unrighteousness).

So when we want to hear fables (fictions, lies), God gives us over to strong delusion that we should believe a lie.

Article found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/a2006-036-03.htm>

THE END**

**("Women CAN be Pastors..."
continued from page 1)**

importance deserves deep study. Such deep study must involve:

- Studying the **context**--what is revealed in the surrounding verses and entire letter.
- Researching the **conditions and problems** of those receiving the letter.
- The scripture must be **balanced against other scriptures** in the Bible.
- Finally, we must **be very sure that it**

has been translated correctly.

One could prove that Easter is to be celebrated rather than Passover using the King James translation of Acts 12:4, "And when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison, ... intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people." We can prove that the passage was mistranslated by using software such as P.C. Study Bible to look at the Greek word "*Pascha*." Then we quickly check the definition with the same software and discover that it means Passover. The King James translators knew better, but falsified the translation to reinforce their own celebration of Easter.

In the first portion of 1 Tim 2:12 about teaching, Paul uses the Greek verb form that indicates present action (the present active indicative for "allow"), not a command verb form, for the present he is not allowing these women of Ephesus to teach. *Beyond the Curse*, Aida Besancon Spencer, pg. 84-85.

We learn in Titus 2:3 that Paul was not against all women teaching. Paul instructs the elder women to be "teachers of the right" which is the meaning of the original Greek phrase "*kalodidaskalos*". He suggests they start teaching younger women but Paul does not limit the elder women to teaching only women.

The Mystery Word: *Authentein*

In the second part of 1 Timothy 2:12, the entire phrase "to usurp authority over the" is translated from only one word, *authentein*. The "*ein*" ending tells us that it is the "to" form of the verb *authenteo* (ow-then-teh'-o), Strong's 831. This word appears only once in the entire New Testament! There is a lot of controversy over what it meant at the time of Paul. Because the word is not used in any other scripture, we cannot check other scriptures to help us understand this word. Paul uses a word for "authority" in this same chapter, but it is a different word! In 1 Tim 2:2 he writes, "For kings, and for all that are in authority;" Paul selects the word *huperoche*, Strong's 5247. In 2 Cor 10:8, and in many other places, Paul uses a common word for authority, *exousia*. He doesn't use our rare mystery word when talking about authority.

***Authentein* in the Time of Paul**

What did *authentein* mean in the time of Paul? Early scholars record that it was actually a coarse sexual word! Charles Trombley writes, "Paul's teaching regarding women *must* be studied within the apostolic period. It was long *after* Paul wrote his epistle to Timothy that *authentein* came to mean 'to exercise authority,' 'to bear rule over,' or 'to domineer.' John Chrysostom (347-407) was one of the dominant Greek Church Fathers and patriarch of Constantinople. In his commentary on 1 Timothy 5:6 he used

authenia to express 'sexual license,' (author's note: sexual immorality) nearly two centuries after Paul wrote Timothy. *Authentein* had not yet taken on the meaning 'to usurp authority.'"

Quoting an even earlier writer, Clement of Alexandria (d. 215), Mr. Trombley tells us of love feasts turned into sexual orgies and teachers that taught women to "give to every man that asketh of thee." Here folks, he isn't talking about women giving guys bridge lessons! Clement calls a group of women practicing such loose sexual behavior *authentia*, the SAME WORD Paul used, except Paul used the "to" verb form. The women were not "to *authentein*" men into this so-called "knowledge" from Eve. Moeris, also in the second century, advises his students to use another word instead of *authentein* as the word was too coarse! (From Charles Trombley, *Who Said Women Can't Teach*, 1985, pp 175-177.) One part of the perverted beliefs of the Mystery Religions or Gnostics were rites to empower through sexual union, and thus impart knowledge or "gnosis" from Eve during the sex act. *Authentein* was later defined as "primal power", then "to murder a family member," and finally "to dominate" which is a definition quoted today.

False Teachers

We learn from scripture itself that Timothy was left behind in the Asian city of Ephesus to combat false teachers teaching doctrines involving fables and long genealogies, 1 Tim 1:3-7. In verse 10 he specifically mentions whoremongers or fornicators in the NKJ. He warns Timothy against such blaspheming teachers as Hymenaeus (a woman's name) and Alexander, and urges him to keep a "good conscience" himself, 1 Tim 18-20.

The Safe Goddess, Artemis

Timothy's congregation was in Ephesus, the stronghold of the goddess Artemis or Diana, Acts 19: 23-41. Her temple in Ephesus was the world headquarters of the fertility and childbirth goddess and was one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. The worship of Artemis/Diana included ritual sex, consisting of a "divine" union with "bee" female representatives of Artemis who were said to "empower" and give "hidden knowledge" during sexual intercourse. The one doing this "empowering" from the goddess became linked with the word "*authentia*"--a noun--and these actions or indoctrination into these beliefs were "*authentein*" --the "to" verb form. In addition to these abundant sexual pleasures for males, female worshipers were promised that the goddess--whose name meant SAFE--would keep them safe during the dangerous

process of childbirth.

Amazon Women

Another common belief of the people of Ephesus was that they were descended from a fierce tribe of warrior women known as Amazons, who believed themselves wiser and superior to men. These Amazons were said to have founded Ephesus, *New Unger's Bible Dictionary*, Artemis article. This may account for the "fables and endless genealogies" mentioned in 1 Tim 1:4 that were causing disputes. Genealogies linked them to these fabled Amazon ancestors, and the notion of female superiority over men would certainly complicate the conditions Timothy faced in Ephesus. Their Gnostic teachings held that Eve was created first, and had received special secret "knowledge" after eating the forbidden fruit. Priestesses passed this "hidden knowledge" from Eve on to men during ritual sex! (Trombley, p 178.) Bear in mind that the Bible phrase used to indicate sex was "to know". So both the Gnostics and the adherents of Artemis had figured a way to tie "true enlightenment" into sex. No wonder Paul stopped this teaching! Any true minister would halt a woman from laying down such "enlightened" teaching!

Eve was NOT created first!

Paul states in verse 13 that Adam was formed first, then Eve. Again he counters Gnostic doctrine. He goes on that Adam was not deceived but the woman was, an argument fighting a twisted pagan tale that God created Eve first, and then deceived Adam into thinking he was created first. Again Paul was arguing against "hidden knowledge" from Eve, a concept tied to ritual temple prostitution! This woman is to no longer teach nor *authentain* (to empower through sex) a man, but to be peaceful and learn quietly. They were teaching concepts of Artemis that became part of the Mystery Religions and Gnosticism.

"Safe" in Childbirth

The final proof that Paul is dealing with women involved with Artemis comes in verse 15. "Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing" is from the Greek phrase, **"sootheesetai de dia tees teknogonias."** The first two words become literally "but she will be SAFE," as the word *sootheesetai* is a contraction for an obsolete word meaning "safe". Remember that Artemis meant SAFE in their own language!

Dia can be translated as "through" as in John 17:20 and Acts 1:2, or it can be translated as "throughout" as John 19:23. *Tees* is the feminine form of "the" and the last word of this Greek phrase means "childbearing" so "the childbearing" would refer to the entire process of giving birth. The

phrase translates: "But she will be safe throughout the childbearing" or as the Phillips Bible translates this phrase, "Women will come safely through childbirth." Paul was telling this woman of Ephesus that she didn't need the goddess Artemis to protect her during childbirth, "if they (both husband and wife) continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety." Remember that the death rate during childbirth was much higher than today. It was very reassuring to a woman to hear from Paul that she would be kept safe during childbirth if she stayed in faith, love and holiness. Even **Paul's use of the word "SAFE" was a play on words** advocating relying on God's Power rather than relying on the "SAFE" goddess!

Some, not understanding the background of the Ephesus church, get really mixed up in this verse thinking Paul is talking about spiritual salvation. Paul knew that salvation can only come through Jesus Christ. Others think this refers to the birth of Jesus giving salvation, but salvation came through the death of Jesus, not his birth. Also Jesus is not mentioned or implied in this phrase. The only clear, easy to understand meaning is that Paul was countering the doctrines of childbirth goddess Artemis.

Priscilla or Prisca

Paul was not discouraging the teaching of dedicated women such as Priscilla whom he repeatedly praises and lists before her husband Aquila, contrary to established custom. In all four scriptures that recognize them as leaders--Acts 18:18, Acts 18:26, Romans 16:3-5, and 2 Tim 4:19, Priscilla's name is listed before her husband's name! She was the primary minister! The KJV reverses the order of the names when Priscilla teaches Apollos in Acts 18:26, and puts Aquila's name first, contrary to the Greek text. Paul complements her bravery in Romans 16: 3-5 and mentions a church meeting in their house in Rome.

Spiritual Gifts

In Chapter 12 of 1 Cor. Paul writes in verse 7, "Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good." The KJV translates "to every man", but the word is *hekastos*, meaning each and every person. The word "man" is not in the Greek. Later in the same chapter he is still talking about God appointing leaders and appointing every role in the Church through the gifting of His Holy Spirit. "Now you are the body of Christ, and **each one of you is a part of it.** And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, **second** prophets, **third** teachers,..." 1 Cor 12:27-28. The Bible does NOT say that these top three roles must be males. Notice that in responsibility before God apostles are listed first, and prophets

are listed second. Therefore, one who is an apostle and one who is a prophet would both have a higher gifting, a greater responsibility before God, than one who is a "teacher" as teachers are third in Paul's list of responsibility before God. In this passage "teachers" must include the teaching ministry done by pastors, as there is no listing of pastors and ministers in this verse other than calling them "teachers". Paul does not say, "These are the male gifts, and these are the female gifts."

A Gift She Cannot Use?

Why would God give a woman a Spiritual Gift of teaching and then forbid her to use it in His service? It makes no sense! If God has gifted a woman for a teaching ministry, APPOINTED her—then men are wrong to try and restrict and confine that woman. Such a woman is called of God to do exactly what she is doing—teaching both men and women the truth of God! Jesus tells us that such a one will be called GREAT when it is time for rewards to be passed out, "...WHOSOEVER practices and TEACHES these commandments will be called great in the kingdom of heaven." Matt 5:19 Can we really forbid a woman to use the spiritual gifts given to her by God just because she is a female? Can we force her to disobey God?

Deborah

But let's go to an actual example in the Bible, the prophet Deborah—given the second highest spiritual gift. Some conclude that prophets and prophetesses did not have a headship role. To come to such a conclusion one must completely skip the entire account of Deborah in Judges 4 and 5. Deborah was both judge and leading prophet of Israel, just as Samuel was both judge and prophet before Israel demanded a king. Deborah functioned as a President and Supreme Court Justice do today, and her decisions were binding, Deut 17:10. She was the top national leader just as our President is today. When she summoned Barak, whose name meant Lightning Bolt, he came immediately from about eighty miles away. Had he been the "head" of the country she would have gone to him. She delivered the commands of God to him, quoting exactly the detailed orders she received from God. Barak was to go to Mount Tabor with ten thousand troops, and God would draw the enemy general Sisera to him and defeat him. Barak knew that the enemy had 900 iron chariots and Israel had only donkeys to ride upon and "not a shield or spear was seen among forty thousand in Israel." Judges 5:8.

Even though he was a seasoned military commander and a lightning bolt of a man, he refused to go unless Deborah went with him! Probably due to his lack of faith, Deborah

foretold that a woman would receive credit for Sisera's downfall, not Barak.

Many Mighty Men

Some argue that Deborah was only allowed to lead Israel because all the men of her time were weak. Yet in the battle that followed she went with the brave troops of Israel which included "the princes of Issachar" Judges 5:15, and "governors of Israel" Judges 5:9. All these strong male leaders followed the commands of Deborah that she received from God. She was their human leader, their "head". In Judges 5:7 she humbly calls herself a "mother in Israel" but adds in verse 13, "The Lord made me have dominion over the mighty." Deborah saw that God's commands were carried out, and God gave her, a married woman, "**dominion over the mighty**". God gave Deborah her prophetic gift. God chose not to give her prophetic gift, leadership ability or ability to make righteous judgments to her husband. God selected Deborah over all the men of Israel and gave Israel peace for 40 years after this battle. There is nothing negative about Deborah in scripture. The entire theory of male "headship" preventing a woman from being a Christian minister or leader is proven wrong by Deborah! God does not change! "For I am the LORD, I change not;" Mal. 3:6. God gave Deborah her leadership position of authority over Israel.

Apostle and prophet are both roles of higher responsibility before God than "teacher" or minister according to the listing of Paul in 1 Cor 12-27-28, yet both roles have been given to women.

Junia

Just as mind blowing as the story of Deborah's leadership is the incredible message of praise Paul writes to Junia at Rome. Junia was a common woman's name meaning "youthful" and there have been over 300 findings of the name in the city of Rome alone--all females. The earliest manuscripts cite Junia, not Junias. In the middle ages about 1298, a Catholic bishop first writes the pseudo name "Junias" and refers to Junia as a male although earlier writers had all referred to her as a woman. Not a single example of a male named Junias has ever been found in Rome; it did not exist as a name in Paul's day! The name was changed in manuscripts during the era of the evil Boniface VIII in order to hide Junia's gender.

"Greet Andronicus and **Junias (Junia)** my relatives who have been in prison with me. **They are outstanding among the apostles**, and they were in Christ before I was." **Romans 16:7**. The NIV, NAS and NASU all use "outstanding", but the KJV uses "of note" - a purposely unclear translation of "*episeemoi*" - as the meaning is "famous or infamous". They were notable

apostles, outstanding apostles, prominent apostles, famous apostles.

The same Greek word is used in Matt 27:16, and this time the KJV translates it correctly, "And they had then a NOTABLE prisoner, called Barabbas." Would those who deny that Junia was an apostle also say that Barabbas, the man released instead of Jesus, was not a prisoner but only noted by the other prisoners? The word means famous or infamous.

Paul knew Andronicus and Junia well after being in prison with them. A woman doesn't get thrown into prison for being on the sidelines. Junia was a later apostle just as Paul was --the word of God says so! Both Andronicus and Junia were Christians before Paul was, and he claimed them as relatives or fellow-countrymen. Paul never relied on anyone else's opinion. He wrote a flat statement praising them as prominent apostles just as Paul himself was an apostle. There is a five-page, footnoted research paper documenting Junia with historical references at:

[http://darwinlauralee.com/a2002-007-](http://darwinlauralee.com/a2002-007-01.htm)

01.htm If you aren't online, write to The Church of God, Dallas-Fort Worth, P. O. Box 152544, Arlington, Texas, 76015. Read all the research about Junia before you decide Paul was passing on someone else's opinion that they were just nice folks.

Keep Those Women Silent!

Paul had a run in with would be prophetesses who weren't speaking by the Holy Spirit. We start in 1 Cor 12:1-3 where we find "one" not speaking by the Holy Spirit has cursed Jesus! The KJV mixes us up by putting "man" into this verse but it isn't in the Greek. Later in 1 Cor 14:28-32 we find Paul's admonition for prophets to keep control of their spirits, unlike the frenzied pagan assemblies of that day. Paul had every right to rule that those women keep silent among the **ekklesia** or called out believers, both male and female. Cursing ones, learn at home from your believing husbands, it's disgraceful for you to speak among the **ekklesia!** God is not a God of disorder but of peace, as in all our congregations. Paul closes his letter cursing ones who curse Jesus! 1 Cor 16:22.

Prophets and Priests

Some contend that the high priest was the top spiritual leader of Israel. Again lets go to scripture to see whether a priest was considered more important than a true prophet. When King Josiah wanted to find out the words of God he sent the high priest Hilkiyah to Huldah, a woman prophet. Huldah was not summoned to come to the high priest--it was the other way around, 2 Kings 22:8-20. Samuel, a prophet, had a higher

position than King Saul. When Saul offered the sacrifice --which was Samuel's job-- without waiting for Samuel, God decided that He would replace Saul with a new king, 1 Samuel 13:7-14. Both Elijah and Elisha were prophets. Were they less important than priests?

Woman as a Helper

Another flawed teaching is that God meant for women to be subservient to men because God referred to Eve as a "helper" in Gen 2:18 "And the LORD God said, 'It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.'" NKJ. We find that God Himself is referred to as a "helper" in the Bible. In Heb 13:6, "So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me." Is the helper subordinate to the one being helped here? Is God, the helper, inferior? The exact wording of "helper comparable to him" is the Hebrew phrase "*ezer knegdow*", which is best understood as a "helper corresponding to him" or "counterpart". Commenting on this phrase, *The Expository Dictionary of Bible Words* says: "In Eve, God provided a 'suitable helper'. Eve was suitable because she shared with Adam the image and likeness of God -- the image that permits human beings to relate on every dimension of personality (emotional, intellectual, spiritual, physical, etc.) Only another being who, like Adam, was in the image of God would be suitable."

The same base word "*ezer*" is used to refer to God as man's helper in Exod 18:4; Deut 33:7, 26, 29; Psalms 20:2, 33:20, 70:5, 115:9-11, 121:1, 146:5. Nowhere are all women subject to all men! Perhaps we need to stop worrying about who has the most authority and work together helping God with the work He has for us!

Ministers as Servants

Old Testament priests were male. This was because they represented Jesus Christ and thus portrayed a male image. A priest could not serve unless he was physically perfect and of the tribe of Levi. A priest could only marry a virgin, not a widow or a divorced woman. Paul complained of a physical defect, and therefore was not physically perfect. He was of the tribe of Benjamin, not Levi, and thus did not meet the qualifications for a priest. Today's ministers do not meet these qualifications. Now Jesus Christ has come in the flesh so the ministry does not directly represent Jesus but are SERVANTS of a living Jesus. The ministry today is NOT a continuation of the Levitical priesthood. Jesus is our high priest and has become the Savior from sin symbolized by the priests and sacrifices. We are no longer under a temple system, and we don't worship in the Temple

in Jerusalem but "in spirit and truth" as Jesus foretold in John 4:21-24. The ministry today is based on the concept of servanthood, not priesthood. In his last night on earth Jesus told us that he came "to serve" and not to be served, Luke 22:27.

Ministers have got to stop thinking like members of a select elite core—as the Levitical priests did—and think about themselves as servants of God's people. When some use terms like "absolute leadership" and "a God-given right belonging to men" when referring to the ministry of Jesus Christ it makes me cringe! When will we learn? May God help us! Jesus said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles LORD it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. It is not so among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your **servant**," Matt 20:25-26, NAS. The King James translated **servant** as minister in this verse but the word servant, *diakonos*, became a code word for minister after Jesus made this statement.

The King James translated all leaders given the designation of "servant" as "minister" with the exception of Phoebe in Romans 16:1. She also was a *diakonos*, servant-minister. Ministers are to serve God's people in a humble servant attitude-- both God's male servants and his female servants!

Article found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/a2006-036-04.htm>

THE END**

**("BibleStudy.org's Q&A..."
continued from page 24)**

for all of 2005. Year-to-date the site has helped **1,447,674** visitors from more than **150** countries understand the precious truths of God's word. In 2006 it is projected more than **2.1 million** visitors will benefit from the site's large library of excellent study materials.

Since its 1995 inception the popularity of **BibleStudy.org's** materials has grown **two thousand nine hundred percent** (2,900%), making it one of the busiest, fast growing Christian sites on the Internet.

Alan Ruth / Internet-Computer Consultant
Email: webmaster@biblestudy.org
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Webmaster of:
The Bible Study Web Site -
<http://BibleStudy.org>
The Journal: News of the Churches of God -
<http://www.thejournal.org>

Item found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/i2006-036-08.htm>

THE END**

**LETTERS --
CONTINUED
FROM
PAGE 2**

worship (See Deu. 12:5, 11) would shortly come to an end for those who believe. (Rom. 10:4) And the true worshipers would worship in Spirit and truth (that is, with the heart), and not by works of the law at the Temple in Jerusalem.

Laura Lee (North Dakota) writes:

The sacrificial laws were a separate set of laws which were done away when the temple was destroyed in 70 AD. In Ezekiel it appears that the sacrificial laws will once again be reinstated when the new temple is built. These sacrificial laws are separate from the other laws which derive from the ten commandment law. The law of God has not been done away, it is now being written on the hearts of God's people through the indwelling of God's Holy Spirit.

Ronald Barlow (Texas) writes:

The Temple of stone has been destroyed and salvation has come to those who believe, without the benefit of the law. There is no longer a sacrifice for sins. Jesus said...

"If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin [being in Moses] but now they have no cloak for their sins. (Jn. 15:22, KJV) (see also Hebrews 10:26-27)

Laura Lee (North Dakota) writes:

In John 15:22 and Hebrews 10:26-27 it is talking about once a person knows what sin is because of the law of God and they sin willfully (because they want to), then they are in danger of eternal death. 1 John 3:4 "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for **sin is the transgression of the law.**" If there is no law then I would suppose that you believe there is no sin either and that would mean that you can do whatever you want even if it hurts other people. Christ died for all people once, but if you continue down the path of sin knowing full well that what you are doing is against God then there is no more sacrifice for your sin, you will be eternally dead.

Ronald Barlow (Texas) writes:

Without a Temple in Jerusalem, we don't have to follow the ritual purity laws of Moses for Temple worship, because we are clean in

Christ Jesus. But religious Jews say we must follow the Torah of Moses in addition to our faith. Why? Because they tell us, it was the Mishnah (oral law) which Christ Jesus nailed to the cross (Col. 2:14) being the middle wall of separation (Eph. 2:14-15) and not the Torah. But isn't it true, that it was Moses' law on ritual purity (Lev. Ch. 11-17, et al) that the Mishnah fenced? However, the Mishnah (oral law) was not a "handwritten requirement" until the 3rd Century A. D. Thereby excluding it from consideration as the "handwritten requirement" mentioned in Colossians 2:14-17. The "handwritten requirements" was the law of Moses that was taken out of the way having been nailed to the cross, being a mere shadow of the things which have their substance in Jesus the Messiah. This also agrees with Heb. 10:1, that the Torah is a shadow which points us to Jesus; it was a tutor bringing us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are no longer under the tutor (Torah). (Gal. 3:24-25) But who will believe the report of God.

Laura Lee (North Dakota) writes:

The oral law of God has been written down in a book called the Bible and we all need to keep God's law. What was nailed to the cross was our eternal death penalty for those who repent of their sins. The entire point of Jesus being crucified was to make it possible for those who repent of their sins to have eternal life and the only way that we know what sin is, is by the law of God. It is an automatic that when we stop sinning we are doing the works of God's law. God gets total credit for that miracle as it would not be possible for us to keep God's law without the indwelling of the Holy Spirit of God in us.

The Bible is really clear on what **bad works** are and that if you continue to do **bad works** you will not have eternal life: Galatians 5:19-21 "Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like; of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that **they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.**"

Those who are doing the law of God will display **good fruits (works)**: Galatians 22-23 "But the **fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance; **against such there is no law.**"

Again, the law of God tells us what is sin, without the law of God we would not know.

Ronald Barlow (Texas) writes:

So who should we follow, "Pharisees who believe", who are zealous after the law of Moses, or Jesus Christ who fulfilled the law and the Prophets, and gave us the promise of the Father, which is the Spirit in us, the hope of glory? I have no hope in the works of the law of Moses. For by the deeds of the law no flesh shall be justified in the sight of God (Romans 3:20) This verse from Romans is very clear and unequivocal. Those who seek the promises by their good works will have much disappointment, for the just shall live by faith in the works of God, and enter in through faith in James our Redeemer.

I doubt that you will print this, but I am confident of one thing, that He who begins a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ. And I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense until Christ's return, being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God. (Phil. 1:6, 8-11)

With love in Christ Jesus
Ron Barlow

Laura Lee (North Dakota) writes:

Yes, Romans 3:20 is pretty clear, but I feel you are very confused in your understanding of this verse. Romans 3:20 says, "Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin." You can do all the good deeds you want, but it won't earn you salvation. The law of God tells us what sin is. So if we are keeping the law of God we will be sinning less and less. If we don't stop sinning we will not receive eternal life by grace. Faith is knowing that you would be dead eternally if Christ had not died to make eternal life possible for all people. Christ did not die so you could spit in his face by continuing in your sin which can only be known to you if you know and keep the law of God as given to Moses.

Letter found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/l2006-033-02.htm>

THE END**

Needs (02-05-06)

**by G. John
(India)**

G. John writes:

My Beloved Brother Darwin & Laura Lee
I cordially extend my sincere greetings

and blessings to you in the hallowed name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Brother, due to God's grace and through your daily prayers, we safe and being witnessing unto our Lord at this perilous of days. How are you brother? How are your dear family and congregation? I hope and pray that you all being well and prosper in His vine-yard too and please kindly convey our Hearty Greetings to your dear family. We too daily praying for you all and we cordially invite you to visit us.

Darwin & Laura write:

Thank you for your kind greetings, we are fine. Though we appreciate the invitation to visit you, we do not have the money for a trip to India.

G. John writes:

Sir, I am glad to inform that we had wonderful sweet time fellowship with our congregation during Passover. Two are received immersion Baptism and added to the body of Christ. Please do pray for the new people, let them grow in the true knowledge of God. Knowing God, doing His will come through deep study of the scripture the Bible. Kindly provide some Telugu Bibles for our congregation, and to other people to read and know true God true Sabbath, especially we need to distribute urgently to the flood victims in our areas.

Sir, I am serving for the Lord by faith with daily poor congregation offerings, they are daily coolies. So we are getting very less offerings on Sabbath Day often insufficient food. Therefore, we are unable to meet our congregation and family needs too. However Sir, I am Diabetic Patient, and unable to buy my regularly medicines. Please pray for me, and have mercy on me at least to buy some medicines.

Sir, I am prayerfully looking forward to hear from you soon and convey our hearty greetings to your dear family and congregation. Thanking you Sir. Your Co-Brother in Christ

Darwin & Laura write:

To send Bibles to or to contact G. John for fellowship:

G. John
Rajupalem, Via G. Mamidada,
E., G., Dt., AP
533 344
India

Letter found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/l2006-036-01.htm>

THE END**

Mailing Information (5-30-06)

**by Sandy Kile
(Palisade, Minnesota)**

Sandy Kile writes:

Dear Laura,

Hi, it's Sandy. Yes, I do like the new name and look of the new and improved newsletter. Congratulations on it! And thank you for your hard work. Yes, I do like the new name and look of it, too.

So good you are publishing **PF Lazor's story** in your newsletter. I am writing to update his address, I did not know if it should be in a prayer request or what, thus this email. The prison system has moved him again, which makes about 31 moves if I understand him correctly. He sent his new address, along with instructions that the entire address must be on the envelope, including his cell number which is C8-121. Without that, the prison mailroom people will return it to sender. He included that if anyone has had mail returned, please check if they have all the address. If not, make the correction, and try sending it again! Earlier, he said they will return his mail if you use pre-printed address labels. I have, however, used an address ink stamp for the return address with no consequences, but who knows if that is their next target.

Laura Lee writes:

Thank you for sending PF Lazors new address to us. A change of address should not be sent via the Prayer Request list, it should be sent to: darwin-laura@earthlink.net or there is also an **email form** on our Web Site that you can use for a change of address.

When sending out Prayer Requests & Updates to the list, you should only include addresses of others if you have their permission to do so. Even then a PO Box address or a Public address such as a church, etc., would be better than a street address, but always get the sick or hurting persons permission before sending their address to places unknown. Remember we post Prayer Requests & Updates on our Web Site for 1 year.

Letter found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/l2006-036-02.htm>

THE END**

LETTERS CONTINUE ..

Six Day Creation (2-22-06)

**by Rose Mary Knudson
(Bismarck, North Dakota)**

Rose Mary Knudson writes:

Hi! Re: Creation in Genesis and the six day creation week: the Hebrew words tohu and bohu are they not proof God re-created the earth for man after Satan had ruined it with his dinosaurs, etc. and judgment by water and not by fire in a lake?

Laura Lee writes:

The Bible clearly tells us of a six day creation: Exodus 20:11 **For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is**, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it. Exodus 31:17 It is a sign between me and the children of Israel for ever: **for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth**, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed.

To my knowledge there are no scriptures in the Bible which speak of a re-creation or re-decoration of the earth. If you have scriptures which prove such a theory please send them. The Hebrew words tohu and bohu simply mean unformed and unfilled as anything you make or create would be to start with. So the answer to your question is that "No" the Hebrew words tohu and bohu do not prove a re-creation or a re-decoration.

The dinosaurs were created by God and belonged to God. Strong's #8577 "**Tanniyn**" was translated in various Bible versions as: sea monsters, sea animals and monsters. In the King James Bible it is translated as: sea monster, 1 time, whale, 3 times, serpent, 3 times and dragon 21 times. Dragons and dinosaurs are the same thing.

In Genesis 1:21 it says God created "Tanniyn" (dinosaurs) on day five of creation week. Verse 21: "And God created great whales (Strong's #8577=dragon/dinosaur), and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good." The Bible also shows that dinosaurs were living at the time of Job.

Letter found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/l2006-036-03.htm>

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

Microchipping (9-11-06)

**by Donna Kurszewski
(Linton, North Dakota)**

This letter was sent to us in regard to the

article: "What is the Mark of the Beast?"

Donna Kurszewski writes:

Laura,

Thought you might find the following response to nonais.org's influence in stopping NAIS in the State of Vermont. Please, take a look at the original 'threat' to New England and where that threat originated:

<http://nonais.org/index.php/2006/08/29/us-da-terrorists/#comments>

We are dealing with those who will stop at nothing to get their way.

Letter found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/l2006-036-04.htm>

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

Grateful (3-6-06)

**by Herbert Laureta
(Philippines)**

Dear Darwin & Laura,

First of all I pray that you are doing fine these days, filled with the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus the Messiah.

I got hold of your **Newsletter, the March/April Issue #8**, given to me by a member of a Sabbath keeping organization.

As you know, maam/sir I am really searching for truth having believe what the Bible really says. Your Newsletter, I hope, would add knowledge to my walk with God. May I also request: **#1-Why Were We Disfellowshipped by the United Church of God an International Association?** and **#2-Wiley and Suzanne Black (another case of abuse) by Bernard Kelly**.

Although I do not well-off in this life, the word of God is a jewel - a treasure to the Kingdom of God.

Thank you and God bless you and the people behind your work. Truly yours.

Letter found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/l2006-036-05.htm>

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

My Story (8-5-04)

**by P. F. Lazor
(Delano, California)**

Dear Darwin & Laura,

What a wonderful surprise it was to open and begin reading your **most recent newsletter** and see a **republished article** of my case story on pages 4-5. Please accept my immense

appreciation for that. This can't but help my cause. Thank you so much. (There is one typo, which wasn't yours, but was in the original article that you reprinted. It is quite innocuous, and not something I deem important. But I mention it only because one might later think I was remiss if I didn't. The name of the attacker is listed in the article as John Alfred, when it was actually John Allred. Not so important as to warrant a correction, in my opinion). The main thing is getting the story out to those who will pray and act in some helpful way.

It took me many, many months to cut it down from hundreds of pages, but I finally recently finished a composite draft of my trial case story and also containing some of the prison situations that the public and church should know about. A clean copy of it is here for you. If you ever see fit to publish some, by all means do so. I realize it is too long to publish all; but I'll leave it to you if you ever see fit to edit out some parts to publish. I have a very involved document that took me 18 years to put together that proves just about every allegation about the trial aspect of this **"FRAMED" document**. I also have hundreds of official prison documents that back up much of the things I've included about the prison horrors, though some can't be proven, due to staff cover-ups of their crimes.

Just moments ago, while typing, I got a letter from a COG friend in Switzerland (Susan Owen, previously from USA), with a preliminary sketch of a website she has began putting together for me. I can't express my glee enough, as I've urgently pleaded with countless friends and family for a decade and a half, or so, to help me do this. Susan and I never spoke of it. Just a great gift of surprise. Now, I can get all my massive case documents of proof out to the world on this site. And whenever a short news article is run, it can refer to the website. I can't tell you what this means and how important it is. I haven't even gone thru Susan's letter to see if there is a URL yet. I'll do that now. I'll keep you posted as this unfolds more.

Thank you for your selflessness, your help, giving and care for others, including me and many others who you are an uplift and edification to.

All for now. May Yahweh bless you abundantly, as you bless others, Faithfully,

Letter found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/l2006-036-06.htm>

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

Literature Review (12-13-05)

**by Richard Mar
(Fiji)**

Richard Mar writes:

Darwin & Laura Lee

If my memory serves me right, the **last issue of Interdependent Interactive, Church of God, Sabbath Services, Bible Studies, And Open Fellowship, plus Newsletter dated September/October 2001- issue No. 5** was the last one I received.

I'm just wondering whether the continuous above study notes are available and if it is, I would be very happy to receive them.

This request has come about after our small independent group decided to review former and present teachings and doctrines of God's Churches around the Globe and what kind of reaction it is receiving?

For the little we know, the Worldwide Church of God splinter group number has increased to over 600 or so and are still having difficulty in agreeing on some of the doctrines they teach!

We read through articles and views in your **September/October 2001 No. 5 issue** that prompted this request. And while at it, we would appreciate any additional material that is of help in our bible studies.

With kind regards and much love,

Laura Lee writes:

Since 2001 when **Issue #5** was first printed, our newsletter format has changed quite a bit. Because of the money it takes to print and distribute various items of literature and the lack of funding sent to do that, we are going more and more toward offering mostly all web services. Our newsletter "The Church of God Messenger" is the primary piece of literature that we still print and distribute to those who do not have internet access. Sometimes we do offer other literature items within the newsletter that we would send when a person specifically requests those items which are offered.

Letter found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/l2006-036-07.htm>

THE END**

Web Site (8-22-06)

**by Richard Markland
(Covington, Ohio)**

I enjoy the music on your **web site** and the overall perspective of its message is refreshing. It's nice to know everyone is welcome to drop by and pay you a visit by way of the internet. Keep up the good work

Perhaps you can post a picture of yourselves so that we can become better acquainted. Thanks.

Letter found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/l2006-036-08.htm>

THE END**

Keeping the Sabbath (9-22-06)

**by James & Virginia McElroy
(Rose Bud, Arkansas)**

James & Virginia McElroy write:

Dear Darwin and Laura,

Thank you for your kind note. I don't know how I missed giving you our email address except that I was so busy reading your newsletters.

I am a former Baptist pastor that got tired of fighting with my brethren over Baptist doctrine. It got to the point that every fellowship meeting I attended it got worse so I stepped down from the church I was pastoring and opened my Bible and for the last 12 years I have done nothing but read, study and research the Word of God and when I find some one who I am in agreement with I try to correspond with them.

We have only recently decided with the help of the Holy Spirit to start a Sabbath keeping church. We have had a good response because so many Christians are tired of the false doctrines that the Prophets of Baal, hirelings are preaching from their pulpits.

We moved from the State of Washington to Arkansas four years ago and we hooked up with a church, not Baptist, for three plus years but we continued to receive the same false doctrinal teachings. I tried many times to discuss doctrine with the pastor but to no avail. We are now free and we sense the guidance of the Lord in our lives.

We hope to have our first service within 3 - 4 weeks.

We will be using a format that will put our people in touch with the in-depth teaching of the Bible. Will tell you more about it in the future.

Once again, thank you for your kind letter. In His Service.

Darwin & Laura Lee write:

We wish we could keep up with the correspondence that we receive, but that is not always possible because of the lack of time. All we can do is to keep trying harder with each day. Please by all means let us and our readers know how your beginning Sabbath Services worked out.

Letter found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/l2006-036-09.htm>

[09.htm](#)

THE END**

Paranoia (8-13-06)

**by Mitchell Family
(Palmerdale, Alabama)**

The Mitchell Family writes:

It seems that for every 3 Issues we get, a renewal comes. We all have to fight paranoia. You are not excluded or are you?

Darwin & Laura Lee write:

Perhaps it seems that way to you because of all the **bogus names** you and others are using in the Alabama area. We some times see them as legitimate inquires and send a sample newsletter with a subscription form attached. For a time we were sending out 2 renewal notices within a 30 day period, the 2nd one meant to be a reminder or final notice. Because many people such as yourself became confused and returned both notices rather than just one we quit doing that.

Renewal notices are only sent out once a year, but you have to use the same name and address when you write to us or you will end up with more than one in a year.

The Mitchell Family writes:

Darwin,

Tell Laura that getting a renewal back is one thing, not getting one back is not tantamount to a cancellation. Nor is not getting one back the same as getting one back that wants to cancel.

Darwin & Laura Lee write:

Sounds like double speak to us. We send out renewal forms approximately once a year. If you do not fill it out and send it back to us, then we cancel your subscription. Keep in mind that most people who subscribe to our newsletter never help us to even pay the postage on it, so why would we want to continue to mail it to you if you do not renew. Your filling out the renewal form tells us you are still interested.

The Mitchell Family writes:

I've heard your friends at United send renewals out for the Good News about every 3 plus years. Good Will!

Darwin & Laura Lee write:

We are not affiliated with the United Church of God AIA, so how they do their renewals has absolutely nothing to do with us.

We send out renewal notices approximately once a year to those who contribute nothing towards postage. The renewal notice must be properly filled out. If it

is not properly filled out we will throw it in the garbage.

Letter found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/I2006-036-10.htm>

THE END**

Hunger in Kenya (1-8-06)

**by Isaya Ouma Owak
(Kenya)**

Hello brethren,

Christian greetings to you with a hope that you are fine over there, here am fine and doing well in this part of the world even though we are in bad state. We have not received the rain for long and we are dying here. I would like request you to assist us in Kenya. Visit website:

<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/IRIN/84fe8e81cbccce24c074762a17ec209c.htm>

May God bless you all. Yours.

Letter found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/I2006-036-11.htm>

THE END**

Statement of Beliefs (6-3-06)

**by Susan Owen
(Switzerland)**

Hello!

I really like your [website](#) and statement of [beliefs](#) (Biblical!)

I'd love to keep the Feast with you, although since I live in Switzerland, it might not be so practical.

Letter found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/I2006-036-12.htm>

THE END**

Stupidity (8-8-06)

**by Buddy Ray
(Dolomite, Alabama)**

Buddy Ray writes:

Hello,

A friend let me read [Issue #34](#). Ask Nathaniel Burson (Author of "[God Prophesied STUPIDITY!](#)") to think smarter. The Bible does imply that God prophesied carelessness but not stupidity. He frowns on us calling others stupid. See Matthew 5:22 and recognize "raca" defines all the synonyms. The word isn't extinct.

Nathaniel Burson writes:

From [Webster's Online Dictionary](#), I quote the primary meaning of "Stupid". 1 a: slow of mind: obtuse b: given to unintelligent decisions or acts: acting in an unintelligent or CARELESS manner c: lacking intelligence or reason: brutish

So to concede that God prophesied "carelessness" and not "stupidity" is like saying that a rabbit is fast but not quick. Furthermore, if you are connecting "stupid", with "fool" in Matthew 5:22, I would point out that both Christ and Paul used that same word as an epithet against foolish people.

Matthew 5:22 But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.

There hangs a command that the whole world takes literally and obeys. One of the few. And of course, misunderstands and misapplies; everyone knows you can't call them a fool. But are they right? Or can I call you a fool, if it's true? Well, let's see...

Matthew 23:17 Ye fools and blind: for whether is greater, the gold, or the temple that sanctifieth the gold?

Now, if Christ called the Pharisees fools ἄφ᾽ ἑαυτοῦ the same Greek word ἄφ᾽ ἑαυτοῦ And if He is our perfect example, and if we should walk as He walked... then either He disobeyed His own command not to call someone a fool (unlikely), or else the whole world is missing something. Obviously, the latter answer is the correct one. I'm going to quote Matthew 5:22 again, this time reading the implied content into it...

Matthew 5:22 But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, **WITHOUT A CAUSE** shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, **WITHOUT A CAUSE** shall be in danger of hell fire.

The context of the verse is **WITHOUT A CAUSE**, that is the precedent set up in the first phrase; this precedent is carried through by implication in the rest of the verse. Hence, it was fine to call the Pharisees fools **IF** they were fools!

So yes! If someone is a fool, then I am within my rights, indeed, within my **DUTY** to call him a fool. Psalms 92:6 A brutish man knoweth not; neither doth a fool understand this.

Buddy Ray writes:

On page 5 in column 3, where is the source for a list of 33,000 Christian type denominations?

Nathaniel Burson writes:

[The World Christian Encyclopedia](#): (2005) is my source for that figure. For more information, you can type in [33,800 christian denominations](#) into any search engine.

Letter found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/I2006-036-13.htm>

THE END**

Support (4-28-06)

**by Ted & Joanne Saunders
(Renton, Washington)**

Ted & Joanne Saunders write:

Dear Darwin and Laura,

Surprise! Surprise!

Bless your hearts and your loving ways. Thanks for all you do and have done. A great job nicely and well done! Darwin and Laura, you are appreciated for all your hard work and efforts. I know God the Father, the only true God is pleased and smiling! Outstanding, excellent, a job well done! You both are very special and dear!

Happiness keeps you sweet,

Trials keep you strong,

Sorrow keeps you human,

Failures keep you humble,

Success keeps you glowing,

But only God keeps you going!

Author Unknown by us

We have filled out the form to renew our subscription! We are sending two checks, love gift to help with expenses in the work you are doing in love, second check is to be spent on you both, whatever you two decide. Not like this though.

A husband said to his wife, "I want to take you out tonight, where would you like to go?" "Take me to some place expensive", she replied. So he took her to the gas station. Ha!

My friend wrote the lyrics to this song. "Perhaps That's Why" -- by: Thelma Evelyn Jones.

Verse 1

You're the sun behind the shadow,
you're the rainbow on the hill.

You're the full moon brightly glowing
when the night is cold and still.

You are everything that's lovely, that
is how I think of you.

You're my friend, my joy forever. I am
so in love with you.

Chorus

You've always been here with me,
you've been beside me from the start.
And you'll always be a part of me, like
the beating of my heart.

And it will take more than one lifetime

to return your love for me.
Perhaps that's why in the twinkling of
an eye we'll love eternally.

Verse 2

You are lilacs in December, you're my
haven in the storm.
When the world is cold and bitter, you
are here to keep me warm.
You're the gentle song of angels, you
console me when I'm blue.
You're my friend, my joy forever, I am
so in love with you.

Repeat Chorus Twice

See God is full of surprises!!! You see
this was His idea.
Love and "bear" hugs,

Darwin & Laura Lee write:

Thank you for your encouragement and
great support. It is so much appreciated. We
truly thank you for the gift you gave for the
newsletter and the gift you gave which told
us to go take some time off of everything. We
did take some time off of everything to go
spend your gift. Thank you.

Letter found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/I2006-036-14.htm>

THE END**

**The Key Error in World War III
Scenario by Collins (5-11-06)**

**by Gary Sem
(Canada)**

Gary Sem writes:

I just scanned the [Collins essay on World War III](#) and note a deep error toward the start.

Yes, the Ezekiel passage analyzed is crucial to events now. But, Collins - like most "British Israelists" who listen to Jews - goes off track in a big way because.... MODERN "JEWS" ARE NOT ISRAELITES.

Look, the "lost" tribes were put among MEDES in 2 King 18:11. Medes are Aryan tribes. Clearly the two are the same Adamic peoples! And in this huge population the Judahites and other "Israel" tribes and other Adamites all fused into the new Aryan groups that expanded and filled Europe - the vast population that does fulfill Bible promises to Israel. (At least Collins got this part right, but he would lump in "Jews" - our nemesis!)

If you read a bit farther in 2 Kings (18:13-19:30) you'll see that ALMOST ALL OF ALL 12 TRIBES WERE TAKEN INTO ASSYRIAN CAPTIVITY!... Except for a small part of Judah etc. that remained and later went to

Babylon, and came back spiritually dead and racially polluted - see Ezra on that story. It was this group that became known as "Jews" - a term not used before 2 Kings, so "Jew" NEVER refers to Moses etc.

In 125 BC John Hyrcanus, a Jerusalem ruler, conquered EDOMITES - a group long cursed in Obadiah and Malachi 1 for reasons noted there. He forced them to become "Jews." They were circumcised etc. They adopted this role, and rose to dominate Israel by 30s BC. In 40 BC General Antigonus fought for Parthian King Orodes II, and took Jerusalem for the Parthians - descendants of the "lost" tribes put among ARYAN ISRAELITES placed among ARYAN ADAMITES. Ecbatana, now under Hamadan, Iran, being capital city of Media, later a core part of Parthia, which had dual capitals (summer/winter) in Ecbatana (highlands) & Ctesiphon (low hot river lands).

This 40 BC Parthian army took HEROD (Edomite father, Arab mother Cyprus) who escaped with his brother Phaisael, but the brother died. Herod made it via Arabia to Rome and conspired to throw his people into battle to regain the land with him as "King of Judeans/Jews" under Rome, if Rome would help. They did. They won in 37 BC. Herod had most of the old (more or less Israelite) Sanhedrin killed and replaced by his people. That was the scene into which Jesus/Jesus was born. (Herod had a fit that an Aryan-Israelite LIBERATOR was born and tried to kill him.)

IF YOU DON'T GRASP THE ARYAN VS "JEW" WAR OF 40 BC UP TO 30 AD, THEN YOU CANNOT INTERPRET THE BIBLE OR PROPHECY from that point.

"British Israelists" like Collins only know about some (10 tribes) of the "lost" Israelites being found in Europe, and never challenge "Jews" as NOT Israelites! (Jesus was explicit in John 8:31-47. The group he addressed were NOT Israelites! He speaks of their "father the devil" which could NOT be said of any Israelite, no matter what the sentence was about! And the whole passage condemns these.)

Some of the Edomites escaped and fled northeast, joining with wandering Turks, plus probably "Huns" - both Hephthalite "white Huns" and Mongol types - forming KHAZARS, who converted to Judaism in 740 AD under Kagan/King Bulan. Two Edomitic groups acquired the same religion & racial name... "Jews."

Arthur Koestler (famous Jewish writer) covers the Khazars rather well in his (Jew-condemning) "The Thirteenth Tribe" often sold on ebay.

Josephus covers Hyrcanus and the Jews in 1st century "Antiquities of the Jews" Book 13, Chap 9, line 257+ and other parts. This was translated and readily for sale. Jewish

Encyclopedia article on Chazars/Khazars has similar data.

Really, there is no point posting Collins' article until this glaring error is corrected. Whatever conclusion he mentions will not be correct.

Steven M. Collins writes:

RESPONSE BY STEVEN COLLINS TO ANTI-JEWISH CRITIC OF MY EZEKIEL 38-39 PAPER

This is a response to Gary who objected to my identifying modern Jews as the tribe of Judah. I am familiar with all of his objections as I have previously encountered them many times. Indeed, I address many of the writer's objections at considerable length on pp. 223-237 of my new book, *Israel's Tribes Today*.

Before responding to specific objections, let's put this issue in biblical perspective. My critic bases his case that modern Jews are not the tribe of Judah on human reasoning and weak assumptions. I have always based my beliefs that modern Jews are the tribe of Judah on specific, immutable biblical evidence. Let's first examine biblical evidence which clearly identifies the tribe of Judah in the modern world. Consider prophecies in Zephaniah 2, Zechariah 12 and 14 and Genesis 49.

Zephaniah 2:1-7 contains a prophecy about the time just prior to the "the day of the Lord's anger" (i.e. the "Day of the Lord" or "latter days"), and it focuses on the ancient region of the Philistines and the kingdom of Judah (the eastern coast of the Mediterranean Sea). Zephaniah 2:7 specifically states that in the latter day time frame: "the coast shall be for the remnant of Judah... in the houses of Ashkelon shall they lie down... for the Lord their God shall visit them and turn away their captivity." The tribe of Judah was without a nation of its own for millennia after the city of Jerusalem fell circa 576 BC. This prophecy indicates that this captivity (or statelessness) of Judah will end ("be turned away") in the time just prior to the Day of the Lord. In 1948, the modern Jewish state became a reality and it was established precisely where Zephaniah 2 foretold the tribe of Judah would live in the latter days time frame. The original 1948 partition line created a Jewish state occupying primarily the coastal region of the Mediterranean Sea, exactly where Zephaniah 2 prophesied it would be located. This prophecy specifically states the region of latter-day Judah will include the ancient city of Ashkelon. Any map will confirm that both the ancient and modern cities of Ashkelon are in the territory of the modern Jewish/Israeli nation. Zephaniah 2 clearly identifies the modern Jewish nation called "Israel" as the modern tribe of Judah.

The prophecy in Zechariah 12 repeatedly uses the term "in that day" to

denote its context. This also refers to the "day of the Lord," a time at the end of our age. Verses 2-7 refer to "the house of Judah," "the governors of Judah" and "Jerusalem" as being the same entity. Whatever nation dwells in and controls Jerusalem in the latter days will be the tribe of Judah. As everyone knows, the modern Jews dwell in and control the city of Jerusalem. I've been in Jerusalem and its environs. This fact is obvious to all, and it agrees perfectly with the prophecy of Zephaniah 2. Zechariah 12:6 prophesies the Governors of Judah will be "like a hearth of fire among the wood... devour[ing] all the people round about, on the right hand and on the left..." This prophesies that the leaders of Judah will wage victorious and decisive wars in the latter days against the nations that border them. This prophecy was fulfilled in major wars in 1948, 1956, 1967 and 1973, and in other lesser conflicts as well. Zechariah 12 clearly identifies the modern Jewish/Israeli nation as the tribe of Judah.

Zechariah 14 is another prophecy for the time when the "day of the Lord" is imminent (verse 1). This prophecy foretells of a great war at the end of this age which is raging in the region of Jerusalem when the Lord himself intervenes and defeats the nations who are attacking Jerusalem and its inhabitants. This has to be at the very end of this age as the Messiah's feet will stand on the Mount of Olives (verse 4). Zechariah 14:2 and Zechariah 12:2-3 prophesy that Jerusalem (and Judah) will be increasingly isolated in the end time and that is occurring in modern geopolitics as Jews and Israelis have few friends in the world. Zechariah 14:14 adds that Judah will be fighting in the environs of Jerusalem in this climactic war (defending the city which is under dire attack). Zechariah 14 also clearly identifies modern Jews and Israelis as the modern tribe of Judah.

Genesis 49 contains prophesies about the traits or conditions of each of the tribes of Israel in the latter days. The prophecy about the tribe of Judah is in verse 8-12. Verse 8 foretells that Judah's "...hand will be in the neck of thine enemies." This parallels the prophecy in Zechariah 12 that Judah's governors will be victorious in warfare against surrounding nations at the end of this age. Verse 9 likens the latter-day nation of Judah to a "lion's whelp" who takes "prey." A lion's whelp is a small, young lion cub, so this prophecy likens Judah in the latter days to a young and small lion cub which is nonetheless capable of taking prey. The Israelis are a young and small nation which has taken "prey" in its recent wars, perfectly fulfilling this prophecy. Genesis 49 clearly also identifies the Israelis (Jews) as the tribe of Judah in our modern world.

These Divinely-inspired prophesies unanimously identify modern Jews/Israelis as the tribe of Judah. The Creator God knows the descent of all the people of the earth, and the Creator chose to use modern Jews to fulfill his prophesies about the latter-day tribe of Judah! God's Word is authoritative on this (and all) matters, and it settles the issue of who is Judah. We are free to accept God's Word (as I do) or reject it (as Gary does). Gary needs to realize that he is in opposition to the Divine word of God on this subject.

Gary chose to ignore all these important prophesies about the tribe of Judah. Perhaps he neglected to mention them because the Bible's prophesies utterly contradict and reject his anti-Jewish viewpoints. At this point the biblical evidence that modern Jews/Israelis are the tribe of Judah is so strong that I could "rest my case." Although there is hardly a need to refute this critic's human reasoning's and suppositions, I will do so nonetheless so readers can see through his errors.

Gary states "Medes are Aryans." The term "Aryan" does not exist anywhere in the Bible. The Bible does not acknowledge "Aryan" as a valid name for any nation or people, and Genesis 10, which names all the nations descended from Noah's family, mentions no "Aryan" nation. The Medes are the descendants of Madai (Genesis 10:2), one of the sons of Japheth. Vowels were not written in ancient languages so one must compare the consonants of words ("Madai" and Mede" are perfect matches in their consonants). The term "Aryan" is a fairly recent term which was appropriated by people with racial supremacy theories. The *Encyclopedia Americana* (1988 Ed., Vol. 2, "Aryan," p. 425) states that this term originated in "the 1800s" as a linguistic term. As this article notes, this term was first given a racial meaning in 1854 in a book by the French writer Joseph Arthur de Gobineau. Adolf Hitler became one of the most devoted fans of this racial term, and, as the *Americana* adds, Hitler "used the theory to justify his persecution of Jews." Those who hate the Jews still use Aryan racial theories to persecute modern Jews. None of Gary's arguments based on "Aryan" theories deserve further comment.

Gary misrepresents II Kings 18:10-11 in stating that "the lost tribes were put among the Medes..." This passage addresses only the fates of the survivors of a three-year siege of Israel's capital city of Samaria (not all the tribes of Israel). This scripture states that Samaria's survivors were scattered into three places: (A) Halah, (B) Habor, and (C) the cities of the Medes. My critic also states "almost all of the 12 tribes were taken into Assyrian captivity." The Bible doesn't make such a statement. It states all the tribes were

removed from the Promised Land (II Kings 17:18), but it doesn't make any statement that "they all left as captives to Assyria." Indeed, besides the inhabitants of the city of Samaria, the only other Israelites specifically named by the Bible as captives of Assyria were the Gileadite tribes (Gad, Reuben, half of Manasseh) and the tribe of Naphtali (II Kings 15:29). The Bible only states that three and half tribes and the inhabitants of the city of Samaria went into an Assyrian captivity. We know from secular and biblical accounts that portions of Judah were also conquered by the Assyrians, but Judah did not completely fall until the Babylonians seized Jerusalem circa 576 BC. Regarding the remaining Israelite tribes (about two-thirds of the nation), the Bible states they left the Promised Land but it does not categorically state where they went. Secular sources make their destinations very clear, and the Bible has statements supporting those conclusions.

The Israelites were partners with Tyre and Sidon in the Phoenician Empire. They possessed massive fleets and many of their people fled to Phoenician colonies in Iberia (Spain), the Celtic regions of Europe, the British Isles and Carthage along the North African coast. Carthage originally was given a Hebrew name by its founders: Kirjath Hadeshath. However, Israelite populations were far too large to allow everyone to escape by sea. Secular sources indicate the main body of remaining Israelites fled northward past the Caucasus Mountain range into the Black sea region. This is precisely the direction to which God told Jeremiah to direct a prophecy to the tribes of Israel a century after Samaria fell (Jeremiah 3:6-12). Daniel lived in the Medo-Persian region and he realized and wrote that the ten tribes of Israel were not all living in "the cities of the Medes." Daniel 9:7 records that while Judah was in the region where Daniel lived, the ten tribes ("Israel") had migrated in many different directions when they left the Promised Land. Daniel acknowledges in a prayer to God that part of Israel was "near," but that other parts of Israel were "afar off...in all the countries where you have driven them..." This conclusively shows that many of the ten tribes' descendants were nowhere near the cities of the Medes, and they were scattered to many locations.

The Israelites in Asia were also widely scattered and were later known as Scythians (also called Sacae or Saka, preserving Isaac's name upon them), Iberians, Parthians, Nephthalite Huns, etc. Abundant evidence about their history can be found in my books, *Israel's Lost Empires* and *Parthia-The Forgotten Ancient Superpower*. When these Israelite nations migrated into Europe after the fall of the

Parthian Empire circa 227 AD, they came to be known as Caucasians because they migrated via the Caucasus Mountain passes. They and their allies were also called "Indo-Europeans." They broke into separate migrating masses called Germans, Goths, Saxons, Jutes, Franks, etc. Abundant evidence about this migration period is found in my book, [Israel's Tribes Today](#).

Gary betrays his limited view of history in thinking there was an Aryan-Jew war in 40 BC to 30 AD. The term "Aryan" didn't come into existence until about 18 centuries later, and many Jews did not live in Judea at that time (large numbers lived in the Parthian Empire). Josephus wrote a great deal about this period of time, and his accounts indicate no familiarity on his part with the term "Aryan." Only a contingent of Jews left Persia under Ezra and Nehemiah to establish the core population of the tribe of Judah which later developed into the Jewish population of Judea. Secular records confirm most Jews stayed in the Persian/Parthian region. The tribe of Judah became very large and racially diverse when people throughout the huge Persian Empire (from Ethiopia to India) "became Jews" in the time of Esther and Mordechai (Esther 8:9 and 17). The inspired text says they "became Jews" so God recognized these converts from other nations as genuine members of the tribe of Judah from them on! This was completely valid under God's laws of assimilating gentiles into the tribes of Israel (Leviticus 19:33-34, Ezekiel 47:22-23). In Deuteronomy 23:7-8, God told the Israelites: "You shall not abhor an Edomite, for he is your brother" and it adds Edomites may enter the congregation of Israel "after three generations." When Jews conquered one group of Edomites (Idumeans) in Judean times, they could scripturally be grafted into the tribe of Judah with God's approval. Josephus acknowledges this is exactly what occurred (*Antiquities of the Jews*, XIII, IX, 1).

Gary's allegation that modern Jews are not Israelites because of a supposed Khazar background is another false argument. I have read Arthur Koestler's book, *The Thirteenth Tribe*, and I found it wanting. Koestler ignored much evidence that many waves of the tribe of Judah migrated into the Caucasus Mountain/Black Sea region of the Khazars long before the Khazar Empire existed and before the Khazar elites adopted Judaism. It is a bogus assertion that all the Khazars became Jews. The Khazars continued the Parthian custom of "freedom of religion" which later was included in the US Constitution. Many Khazars were also Christians, Moslems or pagans. Late in the Khazar kingdom's existence, one of its chief cities, Itil, had 30 mosques (*Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 1943 Ed., Vol. 13, "Khazars," p.

363)! Jews were actually a minority within Khazaria. The *Universal Jewish Encyclopedia* (Vol. 6, p. 376) records that the Khazar king and "...about 4000 Khazars were circumcised... the Jews were greatly outnumbered by the pagan masses, by Moslem and Christian inhabitants..." Given the rigors of adult male circumcision, it is hardly a surprise that most Khazar men did not choose to become Jews. Arthur Koestler was not a serious historical researcher. He was a writer of fictional books and essays, and some of Koestler's other titles include: "The Call Girls," "The Yogi and the Commissar," and "The Case of the Midwife Toad." His book, *The Thirteenth Tribe*, includes fictional conclusions about the Jews.

Many Jews lived in the Persian and Parthian Empires. When Parthia fell, these Jews also joined the other tribes of Israel in a mass migration toward and into Europe. Many of these migrating Jews settled in Eastern European regions and were called Ashkenazi Jews. The *Encyclopaedia Britannica* (1943 Ed., Vol. 17, "Parthia," Bibliographical notes, p. 345) records that a Persian word for the Parthians was "**Ashkan**" so the term "**Ashken**-azi Jews simply proclaims that European Jews were descended from the Jews (i.e. the tribe of Judah) which once lived in Persia and Parthia.

Gary also repeats an old canard that the Jews of Jesus' day were not Israelites of the tribe of Judah because of a few obscure passages. The Bible nowhere states the Jews of Judea were not Israelites. Check your Concordance and lookup the words "Jew" and "Edomite." See how many times New Testament writers referred to the Judeans and 1st century Jews as Jews ("Jew" is merely a phonetic abbreviation of "Judah," pronounced "Jew-dah"), and how many times the New Testament scriptures call them Edomites. If you do this, you will never again have any questions about this issue.

Finally, Gary incorrectly states that I am a "British Israelite." I have never been a member of any British Israelite organization (they do still exist today). I am an Independent Sabbatarian Christian.

I think this response effectively counters Gary's arguments. I urge all readers to share this information with anyone who ever encounters the bogus arguments that modern Jews are not Israelites. Those who wish to preview or purchase my books which extensively document the history of the tribes of Israel may do so at the publisher's website: www.bibleblessings.net.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to Gary. I will not be silent while the legitimacy of a modern tribe of Israel is impugned. To all the modern descendants of

the ten tribes of Israel, I say: Modern Jews and Israelis are your brothers and sisters as they are the modern tribe of Judah. Secular history and the Bible's prophecies both clearly confirm this identification. End of story!

Laura Lee writes:

Many letters which we have received from Gary Sem prove that he is **very** Anti-Semitic. Gary's letter was in regard to Steven M. Collins article: "**What Ezekiel 38-39 Reveals About a Future World War III**" found at: <http://darwinlauralee.com/a2005-028-01.htm>. Also see the article by Steven M. Collins "**Four Reasons the Jews are 'Judah'**" found at: <http://darwinlauralee.com/a2006-035-01.htm>.

Letter found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/l2006-036-15.htm>

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

To Our Readers:

As you can see by our letters section, we are trying to become more interactive. We are trying to let the authors answer the letters we receive in regard to their articles in all cases where this is possible.

If you look on our Web Site at: <http://darwinlauralee.com> you will see some major changes.

Indexes for individual letters, articles etc. are being worked on.

More and more items are having web site links included right in the printed item so those with internet access can click the links for further study. (For those who do not have computers, the links are those items printed in blue throughout the newsletter.)

We are sorry this issue is so late in coming out. Because of all the web linking and posting the printed items on our web site at the same time, it takes a lot of time. As we get more items posted it should take less time as the items we need to link to will already be posted where they are not at this time.

For those who are waiting for answers to letters, we are going as fast as we can.

Darwin & Laura Lee

QUESTIONS SECTION ==

newsletter-only-darwin-laura@earthlink.net

QUESTION #60

I would like to know why will a tree be used for healing in the millennium?

Actually it will be after the 1000 years. "...and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations" (Revelation 22:2).

There are two types of leaves. One leaf is for medicine (healing). Another type is a

leaf that fades. The leaves on the tree of life will not fade.

"And by the river upon the bank thereof, on this side and on that side, shall grow all trees for meat whose leaf shall not fade, neither shall the fruit be consumed: it shall bring forth new fruit according to his months, because their waters they issued out of the sanctuary and the fruit shall be for meat, and the leaf thereof for medicine" (Ezekiel 47:12).

The King James "fade" is the Hebrew "nabel", meaning to sink into foolishness or drop into senselessness.

The leaves of the tree of life will prevent the nations from sinking into foolishness similar to the foolishness exhibited by well-

meaning, well-intentioned, but foolish diplomats in today's world.

The nations will break set patterns of thinking, which have been so unsuccessful down through the centuries. "...nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more" (Isaiah 2:4).

Answer by: Wily Elder (North Miami, Florida)

Item found on line at: http://darwinlauralee.com/q2006-036-01.htm

THE END**

KIDS KORNER ==

newsletter-only-darwin-laura@earthlink.net

Things Learned from the Berenstain Bears

Sent by Jeana Anderson (Casa, Arkansas)

- Obey parents quickly.
Be careful with your words.
Name calling is nasty.
Rude words are crude words.
Pick words to respect others.
Helping others always brings blessings to you.
Doing for others is nice for the giver and receiver.
There is ALWAYS something to do.
When there is a problem in your way, find the good side.
Where there is a lemon, make lemonade.
Learning something may be difficult, but in order to learn those things, there are things one must learn first.
It is possible to move a mountain by carrying away small stones.
Accidents happen, who's to blame (blaming game is not a game)
When another Bear gets something new, the Green-eyed monster makes `you' want one, too. (jealousy and envy)
When cubs start to twitch or to scratch or to nibble, what they need is some help, not a lecture or quibble. (habits and tics)
Small bears get big eyes when they take off and roam, and sometimes forget all the good stuff they have at home. (blessings)
When small bears forget to pick up, store, and stash, some of their favorite things end up in the trash.
Teasing is not a good idea.
When Mama's lap disappears, she has some special news to tell her little dears.
All soccer moms know it's a new game, Bub, when a big'ol Papa bear can learn from his cub.

Item found on line at: http://darwinlauralee.com/k2006-036-01.htm

THE END**

THE MESSAGE BOARD (ADS & INFO) --

newsletter-only-darwin-laura@earthlink.net

SABBATH SCHEDULE--BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA

- October 21, 2006---Open for Hosting--Please Sign Up
October 28, 2006---Teaching the Law-- Lesson #144 & Lesson #145
November 3, 2006---Bible Study
November 4, 2006---Open for Hosting--Please Sign Up
November 11, 2006---Teaching the Law-- Lesson #146 & Lesson #147
November 18, 2006---Teaching the Law-- Lesson #148 & Lesson #149
November 25, 2006---Open for Hosting--Please Sign Up
December 2, 2006---Teaching the Law-- Lesson #150 & Lesson #151
December 9, 2006---Open for Hosting--Please Sign Up
December 15, 2006---Bible Study
December 16, 2006---Teaching the Law-- Lesson #152 & Lesson #153
December 23, 2006---Open for Hosting--Please Sign Up
December 30, 2006---Teaching the Law-- Lesson #154 & Lesson #155
January 6, 2007---Open for Hosting--Please Sign Up
January 13, 2007---Teaching the Law-- Lesson #156 & Lesson #157

If you want to host Sabbath Services and need 2 Sabbaths in a row for your presentation and/or would like to have your presentation listed on our Sabbath Schedule in our newsletter which is sent out to the public, the next deadline for that would be: December 15, 2006. On those Sabbaths of Open Hosting where no one signs up, we will just play a cassette tape by any of various speakers. All Sabbath Services are Hosted by Darwin & Laura Lee unless otherwise stated.

SABBATH SERVICES

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

BIBLE STUDY

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

PRAYER REQUESTS & UPDATES --

PrayerRequestsAndUpdates@darwinlauralee.com

September 2006

- Janet---Stroke
Quillen, James---Auto/Bike Accident
White, Nancy Martin---Found Lump

October 2006

- Haar, Lorena---Hernia Operation

Mama Evans

by David Ben-Ariel (Toledo, Ohio)

Mama Evans used to say "a little love goes a long way," "they need love the most who deserve it the least," and "tears purify the soul."

Erma Evans, a widow in the Church of God, served as a perfect example of what the Apostle Paul called for from our senior women (Titus 2:3). She touched the lives of many and was affectionately called "Mama Evans" by the young fellows of the Worldwide Church of God in Toledo, Ohio: Church singles whom she graciously would have over for a home-cooked meal every month.

Mrs. Evans knew all about southern hospitality since she was originally from Mud Creek, Kentucky. She would offer the meal, after we prayed, and would often then fall asleep on her couch, practically purring like a kitty, content as we fellowshiped and played board games or cards.

The following is a letter from "Mama Evans" that she sent me when I was living in Israel (August 1989), getting ready to begin a work-study program at Kibbutz Sdot Yam near Caesarea. It reveals a little more of this precious woman God blessed us with:

Dear David:

Just a few lines to say hello and that I miss you very much and get a thrill of thankfulness and joy when I can speak of

having a son in Israel.

This must be a dream come true. All my life I have dreamed of going to all the far off places. I think I was born a wanderlust child. Any place even as a little girl that I read or heard about it just filled me with desire to get up and go. Even today I feel the same way. My Dad must have been the same way because his books of which he had many were about places all over the world. He would talk to me even when I was 5 yrs. old about the far corners of the earth even China, but I never got any farther than Toledo. But in the world tomorrow I hope to be able to flit from place to place. When I looked at the picture I could picture Christ walking on the shores of Galilee. I pray for His Coming to rescue the world. It can't be too soon for me. Everyone who knows you misses you. You are a special kind of guy. A little rebellious with a head full of dreams mixed with knowledge, There can't be another like you. I have a feeling you are very special to God. Take care honey and don't forget all that you know of God's Truth.
Bye for now.
Love you,
Mom Evans

This letter shows how loving Mama was... She was always gentle but firm if necessary, but you never doubted she always had your best interests at heart.

I was pleased to write this poem for her one Sabbath day (on the spur of the moment, wanting to help let her know how much we loved and appreciated her), and gave it to her at our Church services before I left, getting a big hug and kiss in return:

- Mama Evans
Her warmth and love is known both far & wide
Her wonderful smile illuminates lives
Her sweet laughter uplifts many hearts
Helping both young & old she knows is her part
Giving hugs & kisses, making many meals
Veritable love feasts from a woman sincere
GOD BLESS OUR ERMA we need her so dear
Keep her close to your Kingdom
Help her bring You near.

Mama Evans, 89, died October 29, 1998. We know she rests in peace and awaits the First Resurrection. Meanwhile, Mama lives on and shines through the eyes of those who remember her and have tales to tell of her from the heart.

Item found on line at:
http://darwinlauralee.com/i2006-036-01.htm

THE END**

The God Who Wasn't There

by Jeffrey Caldwell
(San Jose, California)

Friends:

I felt you would want to know about this. Last night I watched a DVD of a recently released movie, The God Who Wasn't There -- by far the most virulently anti-Christian "hit piece" I've ever seen -- skeptics with their gloves off, going after Christianity, casting all possible doubt on the historicity of Jesus and aspersions on the nature and consequences of Christian faith.

passage I've found many Christians don't know, or forget: Hebrews 5:7-10.

I stayed up to watch most of the abundant "extras" and plan to view the rest tonight. Many prominent atheistic and skeptical authors express themselves quite frankly and fluently, most making their case that there was no "real human" historical Jesus at all -- that Christianity originated as a fresh first-century concoction of the ancient myths of the mystery religions, borrowing creatively and freely from them!

strongly bring to mind Alexander Hislop's The Two Babylons. The "God Who Wasn't There" DVD is a Netflix selection, which went into "long wait" mode soon after its release -- I made it number "1" in my queue and had to wait for weeks before they sent it to me. The producer is a fellow who rebels against the Christian education of his youth, saying "I deny the holy spirit -- I am not afraid".

The movie seems designed to strongly reinforce the prejudices of those who hate Christianity and cast doubts into the minds of any unfamiliar with the Bible, unschooled in extra-biblical history, unaware of the depths of Christianity's syncretism with paganism, and accepting of the secular humanist worldview taught in public schools.

Item found on line at:
http://darwinlauralee.com/i2006-036-02.htm

THE END**

LOST In Transition Articles... FOUND!

Sent by Dixon Cartwright
(Big Sandy, Texas)

http://www.thejournal.org/in-transition/main.html

The Journal Web site introduces a brand NEW section showcasing historic In Transition (I-T) newspaper articles not seen in more than a decade!

I-T, predecessor of The Journal, started in May 1995 as an independent publication dedicated to objectively reporting the news and views in the greater Church of God. The newspaper published 22 issues before its discontinuation in January 1997.

TheJournal.org invites you to review the eighty (80) specially selected articles, spanning the entire run of I-T, now housed

on the site.

Some of the materials chronicling the pivotal events and viewpoints in the church include:

Elders convene in Indianapolis, organize United Church of God (May 1995)
http://www.thejournal.org/in-transition/v1issue1/united-church-of-god-formed.html

UCG Board Member states Local Churches Should Keep Tithes (May 1995)
http://www.thejournal.org/in-transition/v1issue1/local-ucg-churches-keep-tithes.html

List of Ministers Fired/Retired from Worldwide Church of God (May 1995)
http://www.thejournal.org/in-transition/v1issue2/list-ministers-fired-wcg.html

WCG Loses Almost 40 percent of its Ministers (June 1995)
http://www.thejournal.org/in-transition/v1issue3/wcg-loses-ministry.html

Did WCG leaders have doctrinal agenda? (August 1995)
http://www.thejournal.org/in-transition/v1issue5/did-wcg-have-doctrinal-agenda.html

UCG releases draft of its constitution and bylaws (Sept. 1995)
http://www.thejournal.org/in-transition/v1issue6/ucg-bylaws-constitution.html

TheJournal.org EXCEEDS Last Year's Popularity!

TheJournal.org has attracted MORE visitors in the first eight months of this year than it did for the ENTIRETY of 2005!

The site has served 232,533 visitors as of August 25th, which is an incredible 67% above the same period last year!

Take advantage of our burgeoning popularity among COG brethren by placing an ad on TheJournal.org. The site offers quality ad space at a price GUARANTEED to be the lowest.

For info on ad formats offered and fees please visit us at:
http://www.thejournal.org/ads/adrates.htm
I or Email the Webmaster at:
alan@thejournal.org.

In Transition interviews Dr. Roderick

Meredith (Oct. 1995)

<http://www.thejournal.org/in-transition/v1issue7/roderick-meredith-interviewed.html>

Worldwide Church of God linked with shell corporations (Oct. 1995)

<http://www.thejournal.org/in-transition/v1issue7/wcg-linked-shell-corporations.html>

Former WCG youths seek alternatives to Ambassador degree (Nov. 1995)

<http://www.thejournal.org/in-transition/v1issue8/ambassador-university-students-pursue-alternatives.html>

Hank Hanegraaff's group claims big part in WCG doctrinal changes (Nov. 1995)

<http://www.thejournal.org/in-transition/v1issue8/cult-ministry-claims-part-wcg-changes.html>

Los Angeles Times Recaps WCG Doctrinal Changes (Dec. 1995)

<http://www.thejournal.org/in-transition/v1issue9/newspaper-recaps-wcg-doctrinal-changes.html>

Hank Hanegraaff interviews WCG leaders on massive changes (Jan. 1996)

<http://www.thejournal.org/in-transition/v2issue1/hank-hanegraaff-interviews-wcg-leaders.html>

Minister David Covington resigns, accuses WCG of spiritual abuse (May 1996)

<http://www.thejournal.org/in-transition/v2issue5/minister-resigns-wcg-spiritual-abuse.html>

Black member examines race relations in church (May 1996)

<http://www.thejournal.org/in-transition/v2issue5/race-relations-worldwide-church-god.html>

UCG council meets, discusses crisis of trust, office location (May 1996)

<http://www.thejournal.org/in-transition/v2issue5/ucg-faces-crisis-trust-office-location.html>

UCG's "Spirit of Indianapolis" revisited (June 1996)

<http://www.thejournal.org/in-transition/v2issue6/spirit-of-ucg-indianapolis-founding-meeting-revisited.html>

Former student remembers Ambassador University student underground (Oct. 1996)

<http://www.thejournal.org/in-transition/v2issue10/ambassador-university-student-underground.html>

Aaron Dean, aide to HWA/Joseph Tkach Sr., speaks about his experiences (Dec. 1996)

<http://www.thejournal.org/in-transition/v2issue12/aide-armstrong-tkach-speaks.html>

History of WCG church government (Dec. 1996)

<http://www.thejournal.org/in-transition/v2issue12/wcg-church-government-history-1.html>

WCG church gov't / HWA admits hierarchy created out of lack of faith (Jan. 1997)

<http://www.thejournal.org/in-transition/v3issue1/wcg-church-government-history-2.html>

WCG pastor general tells church members to resume tithing (Jan. 1997)

<http://www.thejournal.org/in-transition/v3issue1/wcg-resumes-tithing.html>

We've also included **Letters sent to the Editor** from I-T's **June 1995, July 1995** and **Jan. 1997** issues.

This special section of *The Journal's* Web site is dedicated to the memory of *In Transition's* publisher **John Robinson**.

Item found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/i2006-036-03.htm>

THE END**

Details of the Place of Safety Camp in Ontario

by Alan Croyle
(Emporia, Virginia)

Dear Brethren,

Jesus Christ is come in the flesh 1 John 4:1-3, showing, proving the presence of Gods' Spirit. Check the verses.

God has shown me, a prophet, possibly an apostle, by His Spirit that God cannot lie, and by lot prayer (Acts 1:26) that the place of safety will be fairly close to the village of

Armstrong, southwest Ontario, Canada. It will have two names... The Place of Safety Camp, and also, The Mark of the Beast Refugee Camp.

God wants a Temple, booths, warehouse, and landing runway for a large airliner put in there.

The airliner, if church owned, will be called "The Great Eagle", see Rev. 12:14.

Note in Mark 1:9 that John baptized Jesus in the Jordan, called, in other places, "Wilderness": and that John was "The Voice Crying in the Wilderness" ...therefore, the Jordan wilderness is a river area... yet, there is no river in Petra... and Christ wasn't baptized with hot dry sand.

By lot prayer, and His Spirit, God has chosen just above the Great Lakes Region, fairly close to Armstrong Village, as the place of safety site. It is our job to put it in... to prepare it.

Whatever flies in with church members on it, from all areas of the inhabited earth, will be either church members from all the earth, as well as those approved by God, to escape the era of the mark of the beast, as shown in Rev. 13:16-17, these will escape being tattooed with the (computer) mark, to do business without the necessity of a debit card. As you have seen half the cash vaporized to computer in the past 30 years, so plan for the remaining half of the cash on earth, including dollars and euros, to fall to computer sales only.

You will escape? How would you pay next months rent... the water bill... the next gallon of gas? The next bite of food?

Prison for those who "break the Law" ...refusing government standards... read again how none will buy or sell... if you, your kids, are not in the place of safety, with supplies already there, where will you be?

I know from God the mark is a tattoo... I suspect they will make a "tattoo check machine" ...Japan has bar coded their citizens... next, bank accounts. Tattooing the citizen, using an "assigned bar code machine" will be the fulfillment of Rev. 13:16-17.

So help build the camp. Contribute whatever you can. Depart from the unbelieving. Write: Morningstar Church, PO Box 7, Emporia, VA 2347.

Item found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/i2006-036-04.htm>

THE END**

Visit Our Web Site at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com>

Is Islam a Peaceful Religion

Sent by Rich Daniels
(Shawano, Wisconsin)

Perhaps it would be instructive to look at what is happening to Pope Benedict over the past few days for an answer.

First ... just what did the Pope do? You can read the Pope's entire speech by clicking on this link:

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/shared/bsp/hi/pdfs/15_09_06_pope.pdf If you are not into reading Pope's speeches, I'll lift out the part that has started all of this controversy.

Pope Benedict moves into the area of his speech that has sparked the controversy with this paragraph:

"I was reminded of all this recently, when I read the edition by Professor Theodore Khoury (Munster) of part of the dialogue carried on--perhaps in 1391 in the winter barracks near Ankara--by the erudite Byzantine emperor Manuel II Paleologus and an educated Persian on the subject of Christianity and Islam, and the truth of both. It was probably the emperor himself who set down this dialogue, during the siege of Constantinople between 1394 and 1402; and this would explain why his arguments are given in greater detail than the responses of the learned Persian."

Pope Benedict then goes on to quote one particular. This is something the Byzantine emperor said to the Persian on the subject of Islam and jihad, or holy war.

"Show me just what Mohammed brought that was new, and there you will find things only evil and inhuman, such as his command to spread by the sword the faith he preached."

Now remember ... these were not the words of the Pope. These were the words of some emperor over 600 years ago. The emperor evidently thought that Islam was a violent religion, and that it was the commands of Mohammed that made it so.

So ... how do Muslims react to the Pope's revelation that a Byzantine emperor 600 years ago thought that Islam was a violent religion? Why, with violence, of course? Muslims murder a nun in Somalia. They burn churches in Gaza, and they go on their grand marches and demonstrations reminiscent of the violence they spread after that Danish cartoon mess.

And so what is the inescapable conclusion that we're left with? Islam is a violent religion. Don't take Emperor Paleologus' word for it ... just watch Muslims!

Is it just me, or does it make sense to you that if Muslims didn't want the rest of the

Life's Ocean of Tears Beneath My Feet

by Richard Markland (Covington, Ohio)

(c) 2006 By Richard Markland

As I face another day of uncertainty,
Life's Ocean of Tears flow once again beneath my feet.
My teardrops are mingled with so many others.
Messages are carried within each wave.
As I see the reflection of my image,
the one God gave to me is no longer by my side.
Life's Ocean of Tears is endless.
New teardrops are added daily.
I see new faces each day,
silently expressing their grief.
So many of my tears have been added to its depth.
God, thank you for providing a place of refuge.

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

Item found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/i2006-036-07.htm>

THE END**

world to consider Islam a violent religion, they wouldn't get so violent every time someone say's they're violent? Come on, folks! How hard is all this?

Item found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/i2006-036-05.htm>

THE END**

"Creation" Poem

by Jacques Gauvin
(Canada)

I wrote a little prose entitled 'Creation' this weekend. You can read it here:

<http://www.jacquesgauvin.com/POEMS/creation.htm>

I have been hosting a religious based website for about eight years producing about an article a month. I try to keep my articles Biblically sound and for a whole family audience. Please take the time to check it out. Thank you!

Item found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/i2006-036-06.htm>

THE END**

BibleStudy.org's Q&A Service Celebrates 4th Anniversary

by Alan Ruth

(Farmington Hills, Michigan)

In September 2006 [BibleStudy.org's](http://BibleStudy.org) unique *Personal Answers to Bible Questions* service celebrated its 4th anniversary. This service is currently staffed by thirteen mature Church of God volunteers known as the *Email Evangelists*. The current staff of Evangelists are: Rick/Eileen Beltz, Adriano Borean, Charlotte Grantham, Arnold Mendez Sr., Art Mocarow, Al/Debra Murrey, Don Smith, Eric Snow, Mike Summers, Les Turvey, Margaret Vidal, Tommy West and Clay Willis.

Since 2002 the *Evangelists* have handled 5,558 questions from the general public. The majority of questions sent to the site are answered within a few days after they are received.

BibleStudy.org Passes 2005 Popularity in 9 1/2 months

God has blessed the BibleStudy.org Web site with another record-breaking year!

On September 14th BibleStudy.org exceeded the number of visitors it attracted

Continued on Page 12