

## How do I know God wants ME to do this?

by Nathaniel Burson (Big Sandy, Texas)

Many times have I heard that question. After all, God hasn't spoken to anyone I know of personally, like He did with Jeremiah and Isaiah. All we have is some ancient writings and instructions designed thousands of years ago. So how can I, or you, or anyone, know that God wants them to do something to spread the Gospel around the world?

Of course, we all know the scriptures that say things like "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel" (*Continued on page 3*)

## Jesus Christ the Good Shepherd

by Doyle Carter (Tulsa, Oklahoma)

Many Christians do not seem to understand the level of commitment that Jesus Christ has toward them and are very complacent toward the sacrifice that he had made during the crucifixion, not realizing that He is very committed to our lives and success to salvation. Jesus Christ is like a good shepherd who guards us in life and helps us to develop to be more like him. Let's see what Jesus Christ said about his level of commitment toward us. (*Continued on page 4*)

## The Missing Simeonites

by Steven M. Collins (Sioux Falls, South Dakota)

In the book of Numbers, we find that the Israelites under Moses undertook a first and second census of the tribes of Israel while they were in the Wilderness. The results of those enumerations of the tribes of Israel reveal some surprising results. This study will attempt to at least partially explain what seems to be some incomprehensible results.

The first census is listed in Numbers Chapter One. In Numbers 1:1-3 and verse 18, we see that the census tallied the number of males "twenty years old and upward, all that are able to go forth to war in Israel." Therefore, we should keep (*Continued on page 5*)

## People of the Passover

From Best to Worst

by Norman S. Edwards (Port Austin, Michigan)

In that all-important Passover event—the persecution, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ—there were 10 different types of people who played various roles. These 10 types are still with us today. You and the significant people you must deal with probably all fall into one of these categories. Understanding these types can be a great benefit to changing ourselves, and to recognizing and working with other types whom we cannot change.

The most obvious, and most righteous, is Jesus Himself. Though falsely accused of many things, He (*Continued on page 7*)

## Magnetic Reversals and The Great Flood

by Jonathan Gray (New Zealand)

"Just look what we've found!" shrieked Robert. Isn't this mind-blowing?"

"On the seabed?"

"Yes!... but they don't want to know it."

"Why not?"

"Because the implications are... shall I say... DANGEROUS!"

HAVEN'T YOU HEARD?

Didn't you know? Hasn't anybody told (*Continued on page 10*)

## Choosing

by Marisha Hileman (Toledo, Ohio)

The OVERRIDING message in YahVaH'S WORD throughout the Bible is that we are to "CHOOSE" between YahVaH and BAAL as our HUSBAND, MASTER, and SAVIOR. That message has been spelled out loud and clear all through YahVaH'S Holy Word but this world's RELIGIOUS SCHOLARSHIP has DOUBLE TALKED the DECEIVED sheep into choosing BAAL! Throughout history, GREAT EVIL has been practiced OPENLY on the "BROAD WAY TO DESTRUCTION" by this world's RELIGIOUS POWERS of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam as they preach and practice TRUTH/UNTRUTH (DOUBLETALK). (*Continued on page 11*)

## Was the "Last Supper" The Passover Meal?

by Bryan T. Huie (Dennard, Arkansas)

Several conflicting opinions exist regarding the meal that took place on the last night of Christ's life. Many people believe that Yeshua ate a Passover meal with his disciples, as the Synoptic Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke appear to indicate. Others disagree, pointing to John's Gospel, which clearly shows that this "last supper" occurred **before** the Passover feast. Is there a way to reconcile the two differing accounts? Can both accounts be correct? (*Continued on page 11*)

## A Contrary Spirit

by John Jewell (England)

You know, I have always respected **BBC radio** and having listened to radio in other parts of the world I can say, with some experience, that no one does it better than the **BBC**. As a very young lad in the 30s living in Wales I was not conscious of being deprived because we had no radio in the house, and even when we did eventually get one I still didn't feel I had been deprived. A new world had opened up to me. Children's Hour, with Larry the Lamb and Uncle Mac and Mr. Growser! With the onset of world war 2 we moved to the London area. Most people were moving out, we moved in! I thought for a moment that we weren't going to have a (*Continued on page 14*)

**LETTERS SECTION ---**

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

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

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

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

**Raymond McNair Dies (10-17-08)  
by Craig White (Australia)**

**Eve McNair writes:**

Dear family and friends,

By now many of you have heard the sad news regarding the death of my dear husband, **Raymond McNair**. Through his five year ordeal he never complained nor asked, "Why me Lord?"

He trusted God knowing he would be delivered either through death or divine healing. "Not my will, but yours O Lord," were words he often repeated.

My husband's convictions were as Paul's, "Henceforth, there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the Righteous Judge, shall give me at that last day; and not to me only, but unto all men also that love His appearing.

"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith!" (2Tim. 4:8 & 7).

I wish to thank all who have so kindly and passionately reached out to comfort me in my distress. The future for me will be difficult at first, and at times lonely. But the hope in me will keep me going, remembering God's promises that my husband and I will be together again, standing before our Father and Jesus Christ to hear those familiar words, "Well done, thou good and faithful servants."

Sincerely,  
Eve McNair  
[littleserver@verizon.net](mailto:littleserver@verizon.net)

**Craig White writes:**

Forwarded on for your prayers for Mrs. McNair and her family during this difficult time.

I must say that when I received the news of **Mr. McNair's** death a few days ago I was rather distressed and felt an inner emptiness. Gradually, pioneers of the Church are passing away - these were stalwarts that were anchors for our faith in a sense - and many do not realize the jewels that we no longer have among us. I read their writings; had some contact with them; and attentively listened to their sermons.

Their understanding of God's Word is unbeatable and there is no one around whom can replace them - no one seems to have that depth or breadth of understanding anymore.

Anyway, I always found his writings so inspirational. Over the

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

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

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

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**Publisher:** Darwin & Laura Lee

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**LETTERS SECTION CONTINUES  
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**(“How do I...” continued from page 1)**

*to every creature.” (Mark 16:15)*

And we all agree that someone should do that. But should \*I\*? Should \*YOU\*? I'm sure God meant for the Apostles to do that then, but that was a long time ago. It's far from being a specific command for ME to preach the Gospel to every creature, isn't it? After all, we can all come up with good excuses – we're either too young, too old, too inexperienced, too tired, too poor, too busy, too far in debt, or any of a number of other excuses I've heard. So how can we KNOW that WE, PERSONALLY, are obligated to obey this command?

**Ezekiel 3:17-19** *Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me. When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul.*

Now let's draw an analogy. Let's say you're in an ancient city. There are guards all around the top of the city wall who are supposed to be watching for dangers to the city, but they're all playing cards, or drunk. You are just a lowly serf, with no rank or title or responsibility. A janitor, let us say.

And yet you look out through a knothole in the wall and see an enemy coming to destroy the city! What can you do? What would you do? What MUST you do? You now know something that no one else in the city knows – and that knowledge makes you RESPONSIBLE to warn your friends and family! Your first task would be to warn the watchmen - “Hey up there, the enemy is coming!”

Their response, of course, is “No, the enemy isn't coming. Don't you know that WE are the watchmen? If the enemy was coming, WE'D know. Mind your own business, janitor!” And they went back to playing cards, laughing about a lowly janitor presuming to tell *them* how to do their job. Clearly they weren't interested in listening to you any more. So where would you go next? I would think that your next thought would be to tell your friends and family that the enemy is coming.

They would of course say “If the enemy is coming, why haven't the WATCHMEN told us? Who do you think you are? Leave this sort of thing to the professionals!” And after arguing with them they, too, refuse to listen to you. Then you go to the town square and

shout it to everyone that if they don't wake up now they will all be killed when the enemy comes!

They then ride you out of town on a rail, laughing and making fun of you. What next? You know that once this village is overcome by the enemy, that they will soon attack the other villages nearby, so you move on to the next village, where many of the same things happen, but perhaps a few listen to you this time.

That little analogy is a very good practical example of what we are talking about. The janitor had no responsibility to the village to watch for the enemy, but when he saw the enemy coming, THAT KNOWLEDGE MADE HIM RESPONSIBLE! By KNOWING that evil is coming upon a people when no one, or almost no one else knew it, HE WAS OBLIGATED TO WARN HIS VILLAGE! If he HADN'T, it would have been HIS FAULT that they were massacred!

**Ezekiel 33:6-9** *But if the watchman see the sword come, and blow not the trumpet, and the people be not warned; if the sword come, and take any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at the watchman's hand.*

God HOLDS THIS JANITOR RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS NEIGHBOURS SINS IF HE HASN'T WARNED HIM! If you KNOW that his way of life is leading to pain and suffering, and the ultimate downfall of this nation, and KEEP SILENT, **GOD WILL LOOK TO YOU FOR PAYMENT FOR HIS BLOOD!**

*...So thou, O son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear the word at my mouth, and warn them from me. When I say unto the wicked, O wicked man, thou shalt surely die; if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Nevertheless, if thou warn the wicked of his way to turn from it; if he do not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul.*

Or, let's try a different analogy. Let's say you have two children, one 8, and one 4 years old. Both are standing near a hot stove. The younger child doesn't know about fire, and reaches out to touch the stove. The older one sees him doing it, and knows the stove is hot, but is either too busy, or too tired, or too young (or any of the other excuses I quoted at the beginning), to warn his younger sibling and keep him from being burned.

I ask you, who will you hold responsible for this child's burns? Is it not the older child? The older child will tell you “But you didn't TELL me to watch him!” How will you respond? Will you not say “But YOU KNEW

he was going to hurt himself, it was your RESPONSIBILITY to warn him because YOU KNEW THAT WHAT HE WAS DOING WOULD LEAD TO PAIN!”

Of course you would. So would any sane parent. And so would God. Anyone who knows anything about the Bible knows that Christmas and Easter are Pagan. They know that the law of God is still binding, and that anyone who breaks it is not only not going to be saved, but will bring suffering upon themselves in this life as well. They know that sin leads to pain, and that this nation's sins will come up before God one of these days. Many of us know these things, and many more.

If the Janitor had stuttered, would it have given him an excuse not to warn the watchmen, his family, and finally the whole town? What if he had had a limp? Or looked like a geek? Or wasn't able to write well? Or had been poor? Would any of these things have excused him from warning the rest of the village? I think not. No more do they excuse you or me.

**Lamentations 2:14** *Thy prophets have seen vain and foolish things for thee: and they have not discovered thine iniquity, to turn away thy captivity; but have seen for thee false burdens and causes of banishment.*

This nation's prophets have seen empty things for them. They have said “God loves you!”, when God feels no such emotion for a sinning, rebellious people. They have said “Just believe on the Lord Jesus and be saved!”, never telling them to repent, or to change their life! Their messages and their preaching CANNOT turn away the coming captivity of this nation, or the SUFFERING of EVERY MAN, WOMAN, AND CHILD IN IT!

They have spoken FALSE things, and SMOOTH things, things that people enjoy hearing, but which CANNOT HELP THEM! God speaks of these ministers, these FALSE SHEPHERDS of Israel, and pronounces a curse upon them! When God says REPENT, lest you DIE, they plead with them to do good, but promise that God will love them even if they don't! When God says thou shalt NOT have idols, they say “well, I'm sure a Dreamcatcher or two would be alright. God will understand!”

**Jeremiah 48:10** *Cursed be he that doeth the work of the LORD deceitfully, and cursed be he that keepeth back his sword from blood.*

God says they are CURSED who do the work of God deceitfully! THEY ARE CURSED WHEN THEY KEEP BACK THEIR SWORD FROM BLOOD! You see, God has given any of us who understand His truth a mighty sword. A sword which lays open the hearts and doings of the world.

**Hebrews 4:12** *For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any*

*twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

And he expects us to USE this sword, and pronounces a curse upon anyone whose sword does NOT bring forth blood! Anyone who DOESN'T USE THIS SWORD OF GOD, HIS TRUTH, to lay bare the sins of mankind and prick the consciences and hearts of the wicked is CURSED!

**Proverbs 24:10** *If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small.*

Which of us hasn't heard this scripture? Who hasn't heard it used to encourage people to endure suffering and pain. But which of us ever stopped to read the CONTEXT?

**Proverbs 24:11-12** *If thou forbear to deliver them that are drawn unto death, and those that are ready to be slain; If thou sayest, Behold, we knew it not; doth not he that pondereth the heart consider it? and he that keepeth thy soul, doth not he know it? and shall not he render to every man according to his works?*

If you weaken, if your heart quails and you DO NOT WARN THOSE who are heading for destruction, if you come up with some lame, pathetic excuse about not knowing what to say or what to do, or not being able to do it for this reason or that... does not God notice it? And will he not reward you according to your works? Think about it. Carefully.

Because the people that I have known who had this glittering sword of truth, given to them by God, did not use it for condemning sin. Oh, perhaps one or two sins, but never as they should have. They always kept back their sword from blood. They didn't want to offend this "babe" in Christ, they said.

All too often they never get their sword bloody at all. Rather than using their sword for what it was intended, they use this truth of God to pat themselves on the back. They use the sword as a mirror – they look in at the blade of the sword and see themselves and preen, and say "Wow, aren't we cool, we know so much!"

Well, this isn't why God gave you truth. And it isn't why the Janitor looked through the hole in the wall and saw the enemy coming. It wasn't so he could feel good about knowing the enemy was coming while the whole village was in darkness. It was so he could USE that knowledge to save his friends. And if they didn't listen, well, he'd go to the next village and talk to them. Somebody, eventually, would listen. And if he worked his entire life to only save one life, it was a life well spent.

**Matthew 10:23** *But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another: for verily I say unto you, Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be*

*come.*

Everyone I know tells me "but I'm doing all I can! What more can I do?". My answer is that you are doing all you can WITHOUT RISKING ANYTHING! The first-century church was built of men who "hazarded their lives for the gospel". Have you? Sure, you may have made a few enemies for the gospel's sake, but have you been run out of a city yet? Does your city as a whole even know you exist, or what you believe?

Christ promised that you would be run out of cities, and it COULD HAPPEN TODAY, but I don't see it happening. Most ministers I know could NEVER get thrown out of a city. Why should they be? As Christ said,

**John 7:7** *The world cannot hate you; but me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil.*

Only by bloodying your sword in that city, by condemning their sins, by condemning the fact that the blood from one crime spills over into the blood from another crime, by CRYING ALOUD, and SPARING NOT, and SHOWING THE NATION THEIR SINS (**Isaiah 58:1**), can you be HATED OF ALL NATIONS FOR HIS NAME'S SAKE!

**Matthew 24:9** *Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.*

What is there about **YOU** that ALL NATIONS could hate? There probably aren't a dozen people in the world, outside of your inner group of confidants, who even know what you believe, much less hate you for believing it! But if you find ways to shout the truth of God from every rooftop, and preach the obedience to the law of God from every street corner, and SHOW the townspeople their sins, you WILL be hated of all nations, and you WILL be run out of that city!

And that leads me back to the original question – what if God hasn't sent you? What if He isn't asking you, personally, to do that? All the scriptures to the contrary that I have shown notwithstanding... well, it just doesn't matter. It's a moot question.

**Jeremiah 23:21-22** *I have not sent these prophets, yet they ran: I have not spoken to them, yet they prophesied. But IF THEY HAD STOOD IN MY COUNSEL, and had caused MY PEOPLE to HEAR MY WORDS, then they should have TURNED THEM FROM THEIR EVIL WAY, and from the evil of their doings.*

Maybe God hasn't sent you! Maybe He hasn't sent me! Maybe He doesn't even know we're alive! **IT DOESN'T MATTER!** Because if we STAND in the counsel of the Lord, and cause people to HEAR HIS WORDS, and PREACH THE PLAIN, untarnished, unadulterated, UNDILUTED TRUTH from the BIBLE, **WE WILL TURN THEM FROM THEIR EVIL WAYS!**

Article found on line at:

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\*\*\*THE END\*\*\*\*\*

**(“Jesus Christ the...” continued from page 1)**

In **John 10**, Jesus expresses his own position on this matter in a parable.

In **John 10: 11-18**, Jesus said, “I am the Good shepherd; the Good Shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. But he that is a hireling, and not the shepherd... seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth; and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep... I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. ...I lay down my life for the sheep...therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.”

Many interesting facts can be derived from these words spoken by Jesus Christ.

Jesus compares himself to a good shepherd. This is interesting because shepherds, as a profession, were very common during that day and can easily be researched in general Bible study aids.

In general, a shepherd was employed to feed, guard, and tend to the general needs of the flock. He would have carried a sling shot and/or staff to protect himself and his flock. Sometimes, the shepherd would carry a flute to entertain himself and keep the flock content. He even knew all their names and the sheep would know his voice since they know that they were safe with him.

In his parable, Jesus informs us that he is not a hireling who will flee at the first sign of danger, but rather he would have laid down his life for us.

Plus, He also informs us that no man can take his life, but He laid down his own life voluntarily at the crucifixion for us. He did it of his own free will.

In **Matthew 26:53**, Jesus was quoted at the garden before his arrest, “Thinkest thou that I can not now pray to the Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?” A Roman legion varied in numbers from 3000 to 6000.

In **John 3:16**, it states that “God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

So just as a good shepherd to his flock, Jesus Christ allowed himself to be a sacrifice for us so that he can offer us everlasting life and he did this action of his own free will, not by force.

By this action, it allowed him to watch and assist us in this life as we go through our many trials. He provides for us during our times of need and provides us safety when we need it during the most difficult times of our lives.

It would be worth your time to meditate on this topic and to study it more in-depth so that you may understand it more completely. It would benefit your spiritual life greatly.

**Article found on line at:**  
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**\*\*\*THE END\*\*\*\*\***

**(“The Missing...” continued from page 1)**

in mind that the entire population of Israel's tribes in the Wilderness consisted of far more than the tally in Numbers 1. As a guideline, one would ordinarily double the numbers to allow for one wife per man of military age. Given the polygamous culture at that time, some of the men may have had a number of wives. It is difficult to make an estimate of the number of children, but we should keep in mind that large families were very common at that time. Numbers 1:46 records that 603,550 adult males were numbered in the census. Based on some of the above rough methods of estimating the number of the entire nation of Israel at that time, we can see that the Israelites can be conservatively estimated to be a body of approximately 3,000,000 people. For American readers, that number would equal the approximate population of Oregon. The actual number of Israelites was likely higher as the tribe of Levi wasn't included in this census, nor were the people of the "mixed multitude" which accompanied the Israelites out of Egypt (Exodus 12:38).

Listed below are the populations of adult males per tribe, given in the order listed in Numbers 1.

**TRIBE POPULATION**

- Reuben 46,500
- Simeon 59,300
- Gad 45,650
- Judah 74,600
- Issachar 54,400
- Zebulun 57,400
- Manasseh 32,200
- Ephraim 40,500
- Benjamin 35,400
- Dan 62,700
- Asher 41,500
- Naphtali 53,400

Modern readers will notice that the tribe of Judah was, at that time, the largest tribe. The three smallest tribal figures are the three tribes which descended from Jacob and

Rachel: Ephraim, Manasseh and Benjamin. However, when the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh are totaled together, they numbered 72,700, showing the actual total of Israelites descended from Joseph constituted the second largest grouping in Israel. Notice that the tribe of Simeon was the third largest tribe in this census, taken approximately 1450 B.C.

Now, let's examine the census taken approximately 40 years later in 1410 B.C. (if the dates on the chapter headings in my book are accurate). For purposes of comparison, listed below are the totals from each census and the change in the total of adult males in each tribe. The second census is listed in Numbers 26. Numbers 26:2 confirms that it is the sum of males "twenty years old and upward...all that are able to go to war in Israel," so each census was conducted with the same criteria.

TRIBE	1ST CENSUS	2ND CENSUS	CHANGE
Reuben	46,500	43,700	-2,800
Simeon	59,300	27,200	-32,100
Gad	45,650	40,500	-5,100
Judah	74,600	76,500	+1,900
Issachar	54,400	64,300	+9,900
Zebulun	57,400	60,500	+3,100
Manasseh	32,200	52,700	+20,500
Ephraim	40,500	32,500	-8,000
Benjamin	40,500	45,600	+10,200
Dan	62,700	64,400	+1,700
Asher	41,500	53,400	+11,900
Naphtali	53,400	45,400	-8,000
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>603,550</b>	<b>601,730</b>	<b>-1,820</b>

The national totals indicate the number of Israelites enumerated under Moses had dropped very slightly, but the tribal totals reveal something very different had transpired. The most evident change is that over half the tribe of Simeon inexplicably "disappeared" from the census totals. What happened? Simeon, the third largest tribe in Israel in the first census, had plummeted to be the smallest tribe of all in the second census! Another anomaly leaps out at the reader.

The tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh shared the birthright blessing of the Abrahamic covenant, which included being blessed with large population growth. Manasseh had, indeed, risen dramatically in population, going from 32,200 to 52,700, a gain of 20,500 people, by far the largest increase in any tribe. However, its brother tribe, which shared this birthright blessing, Ephraim, *dropped* 8,000 people to join Simeon at the bottom of the population totals of the tribes in Israel. Even the tribe of Benjamin outnumbered the Ephraimites at that time. Judah was still the largest tribe, but Manasseh's explosive growth resulted in the

tribe of Joseph being the largest tribe if Manasseh and Ephraim were added together. As many readers might observe, something "doesn't add up" in these figures. As commentator **Paul Harvey** says here in America, let's examine what happened to determine "the rest of the story."

I believe the key to what happened in Numbers 26 is found in the previous chapter. In Numbers 25, we learn that Phineas, a Levite, executed "a prince of a chief house among the Simeonites" (verses 7-14). Phineas leaped to execute this Simeonite prince for his audacity in rebelling against God by taking a Midianite woman into his tent at a time when God was punishing Israel for such deeds. Indeed, God sent a plague among the Israelites which killed 24,000 people, and that plague was stayed by the action of Phineas.

The Bible does not record which tribes suffered the most from that plague. Even if one assumes the Simeonites bore the brunt of this plague, it does not begin to account for the drop in population of approximately 56,000 males of 20 years and older among the tribes which lost population between the two censuses. Also, Numbers 25:9 records that 24,000 *people* died in the plague, it does not state that all

those slain were "males 20 years of age and older." This indicates that 24,000 men, women and children of all ages died in the plague, and that perhaps 6,000 of that total were males 20 years and older. Where did the rest go?

It is my belief that after the execution of a Simeonite prince by a Levitical priest, there was a great dissension in the camp of Israel. We know from the accounts in the Torah of their wanderings in the Wilderness that the Israelites were very prone to revolting against Moses over various provocations. We know from Genesis 34:25 that Simeon and Levi were the two most impulsive sons of Jacob, the two most likely to settle a matter "by the sword." To put it in modern American terms, they were the kind who "shot first and asked questions later." Genesis 49:5-7 prophesies that impulsive wrathfulness leading to violence would characterize both Simeonites and Levites through all the millennia up to and including the "latter days."

In the episode of Phineas the Levite unilaterally executing a Simeonite priest, the two most violent tribes were likely at loggerhead, and a civil war among the tribes

was not improbable. God usefully directed the Levites' propensity to violence into becoming a tribe of butchers, killing, cutting up and sacrificing innumerable animals under the system of animal sacrifices established in ancient Israel. Simeon had no such outlet.

I believe a logical explanation for the sudden drop in several tribes' population is that most of the tribe of Simeon and varying contingents of the other tribes literally "walked out" of the camp and left the main body of Israelites to strike out on their own. The huge drop in the number of Simeonites indicates that the Simeonites led this partial "exodus" from the Israelite camp. The Simeonites were impulsive and the execution of one of their chieftains (however just) could easily have provoked such an action.

The census figures indicate that the tribes of Ephraim and Naphtali contributed most of the remaining Israelites who accompanied most of the tribe of Simeon as it left the Israelite encampment. The census data indicates that the entire tribes of Manasseh, Asher, Issachar and Benjamin stayed with Moses as their second census totals reflect normal demographic growth.

Would God or Moses have allowed so large a mass of Israelites to leave the camp? I think the answer is yes. Indeed, they may have encouraged it as a way to end the dissension in the camp. There was no commandment of God that forbid any Israelites to leave the camp in the Wilderness, so the only penalty that exiting Israelites would bear would be that their children would not enter the Promised Land with the children of those who stayed. Remember that every adult (except Caleb and Joshua) were under a death sentence in the Wilderness. For their rebellion, they would wander till the entire generation who refused to go into the Promised Land at first was dead! Under such circumstances, many could have thought: "If my choice is stay and die in this desert or leave and trust to my wits and sword to make a living, I'll choose the second option."

The tribe of Simeon, naturally impulsive, would likely have led such a mini-exodus. The fact that Manasseh grew greatly between the censuses and that Ephraim dropped dramatically argues that this can only be explained if a large number of Ephraimites left the camp. Both tribes were the birthright tribes, and they shared the same promises. If no one had left the camp, the population figures of Ephraim and Manasseh should have reflected the same growth.

If we limit our number of exiting Israelites to only those tribes who had net reductions in their tribal totals, we have about 50,000 males above age twenty and all their wives and children (perhaps 200,000 people). The

tribes whose populations stayed static indicates that some of the natural growth of those tribes was deleted from the census because contingents of their tribes also joined the exodus. The total of those leaving the camp may have been larger than 200,000. If such an event occurred, there would have been a powerful stimulus to conduct the second census to "see who we have left." Indeed, Numbers 26:1-2 shows that right after the events described above, God told Moses to take a census of all the tribes.

Where did the departing Israelites go? There are three groups of people exhibiting Israelite characteristics which surfaced in the world outside of the Promised Land. One group was the Sea Peoples who raided and settled throughout the Mediterranean World while most of Israel lived in Israel during the time of the book of Judges. Both [Yair Davidi](#) and I have commented in our books about the Israelite nature of some of the identifiable tribes in the Sea Peoples. However, it could be also noted that some of the Sea Peoples were Israelites who sailed from the promised Land to seek new homelands as colonists or to escape the various invasions of oppressors which are enumerated in the book of Judges.

There is a second group, famous in the ancient world, which exhibited the traits of the tribe of Simeon and which acknowledged a tribal tie to the Israelites. That group was the Spartans of ancient Greece. The Spartans were known to be descended from a people non-native to Greece who arrived there in ancient times. The Spartans were famous as being the most martial of the Greek city-states. It was the Spartan King Leonidas with 300 elite bodyguards who held back the army of the Persian Empire at the battle of Thermopylae. They had a rigorous, martial community which was very different from the rest of the Greek city-states. The tribe of Simeon would be expected to "live by the sword" and be a martial community wherever they settled. However, there is more evidence than that.

The Book, [Sparta](#), by A.H.M. Jones, a Professor of Ancient History at Cambridge University, noted several things about Sparta. He states the Spartans worshipped a "great law-giver" who had given them their laws in the "dim past" (page 5 of his book). This law-giver may have been Moses (God).

Professor Jones also noted the Spartans celebrated "the new moons" and the "seventh day" of the month" (page 13). Observing new moons was an Israelite calendar custom, and their observance of "a seventh day" could originate with the Sabbath celebration. Prof. Jones also notes, as do other authorities, that the Spartans were known for being "ruthless" in war and times of crisis. This sounds exactly like the

Simeonite nature, which was given to impulsive cruelty, as the Bible confirms.

Interestingly, Prof. Jones writes that the Spartans were themselves divided into several "tribes" which constituted distinct military formations within the Spartan army (pages 31-32). If the Spartans were descended from Simeonites and several other Israelite tribes who left the rest of their tribesmen just prior to the census of Numbers 26, it would make sense that they would be allied together as distinct tribes even in a new homeland like Sparta. The Spartans also founded a colony in Italy called "Tara" (pages 11 and 33). The name "Terah" is a Semitic/Israelite name as Terah was the father of Abraham (Genesis 11).

Also, I make the case in my book, [The "Lost" Ten Tribes of Israel...Found!](#), that Carthage was founded by Semites from Israel, Tyre and Sidon who continued the Semitic/Hebrew language of the Israelites as well as the Baal worship that Israel, Tyre and Sidon shared. Carthage and the Greeks were historically enemies, but Sparta exhibited a community of interest with Carthage. When Carthage's army was not fighting well against the Roman legions, it was a Spartan named Xanthippus who traveled to Carthage to reorganize and drill the Carthaginian army to fight Rome. Who better than a Spartan to teach military tactics? This event is recorded on page 14 of a book, [Hannibal's War With Rome](#), by Terrence Wise and Mark Healy.

I have saved the greatest proof for last, however. The Spartans themselves declared that they were a fellow tribe of the Jews and corresponded with an ancient Jewish High Priest about their relationship. The book of I Maccabees 14:16-23 records this correspondence, which includes this statement: "And this is the copy of the letter which the Spartans sent: The Chief magistrates and the city of the Spartans send greeting to Simon, the chief priest, and to the elders and the priests and the rest of the Jewish people, *our kinsmen.*" (Emphasis added.)

Notice the Spartans called the Jews "our kinsmen." The Spartans did not proclaim themselves to be Jews, but rather that they were "kinsmen" to the Jews (i.e. members of one of the other tribes of Israel). That the Spartans acknowledged a common ancestry with the Jews of the tribe of Judah gives powerful weight to the assertion that they were Israelites who migrated to Greece instead of the Promised Land. The Spartan culture is most like that of the tribe of Simeon, most of which apparently left the Israelite encampment in the Wilderness after a Simeon prince was executed by a Levite.

There is a third group of wanderers in ancient history which manifested a Simeonite/Israelite ancestry, but this article is already too long to address that group fully.

Article found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0048/a2008-048-03.htm>

\*\*\*THE END\*\*\*\*\*

## ("People of the..." continued from page 1)

had no sin and was willing to sacrifice everything for the world. The opposite end of the spectrum was the Jewish leaders of the day: scribes, Pharisees, Sadducees, lawyers, etc. They used their religious and civil authority to make themselves look good while they were doing great evil to many. There were many people in between these two extremes—with varying degrees of understanding of what was really happening.

It is interesting that many Christians believe the "end time" will be the most evil time ever—so evil that God would destroy the world if it were not for the believers (Matt 24:21-22; Joel 2:2; Mal 4:1-6, 2 Tim 3:1-5; Rev 6:9-11; 7:14; 9:20-21; 13:16-17; 16:9-11). These scriptures make it clear that it is not just a few very evil leaders like a Stalin or Hitler that will be present, but that a great number of people will be evil. Scripture also shows that these persons in authority are not simply infringing on one or two of the ten commandments, or failing to thoroughly study and keep them in their spiritual intent; they have greatly violated nearly all of them.

So where are all of these evil people today?

Are they all in hiding, waiting until the very end? Do they all live in foreign countries? In other words, is our nation full of mostly righteous people? (If so, does it make sense that God would bring the biggest judgment ever on our country?) Are the evil people largely powerless right now? Are our present leaders basically righteous people? This writer believes that the answer to every question in this paragraph is a resounding "No!"

Luke 11:46-51, Matthew 23 and other scriptures show that the people in Jesus' day were some of the most evil who had ever lived up to that point in history. It is clear that the apostles continued to teach that they were living in a "perverse generation" (Acts 2:40), but the people they spoke to did not seem to recognize it. Sure, they knew they had trouble, but of all the questions that they asked Jesus and the apostles, "why are we in such evil times?" was rarely raised. Our day is not very different.

From the people of the Passover, we can learn much about the people of today. Here are the 10 different types of people that this writer has identified:

### 1. Jesus: A Good Man Who Served Others, but Who Was Falsely Accused

#### and Condemned

The New Testament is sometimes portrayed as the story of a universally recognized good and kind Jesus who preached love and miraculously healed everyone—until some jealous Jews and rotten Romans finally decided to gang up and put Him to death. An honest reading of the scripture shows that Jesus' ministry **was never** without controversy and accusations against Him.

First, realize Jesus' ministry was not a conflict between "Christians and Jews" or "Christians and Romans". The term "Christian" was not in use until much later in Antioch (Acts 11:26). The Romans regarded Jesus and His followers as the Nazarene Sect of the Jews (Acts 24:5)—they cared little about doctrinal differences, but only for the peace and prosperity of the empire. Nearly all of Jesus' disciples regarded themselves as Jews—as Jesus was (Heb 7:14). The conflict was between the common people who often wanted to hear Jesus (Matt 12:37) and the corrupt leaders who saw Him as a threat to their power: "If we let Him alone like this, everyone will believe in Him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and nation" (John 11:48).

Similarly, for those who seek to let Jesus live in their hearts and do His work today, the biggest threat in most western countries is not from Jews or other religions, but from the national leaders who are afraid of losing their power.

Then they looked for a way to arrest him [Jesus] because they knew he had spoken the parable against them. But they were afraid of the crowd; so they left him and went away (Mark 12:12, NIV).

Indeed, Jesus had to contend with numerous accusations against Him from the leaders, and numerous attempts to arrest Him and/or kill Him.

So the question every Christian should ask themselves now is: "What do I think when I hear about a Christian teacher, who may have a reputation for miracles or other good works, but also is being accused of breaking laws and other bad things?" There maybe warrants out for his arrest—or he has **already been** arrested or spent some **time in jail**. Do we say, "if he were a godly person, that wouldn't have happened?" Do we think, "I don't want to be affiliated with him." If we will not get involved in controversy, we cannot be involved with Jesus Christ. If people are willing to believe what their leaders say, without checking themselves into the message of Jesus and/or His followers, they will stay away.

Let us see what the Scriptures say about the goodness of Jesus, and the falseness of what was said about Him.

"Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth";<sup>23</sup> who, when He was

reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed *Himself* to Him who judges righteously;<sup>24</sup> who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed" (1Pet 2:22-24).

For many bore false witness against Him, but their testimonies did not agree.<sup>57</sup> Then some rose up and bore false witness against Him, saying,<sup>58</sup> "We heard Him say, 'I will destroy this temple made with hands, and within three days I will build another made without hands.'"<sup>59</sup> But not even then did their testimony agree (Mark 14:56-58).

Jesus' innocence was attested to by the Roman governor Pilate (Luke 23:22), Pilate's wife (Matt 27:19), the thief on the cross (Luke 23:41) and the Centurion who guarded Him (Luke 23:47). There were people who were able to discern the truth about Him in spite of all the false accusations against Him. What were these false accusations?

The leaders said that Jesus was "born of fornication" (John 8:41). The leaders, who knew the scriptures and could have had access to any records of the actual birth of Jesus in Bethlehem, claimed that Jesus could not be the Messiah because He was from Nazareth:

Others said, "This is the Christ." But some said, "Will the Christ come out of Galilee? "Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the seed of David and from the town of Bethlehem, where David was?..." They [the leaders] answered and said to him [Nicodemus], "Are you also from Galilee? Search and look, for no prophet has arisen out of Galilee." (John 7:41-42, 52)

These leaders could have also found and made known the quotes from Isaiah 9:1-2 and Hosea 11:1 that Matthew applies to Jesus' birthplace and His sojourn in Egypt:

"The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, by the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles: The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, And upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death Light has dawned" (Matt 4:15-16).

And was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "Out of Egypt I called My Son" (Matt 2:15)

Even though Jesus' healing and teaching was accepted by most people, the leaders continually accused Him of having a demon and using the prince of demons to cast out demons:

And when the demon was cast out, the mute spoke. And the multitudes marveled, saying, "It was never seen like this in Israel!" But the Pharisees said, "He casts out demons by the ruler of the demons" (Matt 9:33-34).

"It is enough for a disciple that he be like

his teacher, and a servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more *will they call* those of his household! Therefore do not fear them. For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known (Matt 10:25-26).

And all the multitudes were amazed and said, "Could this be the Son of David?" Now when the Pharisees heard it they said, "This fellow does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons" (Matt 12:23-24).

Then the Jews answered and said to Him, "Do we not say rightly that You are a Samaritan and have a demon?" (John 8:48).

Then the Jews said to Him, "Now we know that You have a demon! Abraham is dead, and the prophets; and You say, 'If anyone keeps My word he shall never taste death'" (John 8:52).

The accusations of the leaders were effective against Jesus—just as most people believe what their leaders say about other people today. When you hear about someone arrested or indicted for a crime, do you assume that he is guilty and hope that the leaders can "get him", or do you pray that justice will be done and that the truth will come out in the trial?

Therefore there was a division again among the Jews [the people] because of these sayings. And many of them said, "He has a demon and is mad. Why do you listen to Him?" (John 10:19-20).

In Matthew 11:2-15, even John the Baptist, the greatest ever born among women (v 11), who was the "Elijah" to prepare the way before Jesus (v 14), began to doubt if Jesus was the Messiah (v 3). While John was in prison (v 2), he was likely only hearing the official government line, so he sent two of his own disciples to contact Jesus (v 3). Jesus told John's disciples to give a fair report of what was really happening: "The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them" (v 5). Then Jesus added this statement: "And blessed is He who is not offended because of Me" (v 6). There was nothing offensive in what Jesus was saying and doing here—but one could certainly have been offended if he believed the "official line" about Jesus.

Even after this, Jesus' disciples were still being confused by the leadership of the time's erroneous statements about what was necessary for the Messiah to come:

NKJ Matt 17:10 And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?" Jesus answered and said to them, "Indeed, Elijah is coming first and will restore all things. But I say to you that Elijah has come already, and they did not know him but did to him whatever

they wished. Likewise the Son of Man is also about to suffer at their hands" (Matt 17:10-12).

Besides the false accusations, many leaders also "smeared" Jesus by telling only partial stories, making Him look bad: Mark 2:16 And when the scribes and Pharisees saw Him eating with the tax collectors and sinners, they said to His disciples, "How *is it* that He eats and drinks with tax collectors and sinners?" When Jesus heard *it*, He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call *the* righteous, but sinners, to repentance."

But after this good explanation, did they stop their complaints? Much later: And the Pharisees and scribes complained, saying, "This Man receives sinners and eats with them" (Luke 15:2).

Jesus had yet more misinformation to put up with.

Then Jesus said to them again, "I am going away, and you will seek Me, and will die in your sin. Where I go you cannot come." So the Jews said, "**Will He kill Himself**, because He says, 'Where I go you cannot come?'" (John 8:21-22).

And they began to accuse Him, saying, "We found this fellow perverting the nation, and forbidding to pay taxes to Caesar, saying that He Himself is Christ, a King" (Luke 23:2).

We need to realize that all of these things said against Jesus were not just back-fence gossip or pronouncements of faceless bureaucrats that were ignored by most people. These were things said by the respected men in power. If they were not respected for their character, they were at least respected for their power (like today).

The leaders had control over what was said in the temple and many synagogues. They could write public decrees and hire heralds to take them about and read them in the market places. Certainly their words were repeated from house to house much more than the words of someone without an office. By comparing it with today's media, it was as if the leaders back then had control of the major networks, newspapers and magazines.

These leaders stood behind what they said. They made efforts to kill Jesus throughout most of His ministry. (See the last section of this article.)

While the physical Jesus does not walk the earth today, there should be those in whom Christ dwells (Gal 2:20), who are doing the greater works (John 14:12) that He promised His followers would do.

"Remember the word that I [Christ] said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also. But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me" (John 15:20-

21).

Many believers were killed or persecuted in the process of preserving and translating the Bible, and in bringing it to the world and teaching its message. Many others suffered and died trying to establish ministries to provide, in the name of Christ, healing and the basic necessities to those in need. These people can be found throughout the various Christian denominations and also outside of them.

## 2. Righteous Leaders

While the Bible does not say much about them, there are two leaders who stand out as taking a great personal risk to do what they could to aid Jesus on that most-important Passover: Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea. While Nicodemus is probably most famous for not understanding what Jesus meant by saying "you must be born again" in John 3, he must be credited for being one of the few ruling Pharisees who came to Jesus to give Him a fair hearing. He becomes more devoted to God as he goes. Later, in John 7, Nicodemus and some temple guards take a risk to do what was right and were used of God to prevent Jesus from being arrested before His time.

The Pharisees heard the crowd whispering such things about him. Then **the chief priests and the Pharisees sent temple guards to arrest him....**<sup>45</sup> Finally the temple guards went back to the chief priests and Pharisees, who asked them, "Why didn't you bring him in?"<sup>46</sup> "No one ever spoke the way this man does," the guards declared.<sup>47</sup> "You mean he has deceived you also?" the Pharisees retorted.<sup>48</sup> "Has any of the rulers or of the Pharisees believed in him?"<sup>49</sup> No! But this mob that knows nothing of the law—there is a curse on them."<sup>50</sup> **Nicodemus, who had gone to Jesus earlier and who was one of their own number, asked,**<sup>51</sup> "**Does our law condemn anyone without first hearing him to find out what he is doing?**"<sup>52</sup> They replied, "Are you from Galilee, too? [An insult!] Look into it, and you will find that a prophet does not come out of Galilee."<sup>53</sup> Then each went to his own home (John 7:32, 45-53, NIV).

A couple of years later, Nicodemus worked together with Joseph of Arimathea, a member of the council, to obtain the body of Jesus and give it the customary Jewish burial, including the initial spices. This was vitally important as there was a prophecy that His body would not decay (Acts 2:25-32). Joseph was on the council and opposed the condemnation of Jesus.

**Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent member of the Council**, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, **went boldly to Pilate** and asked for Jesus' body (Mark



15:43, NIV).

Now behold, there was a man named **Joseph, a council member**, a good and just man. **He had not consented to their decision and deed.** He was from Arimathea, a city of the Jews, who himself was also waiting for the kingdom of God (Luke 23:50-51).

After this, Joseph of Arimathea, being a disciple of Jesus, **but secretly, for fear of the Jews**, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus; and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took the body of Jesus.<sup>39</sup> And **Nicodemus**, who at first came to Jesus by night, **also came**, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds.<sup>40</sup> Then they took the body of Jesus, and bound it in strips of linen with the spices, as the custom of the Jews is to bury (John 19:38-40).

By putting all of these accounts together, we find that Joseph was a secret disciple of Jesus, for fear of the Jewish leaders, but was very bold in asking for the body of Jesus. Joseph and Nicodemus were at great risk of losing their positions, being cast out of the synagogue, or suffering further vengeance at the hand of the Jews. The Bible does not say what happened to them.

The lesson for today, however, is that out of the entire governing council of that day, there appears to be only two righteous men who opposed Jesus' unjust death. The issue of the day was **NOT: "Which is the right party? Pharisee or Saducee?"** So today, in our governments, the question is **NOT "Which is the right party? Republican or Democrat?"** The problem is that the vast majority are dealing corruptly for their own benefit, oppressing the honest poor and promoting unjust war, immorality, idolatry, divorce, abortion, homosexuality and all kinds of other evil in the process. The question is, where are the few honest men in any office in any party?

Are there any honest leaders today who are like Joseph of Arimathea or Nicodemus? There are a very few. Some of them, like Nicodemus, have chosen for a period of time to keep some of what they know a secret. If they told everything they knew of the other evil leaders, they would not be believed because of the magnitude of the evil (just as most people did not believe that the leaders were planning to kill Jesus all along).

It exceeds the scope of this article to try to identify the most significant honest leaders today, but a few come to mind. **Lyndon LaRouche** has clearly identified many of the evils in our government and organized a movement against them for 30 years now. Because of his beliefs, he and his associates went through an illegal trial on trumped-up charges and spent more than five years in jail—only for the attorney to publicly call for

his exoneration after it was over. Presidential candidate **Ron Paul** had previously run as a **Libertarian**, but is running this time as a **Republican** because the press simply ignores all but the major parties. The other **Republican** candidates and the press largely ignored him this year—even though one of the biggest problems political analysts face is finding major significant differences between the platforms of any of the candidates of either party. One more honest leader is **Roy Moore**, who lost his position as Chief Justice of the Alabama Supreme Court because he refused to remove a display of the Ten Commandments from his court room.

Finding leaders today who are righteous and willing to take a stand for what is right and good is a subject for future articles.

### **3. The Courageous Believers**

Several believers exhibited sufficient faith to be publicly seen supporting Jesus during and after His crucifixion. They did not face the great risks that those mentioned above faced, but their actions likely were seen as very risky at that time. The first person of note is Simon, a Cyrenian, who helped carry Jesus' execution stake. We don't know much about where he was from or where he went afterward. But we do know that there was a multitude that followed Him and some women who supported Him: Now as they led Him away, they laid hold of a certain man, Simon a Cyrenian, who was coming from the country, and on him they laid the cross that he might bear it after Jesus. And a great multitude of the people followed Him, **and women who also mourned and lamented Him** (Luke 23:26-27).

While Jesus was on the cross, some women looked on from a distance. Eventually, some of them came up close enough to talk to Jesus. The Apostle John, who refers to himself as "the disciple whom He loved", actually received a commission from Jesus to look after Mary, His mother. Jesus gave this important mission to John because He knew that he would live a long time, whereas other apostles might not (John 21:18-22). There is no scripture saying that any of these people tried to stop the process or complained to the government, but they were not afraid to be identified as His followers: And many women who followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to Him, were there looking on from afar, among whom were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joses, and the mother of Zebedee's sons (Matt 27:55-56).

Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said

to His mother, "Woman, behold your son!" Then He said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home (John 19:25).

Also, we must take note of the unnamed criminals that were being executed with Jesus. One demanded that Jesus provide an immediate physical deliverance for all three of them—a very human thought when one has nails in one's hands and feet. But the other appeared repentant—having the faith to accept his punishment for his deeds and to obtain a promise of eternal life from Jesus.

But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise" (Luke 23:40-43, NIV).

Finally, there were women who bought and prepared spices to be applied later to His body. They went to the tomb with them, not even knowing how they would get the stone rolled away. They ended up being the first witnesses of His resurrection and had to carry that message to disbelieving disciples (Matt 28:1-10; Mark 16:1-13).

This group of people is a remarkable collection of those who did the right thing in a difficult situation—even when that right thing may not have had any earth-shaking consequences. Their station in life varies from the apostle John to committed followers to a criminal being executed. While most leadership positions are given to men in the Bible, we find this group to be either an even mix, or possibly, even primarily composed of women.

And so throughout history, and even down to our day, there are all manner of Christians who will stand up for the name and teachings of the Bible. They fight for freedom of religion, they help those who are unjustly persecuted, they print Bibles and take them throughout the world—sometimes where they are not exactly welcome. These courageous Believers do not neatly fit into any classification of denomination or doctrine, but commonly exhibit a willingness to ask, "What would Jesus do" when it may not be popular.

"Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven" (Matt 10:32-33).

**Read the entire article at:**

<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0048/a2008-048-04.htm>

**\*\*to be continued in Issue #49\*\***

## ("Magnetic Reversals and..." continued from page 1)

you?

It's about our planet's true age! Dangerous information."

Oh, come on...what's threatening about that?

Well, if you really want to know... it mattered very much to two guys not far from here. Just last Tuesday they got into a real ding dong about this.

Jack was insisting that a great disaster had occurred right across America... and, in fact, all over the world. And the scars it left behind do certainly look very old... except, said Jack, they're not.

"You idiot!" protested Rusty. "All these things - beaches, coral, and what else, formed slowly over millions of years."

"Can you prove that?" grinned Jack.

"It's a cinch," beamed Rusty. **Magnetic reversals** prove it. So many of them have occurred. And each one of them so slowly."

### WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

**Magnetic reversals**?" sniffed Jack. What on earth are you talking about?"

"Well," said Rusty, "if you didn't know, a **magnetic reversal** is a 'flip', in which the North pole is transformed into a South pole and the South pole becomes a North pole."

"You say that's happened many times?" quizzed Jack. "Okay, where's your evidence?"

"The evidence is frozen into the rocks," responded Rusty, "especially those under the sea."

Jack squinted at Rusty. "Oh yeah?"

"Sure. And each **reversal** could take millions of years. So there!"

### "INFORMATION FROZEN"

If you're finding this hard to track, then let me explain what Rusty was trying to say.

Here's the theory. When lava cools down, it freezes into itself information about the direction and strength of the earth's magnetic field at the time.

The earth's rocks have frozen into them the record of "MANY **REVERSALS** of the earth's field - in which the earth's polarity has changed from north to south and back again.

It is generally believed that such **reversals** could not take place in less than hundreds of thousands, or even millions of years.

As Rusty was describing this, Jack's niece Barbara, who is a science major, came onto the deck. Politeness is not her strong point, but her science is pretty good.

She glared at Rusty. "Did you wash down in the last shower?" she taunted him.

"Don't you know there are on earth countless local magnetic fields? Don't you

know these LOCAL magnetic fields can strongly influence and affect measurements in any given locality?"

There was silence. Sensing she had the floor, Barb pressed her knowledge.

"That's not all, you old horse. It can happen fast."

Barbara looked straight at Rusty. And she went on to explain that two scientists, **Robert S. Coe** and Michael Prevot, found a thin lava layer... and when they closely examined it...

Guess what? It had 90 degrees of **reversal** recorded continuously in it.

BUT... surprise... surprise...

### AMAZINGLY FAST REVERSAL

Calculations showed that the layer had to cool down within a matter of 15 days or less. (It was probably more like only 3 to 7 days.)

Their discovery was sensational. In fact, their paper is filled with statements like "astonishingly fast change in the earth's magnetic field" and "truly strains the imagination". (Earth and Planetary Science Letters, April, 1989)

Since then **Coe** has found similar data which indicates an even faster change than the one first reported. It was in a different rock stratum.

**Coe** commented that others in his field "don't want to believe it." (Ex Nihilo, vol.15, no. 3, June-August, 1993, pp.21,22)

But **he** and Prevot had checked their results in several different ways and covered all angles.

So the response of other scientists in the same field was one of cautious acceptance. There was a cautious review in Nature which accepted their work, but rather reluctantly.

### SEABED "REVERSALS"? NO WAY!

However, there is something else you should know.

We are being told that the Mid-Atlantic Ridge shows evidence of long term **reversals**.

But you want the truth, right? So here it comes.

This "long term **reversals** claim is clearly a mistake. The truth is that on the bottom of the ocean along the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, areas of stronger and weaker magnetism were found - not **reversals**.

As an instrument was dragged across the area, the signals showed a wave pattern of stronger - weaker - stronger - weaker, and so on.

The conclusion was: "It is clear that the simple model of uniformly magnetized crustal blocks of alternating polarity does not represent reality." (J.H. Hall and P.T. Robinson, "Deep Crustal Drilling in the North Atlantic Ocean", Science, vol. 204, May 11,

1979, p. 578)

Did you get that? The popular slow magnetic **reversals** theory is absolutely wrong.

### NO MAGNETIC REVERSALS

Magnetic **reversals** in the Mid-Atlantic Ridge? Absolutely not! Nice neat lines of alternating polarity? No!

May I say this again? There are no magnetic **reversals** on the ocean floor. There are only areas of weaker magnetism. That's all.

### SO HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?

Are you ready for this? The solid evidence - whether we like it or not - brings us face to face with a mighty cataclysm in the past.

Not only that, at least 600 ancient legends speak of it.

In fact, did you know that the record of this cataclysm is the most widespread racial memory of mankind?

Our ancestors happened to call this event the Great Flood.

In fact, when you tie together all the varied strands of geological evidence, you can pretty well reconstruct what happened.

So here is the chain of events:

1. As a passing outside force (postulated as an ice comet) approached earth, the increase in gravitational pull caused it to shatter in space. Most of its fragments were sucked in around the poles. Hitting a spinning object like the earth, this suddenly-dumped load threw the earth off axis, causing it to wobble.

### EDITORS NOTE:

Genesis 7:11 In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened. (Inserted by Laura Lee)

2. The same force that tipped the earth over, generated high speed ultra-vibrations within the earth. With huge amounts of water and heat encased under the crust, the pressure build-up became enormous. And the earth's crust exploded.

3. As cracks opened up, the land both sides slid away a little and the basalt rose in the middle.

4. The rising caused a series of parallel cracks.

5. Water entering the cracks cooled and solidified the basalt layer into a stronger magnetic field.

You see, basalt, if it is hot, does not store a stronger magnetic signature, whereas if it is cooled off it stores a stronger magnetic signature.

So now, when our scientists come to the

Mid-Atlantic Ridge, all they are measuring is where the cracks are – with alternating stronger and weaker magnetism.

That's right. There's no magnetic **reversal**. In fact, there is no place where a north-seeking compass will point north, then south, by the rocks down there.

No place. Not anywhere.

Why has the scientific elite gone wrong on this? Simply because they have not been taking into account such a global catastrophe as the Great Flood and what it would do to the earth's lower crust.

That's the simple truth. That's why this phenomenon remains a puzzle to them.

You understand, these "magnetic" phenomena did NOT take ages to form. This single event was just a few thousand years ago.

But wait a minute, you ask, What about beaches, with all their millions of sand grains? And coral reefs? And the massive Grand Canyon? How much time did they take to form?

If you are as inquisitive as the rest of us, you'll want to know the truth, right?

You won't want to miss this incredible true story.

To buy "The Killing of Paradise Planet" by Jonathan Gray, go to: <http://www.beforeus.com/first.php>

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<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0048/a2008-048-05.htm>

\*\*\*THE END\*\*\*\*\*

### **("Choosing..." continued from page 1)**

If we hope to be in YaHVah'S coming KINGDOM, we must have KNOWLEDGE to choose YaHVah instead of BAAL! Hos.4:6 AND we must get off (COME OUT OF) the BROAD WAY of CONFUSION (Rev.18:4). However-YaHVah says THEY have CHOSEN to be ignorant (Jer.25:31).

Our Father/Creator created a perfect world but He planted IMPERFECTION in the Garden and told our first parents to choose LIFE. They chose DEATH! Later, YaHVah made a Marriage Covenant with Israel and told them to CHOOSE Him or Baal. They chose BAAL and FREEDOM BY GRACE from their marriage vows. Josh.12:16-17, Josh. 25:15.

The FALSE RELIGIOUS SHEPHERDS OF THIS WORLD'S BEAST system have muddied the waters with their feet (Ezek. 34:18-34). We, the sheep must search HIS WORD for HIS PURE Word - Psalms 12:6. We must SEARCH with all our hearts and minds if we are to qualify as kings and priests in His Kingdom of peace on earth for all eternity! The Father doesn't want "YES" men that Satan can manipulate.

Therefore we MUST develop spiritual muscles and character!

Deut. 30:19 "I call heaven and earth to record THIS DAY against you, that I have set before you LIFE AND DEATH, BLESSINGS AND CURSING. Therefore CHOOSE LIFE that you AND YOUR SEED may live." His COVENANT blessings extend to Israel's seed by BIRTH and by ADOPTION from THAT DAY FORWARD! "ISRAEL'S" SEED reaches to His coming Kingdom! The very best thing WE can do for our SEED is to choose YaHVah for our MASTER and LAW GIVER!

Rev. 22:14 "Blessed are they who DO HIS COMMANDMENTS that they may HAVE RIGHT to the TREE OF LIFE to enter in through the gate into the City."

Ezek. 34:24-31 "I, YaHVah, will be (future) their Elohim and MY SERVANT DAVID shall feed them (the PHYSICAL REMNANT) and shall be a prince among them. I, YaHVah, have spoken it! — And I will MAKE THEM A BLESSING ---".

Psalms 12:6 "The Words of YaHVah are PURE - as silver tried in a furnace SEVEN TIMES." PAST, PRESENT and FUTURE HISTORY.

**Article found on line at:**

<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0048/a2008-048-06.htm>

\*\*\*THE END\*\*\*\*\*

### **("Was the "Last..." continued from page 1)**

To fully understand this topic, let's examine the Gospel reports of Yeshua's final meal. First, we'll look at John's account of the "last supper." Many scholars believe that John wrote his Gospel late in the first century, long after the Synoptic Gospels had been written. By the time John wrote, Gentiles likely composed a significant portion of the Church.

Probably because of the number of Gentile converts in the Church and the anti-Jewish bias that had begun to take root, John's Gospel is different from the Synoptic Gospels. John went to great lengths to emphasize Christ's heritage. He stressed that Yeshua was a Jew who routinely kept Jewish customs, including the observance of God's commanded feast days (Lev. 23). John refers to at least three Passovers during the ministry of Christ (John 2:13; 6:4; 19:14), including his final one. He also mentions the Feast of Tabernacles, known by the Jews as **Sukkot** (John 7:2), the last day of the Feast of Tabernacles, which the Jews called **Hoshanah Rabbah** (John 7:37), and the Feast of Dedication, commonly known as **Chanukah** (John 10:22).

Let's review the beginning of John's account of the "last supper," which is found in

chapter 13 of his Gospel:

JOHN 13:1 Now **before the Feast of the Passover**, Jesus knowing that His hour had come that He should depart out of this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end. 2 And during supper, the devil having already put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, to betray Him, 3 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come forth from God, and was going back to God, 4 rose from supper, and laid aside His garments; and taking a towel, He girded Himself about. 5 Then He poured water into the basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded. (**NASU**)

John shows that the "last supper" took place on the same night Judas Iscariot betrayed Christ (John 13:21-30). The first verse plainly states that this was "before the feast of the Passover," which lasts for seven days (from Nisan 15 through Nisan 21). John is obviously referring to the same night described by the other three Gospel writers (Matt. 26; Mark 14; Luke 22). John goes on to reiterate several times that these events took place **before** Passover. Clearly, the Passover meal traditionally eaten on the evening of Nisan 15 had not yet been observed.

JOHN 13:21 When Jesus had said these things, He was troubled in spirit, and testified and said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me. 26 . . . It is he to whom I shall give a piece of bread when I have dipped it." And having dipped the bread, He gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon. 27 Now after the piece of bread, Satan entered him. Then Jesus said to him, "What you do, do quickly." 28 But no one at the table knew for what reason He said this to him. 29 For some thought, because Judas had the money box, that Jesus had said to him, "**Buy those things we need for the Feast,**" or that he should give something to the poor. 30 Having received the piece of bread, he then went out immediately. And it was night. (**NKJV**)

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

JOHN 19:14 Now **it was the Preparation Day of the Passover**, and about the sixth hour. And he [Pilate] said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" (**NKJV**)

JOHN 19:31 Therefore, because it

was the Preparation Day, that the bodies should not remain on the cross on the **Sabbath** (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. (NKJV)

JOHN 19:42 So there they laid Jesus, because of the Jews' Preparation Day, for the tomb was nearby. (NKJV)

The Jews reckoned days from sunset to sunset. As you can see, John points out repeatedly that the "last supper," the betrayal by Judas, and Yeshua's trial and crucifixion all occurred **before** the Passover, on the Preparation Day. But exactly when was the Preparation Day?

*The New Unger's Bible Dictionary* says that the Preparation Day for the Passover was from the evening (end) of Nisan 13 until the evening (end) of Nisan 14 (p. 411). E.W. Bullinger, in Appendix 156 to *The Companion Bible*, states: "Wednesday, Nisan 14th (commencing on Tuesday at sunset), was 'the preparation day', on which the crucifixion took place" (p. 180).

As shown in John 19:31 above, the day following the Preparation Day was an annual high Sabbath, the First Day of Unleavened Bread, which fell annually on Nisan 15. God commanded the Israelites to observe this high Sabbath every year:

EXODUS 12:16 "On the first day there shall be a holy convocation, and on the seventh day there shall be a holy convocation for you. No manner of work shall be done on them; but that which everyone must eat; that only may be prepared by you. 17 So you shall observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread, for on this same day I will have brought your armies out of the land of Egypt. Therefore you shall **observe this day** throughout your generations as an everlasting ordinance." (NKJV)

LEVITICUS 23:6 "And on the **fifteenth day** of the same month [Abib, later called Nisan] is the Feast of Unleavened Bread to the LORD; **seven days you must eat unleavened bread.** 7 **On the first day you shall have a holy convocation;** you shall do no customary work on it." (NKJV)

Now let's examine the accounts of this event recorded by Matthew, Mark, and Luke in the Synoptic Gospels and compare them with John's version.

MATTHEW 26:17 **Now on the first day of the Feast of the Unleavened Bread** the disciples came to Jesus, saying to Him, "Where do You want us to **prepare** for You to eat the Passover?" 18 And He said, "Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, 'The Teacher says, "My time is at hand; I will

keep the Passover at your house with My disciples.'" 19 So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them; and they **prepared the Passover** [*hetoimasan to pascha*]. 20 When evening had come, He sat down with the twelve. 21 Now as they were eating, He said, "Assuredly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me." (NKJV)

MARK 14:12 **Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread, when they killed the Passover lamb**, His disciples said to Him, "Where do You want us to go and **prepare**, that You may eat the Passover?" 13 And He sent out two of His disciples and said to them, "Go into the city, and a man will meet you carrying a pitcher of water; follow him. 14 Wherever he goes in, say to the master of the house, 'The Teacher says, "Where is the guest room in which I may eat the Passover with My disciples?"' 15 Then he will show you a **large upper room**, furnished and prepared; **there make ready for us.**" 16 So His disciples went out, and came into the city, and found it just as He had said to them; and they **prepared the Passover** [*hetoimasan to pascha*]. 17 In the evening He came with the twelve. 18 Now as they sat and ate, Jesus said, "Assuredly, I say to you, **one of you who eats with Me will betray Me.**" (NKJV)

LUKE 22:7 **Then came the Day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover must be killed.** 8 And He sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and **prepare the Passover** for us, that we may eat." 9 So they said to Him, "Where do You want us to prepare?" 10 And He said to them, "Behold, when you have entered the city, a man will meet you carrying a pitcher of water; follow him into the house which he enters. 11 Then you shall say to the master of the house, 'The Teacher says to you, "Where is the **guest room** where I may eat the Passover with My disciples?"' 12 Then he will show you a large, furnished upper room; **there make ready.**" 13 So they went and found it just as He had said to them, and they **prepared the Passover** [*hetoimasan to pascha*]. 14 When the hour had come, He sat down, and the twelve apostles with Him. 15 Then He said to them, "**With fervent desire I have desired** [*epithumia epithumesa*] to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; 16 for I say to you, I will no longer eat of it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." (NKJV)

First, let's note the timing of these events. Matthew says it was "the first of Unleavened Bread." On the surface, this

appears to contradict John's account, which plainly states that the "last supper" occurred before the Feast of Passover. However, Mark and Luke add an additional detail that helps clarify the time. Mark says it was "the first day of Unleavened Bread, when they killed the Passover"; Luke states it was "the day of Unleavened Bread when the Passover must be killed."

The Bible tells us in Exodus 12:6 that the Passover lambs were to be killed "between the evenings" on Nisan 14. The Jews have traditionally interpreted "between the evenings" to mean "in the afternoon." For an in-depth discussion of this phrase, refer to "[What Does 'Between the Evenings' Mean?](#)" and "[Exodus 12-When Was the First Passover?](#)"

The Jews at the time of Christ killed the Passover lambs on the afternoon of Nisan 14. In *The Wars of the Jews*, Josephus records that in the first century, the Passover lambs were slaughtered "from the ninth hour till the eleventh" (bk. 6, ch. 9, sec. 3), which corresponds to our 3:00-5:00 p.m.

Obviously, the day Matthew and Mark call the "first day of Unleavened Bread" is the same day that John calls the "the Preparation Day of the Passover." *The New Unger's Bible Dictionary* says that the 14th of Nisan was "called until the evening the preparation for the Passover" (p. 411). As shown below, all three Synoptic Gospels confirm that Yeshua was crucified on the "Preparation Day," Nisan 14.

MATTHEW 27:62 On the next day [Nisan 15], which followed the **Day of Preparation**, the chief priests and Pharisees gathered together to Pilate. (NKJV)

MARK 15:42 Now when evening had come, because it was the **Preparation Day**, that is, the day before the [high] Sabbath, 15 Joseph of Arimathea . . . went in to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. (NKJV)

LUKE 23:54 That day was the Preparation, and the [high] Sabbath drew near. (NKJV)

Going back to the Synoptic accounts of the meal, Matthew and Mark show that the disciples came to Yeshua just as the Preparation Day (Nisan 14) was beginning, which would have been at sunset. They asked him **where** he wanted them to prepare to eat the Passover meal, which would occur the next night (see John 18:28 above). Luke records that in response to their question, Yeshua instructed Peter and John how to find the place where they should prepare to eat the Passover on the night of Nisan 15. He told them the owner of the house would show them a large furnished upper room. Mark and Luke both state that it was there, **in that room**, that they were to prepare for the

Passover (Mark 14:15; Luke 22:12).

As you can see from all three accounts (Matt. 26:17; Mark 14:12; Luke 22:7-9), the disciples waited until the **beginning of Nisan 14** to ask Christ **where** to prepare the Passover. If the time between sunset and dark on the 14th was the correct time to slay the Passover lambs, as some erroneously teach, why would they have waited so very late to question Christ about preparing for the meal? Or if the Passover meal would not take place for at least another 24 hours, why would they prepare for it **that evening**?

In Jacob Neusner's translation of the Jewish **Mishnah**, we can see why the disciples would have been concerned with preparing for the Passover that evening, even though it wouldn't be eaten until the next night.

PESAHIM 1:3 **A.** R. Judah says, "They seek out [leaven] (1) on the night of the fourteenth, (2) on the fourteenth in the morning, and (3) at the time of removal." **B.** And sages say, "[I]f one did not seek out [leaven] on the night of the fourteenth, he may seek it out (1) on the fourteenth. **C.** "If he did not seek it out on the fourteenth, let him seek it out (2) at the appointed time [11 a.m. to 12 noon on the fourteenth]. **D.** "[I]f he did not seek it out at the appointed time, let him seek it out (3) after the appointed time [to nightfall]." (p. 230, **The Mishnah: A New Translation**)

**The New Unger's Bible Dictionary** confirms how the Jews prepared for the observance of the Passover:

On the evening of the 13th Nisan [as that day ended and Nisan 14 began], which, until that of the 14th, was called the "preparation for the Passover" (John 19:14), every head of a family searched for and collected by the light of a candle all the leaven. Before beginning the search he pronounced the following benediction: "Blessed art thou, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who hast sanctified us with thy commandments, and hast enjoined us to remove the leaven." After the search he said, "Whatever leaven remains in my possession which I cannot see, behold, it is null, and accounted as the dust of the earth." (p. 411, "Festivals,")

The phrase "prepare the Passover" found in Matthew 26:19, Mark 14:16, and Luke 22:13 comes from the Greek phrase **hetoimasan to pascha**. According to **Strong's Concordance**, the root Greek verb **hetoimazo** means "1) to make ready, prepare 1a) to make the necessary preparations, get everything ready . . . drawn from the oriental custom of sending on before kings on their journeys persons to level the roads and make them passable."

Clearly, the reason the disciples questioned Yeshua about **where** they were going to eat the Passover meal was because Jewish custom required that the location be prepared by removing the leaven from it on the night of Nisan 14.

As mentioned earlier, the Jews ate the Passover meal on the night of Nisan 15, which was the beginning of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Exodus 12:15 commands the Israelites to remove all leaven from their dwellings and prescribes the penalty for eating leavened bread during this feast.

EXODUS 12:15 "For a seven-day period shall you eat matzos [unleavened bread], but on the previous day [the Preparation Day] you shall nullify the leaven from your homes; for anyone who eats leavened food - that soul shall be cut off from Israel, from the first day [Nisan 15] to the seventh day [Nisan 21]." (**Stone Edition Tanach**)

When the disciples questioned Christ about where they were going to eat the Passover meal the next night, they still did not fully understand that he would be **dead** then! Christ would not be able to eat the Passover because he was destined to be sacrificed as **our** Passover (1 Cor. 5:7). But instead of explaining **then** that he would be in the grave when the time came to eat the Passover lamb, he simply told them **where** to prepare to eat the Passover meal. After Peter and John had de-leavened the room and made ready for the upcoming feast, Christ used their final meal together on the night of the 14th to instruct his disciples one last time before his death.

Luke 22:15 has been used to support the assertion that Christ and his disciples ate the Passover meal. In this Scripture, Yeshua says "With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer." The Greek phrase translated "with fervent desire I have desired" is **epithumia epethumesa**. It literally means "with desire I desired."

The first word of this phrase, **epithumia**, is a noun. According to the **Exegetical Dictionary of the New Testament**, usually this word "has the ambivalent sense, *desire, strive for, long to have/do/be* something." It can also be "used for (*forbidden*) desire" (p. 27, vol. 2). Christ uses **epithumia** in this sense in Luke 22:15.

In the article "The Lord's Supper," the **New Bible Dictionary** says that ". . . Lk. 22:15 may be read as an unfulfilled wish" (p. 707). Christ truly longed to eat that coming Passover with his disciples, but his desire could not be realized! It was forbidden because it would have destroyed the plan of God, since Christ was destined to be sacrificed as our Passover lamb on the afternoon **before** the Passover meal.

In his Bible translation, Ferrar Fenton accurately captures the meaning of Christ's words in these verses:

LUKE 22:15 "And He said to them: 'I **have longingly desired** [*epithumia epethumesa*] to eat this Passover with you before My suffering; 16 **however**, I tell you that **I shall not eat of it**, until it can be administered in the Kingdom of God.'" (**The Holy Bible in Modern English**)

The meal that Yeshua and the disciples ate was obviously a preparatory meal, not the Passover meal itself. Jewish scholar David H. Stern writes of this meal:

The Last Supper is considered by most scholars to have been a Passover meal or *Seder*. Many *Pesach* themes are deepened, reinforced and given new levels of meaning by events in the life of Yeshua the Messiah and by his words on this night. However, Joseph Shulam has suggested that it may not have been the *Seder* but a *se'udat-mitzvah*, the celebratory banquet accompanying performance of a commandment such as a wedding or *b'rit-milah*.

Here is the background for his argument. When a rabbi and his students finish studying a tractate of the Talmud, they celebrate with a *se'udat-mitzvah* (also called a *se'udat-siyum*, 'banquet of completion,' i.e., graduation). The Fast of the Firstborn, expressing gratitude for the saving of Israel's firstborn sons from the tenth plague, has been prescribed for the day before *Pesach*, Nisan 14, at least since Mishnaic times. When it is necessary to eat a *se'udat-mitzvah*, this takes precedence over a fast. With a modicum of foresight a rabbi can plan to complete a tractate on Nisan 14 and thus avoid having to fast; doing so is not construed as cheating, and in fact it has become the custom.

The tradition of the Fast of the Firstborn dates at least from Mishnaic times. But, Shulam reasons, if it goes back a couple of centuries more to the time of Yeshua, and if the *si'udat-siyum* custom applied in the first century to the completing of any course of study, then Yeshua might have arranged to have himself and his *talmidim* finish reading a book of the *Tanakh* on Nisan 14. Or, since Yeshua knew he was going to die, he may have regarded it as appropriate to complete his disciples' earthly "course of study" with a banquet. This solution would also resolve the perceived conflict between Yochanan [John] and the Synoptic Gospels over the timing of the Last Supper. (p. 77, **Jewish New Testament Commentary**)

In *The Companion Bible* comment on Luke 22:15, Bullinger states that the last supper Christ and the disciples ate was "not the eating of the Lamb, but the *Chagigah* or feast which preceded it . . ." (p. 1500). He goes on to explain that "it follows, therefore, that the Lord being crucified on 'the preparation day' could not have eaten of the Passover lamb, which was not slain until the evening of the 14th of Nisan (i.e. afternoon). . . Thus it is clear, that . . . no 'Passover lamb' could have been eaten at the 'last supper' on the previous evening" (p. 180, Appendix 156).

None of the four Gospels mentions a lamb being eaten at the "last supper." The time had not yet come to slay the Passover when Christ and his disciples ate their last meal together.

In addition, Deuteronomy 16:2, 5-6 shows that the disciples would have also had a problem with **where** to slay a Passover lamb, had they desired to kill one.

DEUTERONOMY 16:2 Thou shalt therefore sacrifice the passover unto the Lord thy God, of the flock and the herd, **in the place which the Lord shall choose to place his name there.** 5 Thou mayest **not** sacrifice the passover within any of thy gates, which the Lord thy God giveth thee: 6 But at the place which the Lord thy God shall choose to place his name in, there thou shalt sacrifice the passover at even, at the going down of the sun, at the season [Aviv, see Deu. 16:1] that thou camest forth out of Egypt. (**KJV**)

God, through Moses, gives instructions regarding the proper place to sacrifice the Passover in this Scripture. As shown above, God did not allow that the Israelites sacrifice the Passover anywhere they wanted, but only at the place where He chose to put His name. During Christ's life, the Temple in Jerusalem was the place where God had placed His name, and that's where the Jews slew the Passover lambs in accordance with this command.

Raymond F. McNair of the **Global Church of God** writes in his article "When Should the True Passover Be Observed?" that Christ's disciples "certainly could not have gone into the Temple at the beginning of the 14th of Abib to have the priests and Levites assist them in the sacrifice of their Passover lambs. Why not? Simply because the Jews (who then controlled the Temple ritual) would not have permitted anyone to kill their Passover lambs approximately 21 hours before they allowed, and supervised, the killing of Passover lambs in the court of the Temple!" (p. 11, **Global Church News**, March-April 1996.).

Christ and his disciples obviously could not have eaten a Passover lamb with their meal that night. The Scriptures clearly state

that Christ was our Passover (I Cor. 5:7). Matthew, Mark, and Luke all record that Christ died at the ninth hour (3:00 p.m.). This is the same time that Josephus records the slaughter of the Passover lambs commenced. Christ fulfilled the symbolism of the Passover lambs exactly by giving his life just as the unblemished Passover lambs began to be slain on the 14th of Nisan!

#### CONCLUSION

We can see that the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke) do not conflict with John's account of the "last supper" when understood correctly. A careful study of all four Gospels shows that Yeshua and the disciples did **not** eat the Passover meal. There was no way they could have, since the time had not yet come to sacrifice the Passover lambs. They simply prepared for the Passover by deleavening the location they planned to use for the Feast. Afterward they ate some type of celebratory or preparatory meal on the evening of Nisan 14. At this supper, Yeshua instituted the New Covenant symbols of the bread and wine. After the meal, Judas Iscariot rose and left to betray Christ. When approached with an open mind and the belief that the Scriptures cannot be broken (John 10:35), we **can** reconcile all these accounts. Article reprinted by permission from:  
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<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0048/a2008-048-07.htm>

**\*\*\*THE END\*\*\*\*\***

#### ("A Contrary..." continued from page 1)

radio set, but as a 10 year old I was relieved to find that my great aunt had given us one. I wasn't going to miss Children's Hour after all! And then, of course, as the war years moved on there were the joys of Dick Barton, Special Agent; Paul Temple and his wife, Steve; Bandwagon, Much Binding in the Marsh, Worker's Playtime which was always coming from a factory somewhere in England! At school we had a daily gas-mask drill and practiced going down to the air raid shelters. At night we slept under an iron and steel table shelter in the house and listened to the V 1 Flying bombs heading towards us. If the engine of the V 1 cut while it was still faint the shallow glide might bring the flying bomb upon us. If it cut when the engine was loud then, relief, it was going to hit elsewhere. Then the V2s, the first of the supersonic rocket bombs, landed in our town, but did not terrify the population as Hitler and Nazi Germany thought they would.

My early years, and the years of change,

of approaching adolescence - there was no such thing as a teenager - were ones where money was not a problem! We didn't have much of it for it to be a problem! Living in Wales, then living in north London, made little difference. In spite of the war there was stability. There was a niceness to people, to the neighbourhood. The world's first television service came back on air and at a friend's house, I could stare with wonder at the little 9 inch screen located in its big walnut cabinet. Little did I know then what television would become. That stability continued into the years of peace as the war ended. I was articled to an accountant in London and traveled to companies all over the capital auditing, preparing trial balances etc. and enjoying the immediate post war years. The British Empire was still a powerful grouping, a grouping which, with King George VI at its head, maintained a worldwide stability and promised good things to come. In the pre-war years, even though we had lived on a local authority housing estate on the edge of the city of Cardiff, life was stable. Even the war didn't threaten that stability. People looked after each other. Laws were obeyed and appreciated. Even the weather had a stability to it. This continued after the war and for several years. The railway companies ran special trains on bank holidays, (national holidays). These specials would take people to the seaside resorts, there to enjoy the sea, the sand and the sun. From my town in north London the special train would take us to Southend-on-Sea to enjoy the delights of the longest pier in the world, and the little petrol driven cars that we youngsters used on the enclosed track provided. Great fun. It is all too easy, however, to say to me that, with the advance of years, I'm looking back with rose coloured glasses.

But that is not the case. Life could be hard. Both my grand-fathers worked in the South Wales coal pits. One was on the surface and the other was at the coal face. I would watch him come home covered in coal dust, having worked a shift deep underground, having crawled the best part of a mile to get to the coal face and there hack at the coal with a pick and push it back for others to move to the pit shaft and then to the surface. No pit-head baths then. It was back home, remove clothes and get into a big tin bath in front of the fire in the kitchen. So what is my point? It is this! That in the pre-war years, even with the 1926 general strike, then the war years and the immediate post-war years, there was a stability to society, a nice-ness, people looked after each other, were concerned for one another, the police were there as our friends. In fact generally speaking they lived in the neighbourhood and could be next door, or across the road. On that Cardiff housing estate my best chum's father was a policeman. A man who was looked up to and respected by everyone. And not only the policeman, but the postman, the man who sold fruit and greengrocery from his horse-drawn cart and

then there was the milkman with his horse and cart. As he would proceed up the road placing pint bottles of milk at the doorsteps he would whistle to his horse, which would then amble up the road to him bringing the cart with him. Neighbours would have their problems, who didn't! But there was a certain spirit abroad within people which was good! I don't believe it was the spirit of God, but certainly one of the more positive sides to human nature, by which they could live together in peace and in a neighbourly warmth, whether that was in the same locality, or the other side of the world.

It was not, however, going to stay that way for very many years. For decades, if not centuries, life had its problems. Life had its difficulties, its dramas, but there was a certain national or world stress which was absent from life. Life was manageable. No one talked about stress! No one talked about tranquillizers, true some did take to the bottle, but they were the small minority. Something changed. What was it? When did it occur? I believe it can be identified. Three things in my view stand out. Consider! Up to this time and for thousands of years, it had never been possible to destroy all life from the face of the planet. Attila with his hordes, the highly efficient Roman Army, both were lethal, but neither could destroy the whole world. But in 1958 it became possible. And from that point everything changed. I was there when it changed. The war with Japan was virtually ended with the dropping of atomic bombs upon Nagasaki and Hiroshima. Although appalling weapons, they were still comparatively small when compared with the Hydrogen bombs which succeeded them. It was the H-bomb which made the difference. I was there onboard HMS Ulysses in the Pacific to witness the detonation of the last H-bomb Britain would test. From that point Britain and America concentrated on building stockpiles of H bombs. Both nations were quickly joined by others such as France. The Soviet Union was not far behind. And others joined in. Nations such as Pakistan, India, Israel, China, North Korea and others now possess the H-bomb. Huge stockpiles of these weapons have now been established. Nuclear submarines have been designed, constructed and patrol the oceans for months at a time. France is right now building several new nuclear submarines. France says it intends to reduce its stockpile of nuclear weapons to 300! America and Russia have both reduced their stockpile to 20,000! Why, just why, does anyone need to have that number of nuclear weapons. In fact, why does anyone need nuclear weapons at all! Suddenly, however, everything had changed. It was now possible for Man to destroy all life on earth.

Then television rapidly grew and society changed for the worse. Television companies found that appeal to the lowest common denominator would sell more and more

products through advertising. Television changed the family structure and the neighbourhood. The events in the fictional Coronation Street became the new reality! The characters now more important than your own family or neighbours. Television has now so taken over human life that you can access hundreds of mind numbing channels at any time of day or night. Fictional high standards of living and exotic ways of life unsettle people, with an increasing greed for more and more physical things with no concern as to the effect upon human life and the physical world.

The third factor was the rise of a liberal socialism in Britain motivated, as it has been and still is, by a deeply seated envy of others who might be perceived to have more of this world's goods, or are seen to have a better education. This hostility has gnawed away for several decades at the very heart of Britain. Accompanying these three main factors has been a spirit which has infested this world since Creation. A spirit which is the god of this world, a world described in Galatians 1:4 as "this present evil world." A spirit which is dedicated to destroying this world and everyone and everything in it. That spirit has troubled and stirred up the world for around 6,000 years - it understands human nature and uses it against us, in the effort to destroy mankind and the planet. This spirit is called by the apostle Paul in 2 Corinthians 4:4 "the god of this world" - this is a very real, powerful being originally called Lucifer, but now Satan. Paul went on to say "... that he has blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine to them." Satan has blinded the minds of not only Britain, but the entire world. In Galatians 1:6-7 Paul says "I marvel that you are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ to another gospel: which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ." That happened and as a result the true biblical gospel is not preached by the professing Christian churches. Paul went on: verse 8: "But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than that which we have preached to you, let him be accursed. Verse 9 "As we said before so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel to you than that you have received, let him be accursed." This remains true to this very day. The gospel of the professing Christian churches is not the true gospel.

So a contrary spirit dedicated to destroying the plan of God, to stopping Man fulfilling his incredible potential, has been working against Man over the centuries. However, it is noticeable how things have dramatically disintegrated since the 1950s. Revelation 12:12 writing of the last days and the return of Jesus Christ says that "...the devil is come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows,

that he has but a short time." This is why so much has happened since the 50s. A dreadful spirit and attitude came into the world. Why so many nuclear weapons, why the collapse of the family, why the pollution of the earth and atmosphere so much so that the existence of life on earth is threatened. Why so much violence fills the earth. Why teenage suicides. Satan and those with him are trying all they can to destroy all of mankind and the planet itself. Our only hope is the soon return of Jesus Christ and the setting up of a new world government. That day is not now far away.

Article found on line at:  
<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0048/a2008-048-08.htm>  
\*\*\*THE END\*\*\*\*\*

## LETTERS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2 ...

months I received his regular letter in the mail and always looked forward to them. It was not a glossy publication full of this and that social issue. Rather, it was just black text on plain white paper. Yet the content - the message - was always so gripping, interesting and personally applicable. The Kingdom of God and our part in it was central to **Mr. McNair** and he obviously yearned to see that day when the Kingdom is set up on the earth.

There was more in those letters than many glossy magazines put together. Most people don't care about gloss - they want information and interesting, dynamic articles - like those that **Mr. McNair**, Hoeh, **HWA** etc wrote.

His articles made you think; you wanted to do more reading on the subject; he caused you to want to look into the Bible. **This is his legacy.**

Now finally, I recall vividly when I came into the Truth - I recall devouring the articles by **HWA**, Hoeh, **McNair**, Meredith, Neff, **GTA**, Elliott, Herrmann etc in the then current and old publications - I instantly recognized that these were men of understanding on the subject matter(s) that they wrote on. Their articles led you on - sort of urged you - to want to undertake further studies. Few are like that nowadays.

**Mr. McNair** - like all the pioneers - will be SORELY missed. But I do look forward to meeting him and other Christians in the resurrection! Regards to all, Craig

Letter found on line at:  
<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0048/i2008-048-01.htm>  
\*\*\*THE END\*\*\*\*\*

**Just a Note (1-11-08)**  
by Mark & Dee Demarco  
(Shannon, Alabama)

We received the renewal and want to thank you for the **ones** you sent. We were glad to see the improvements you two were making in helping it to become a more "reader friendly" **newsletter**. Newsletter publishing is delicate and hard work. We are not ready to renew but will call on you in a few years and hopefully order a **subscription**.

We all need to watch out that we don't get pulled into any needless arguments.

**Letter found on line at:**  
<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0048/12008-048-02.htm>

\*\*\***THE END**\*\*\*\*\*

**Marriage, Divorce, Port Austin and Sacred Names (9-20-06)**  
by Philip Todd Derstine  
(Puckett, Mississippi)

**Philip Todd Derstine writes:**

Dear Darwin & Laura,

My wife and I were very impressed with your response to Tommy West in Wake Forest, NC. on the subject of **Divorce and Remarriage**. He is no doubt affiliated with the Seventh Day Church of God in my own county (Randolph), NC, where they teach the same thing, for example, no remarriage.

**Tommy West writes:**

I do keep the seventh -day Sabbath but not with any group that meets in Randolph County, NC including Randleman, NC. I know a few people who once met in Asheboro, NC. I don't know anyone who attends any group in Randleman, NC.

**Philip Todd Derstine writes:**

Earlier this year I sat in on their study on this topic, and was appalled to see that no one had done any research into the meaning of the all important Greek word *apoluo* (to put away), and *apostasion* (the bill of divorcement), which sometimes occur in the same verse (see Matt. 5:32). The KJV translates *apoluo* as put away very early in the verse, then turns around and translates this same word "divorce" late in the same verse. But *apoluo* is not the same meaning as *apostasion*.

**Tommy West writes:**

In every Greek dictionary that I have seen, *apoluo* and *apostasion* are synonyms.

**Philip Todd Derstine writes:**

In Deut. 24, you could not *apoluo* your wife (ie. Send her away from the homestead), until you had first handed her the bill of divorce (*apostasion*, see the Septuagint). I accuse the KJV translators of deliberate deceit for translating *apoluo* "divorce" in Matt. 5:32b. It is another of many instances where they are following orders given by King James to uphold the institutions of the Anglican Church. And control over marriage and divorce is something that both the Church of England and the Roman Catholic church have coveted historically.

**Tommy West writes:**

The early church fathers generally held that remarriage was sinful. Wrote **Justin Martyr** (c.160): "All who have been twice married by human law, are sinners in the eye of our master." This is just one example -- there are several others which the letter-writer can discover for himself with a bit of research. Of course, the early church fathers had nothing to do with the Anglican Church of 17th century England.

**Laura Lee writes:**

Our highest authority on this matter should be the Bible. Many of God's people had more than one wife, for example, Abraham, Jacob and David to name a few. Not only did these men have more than one wife, but they had them all at the same time and not once did God tell them that it was a sin to have more than one wife.

An example of what adultery really is, according to scripture, is found in the Bible when it talks about the affair of David and Bathsheba. Bathsheba was another man's wife and David not only had sex with her, but he also had her husband Uriah killed. What made it adultery was the fact that Bathsheba was already married to another man. Read the whole story in 2 Samuel Chapter 11. God sent Nathan to tell David of his sin of adultery with Bathsheba. Read that whole account in 2 Samuel Chapter 12.

There is another account where God killed a woman's husband and then David took that woman Abigail to be one of his wives and God never had a problem with that. You can read that account in 1 Samuel Chapter 25 where it mentions at least three of David's wives at the end of the chapter.

**Philip Todd Derstine writes:**

While such control may have had a restraining influence upon the unfaithful within the Church's influence, it is also true that very few churches who have thrown away Deut 24 have respected the Biblical parameters which dissolve and abrogate this holy union. **Marriage is a conditional covenant, not unconditional**, as Tommy West wants to make it, and in so doing he binds heavy and grievous burdens, which

ultimately leads to depression and punishing the innocent for the sins of the reprobate in the Church's midst.

**Tommy West writes:**

Anyone who reads New Testament scriptures pertaining to divorce and re-marriage, i.e., **Matt. 5:31-32, Matt. 19:1-9, Mark 10:1-12, Luke 16:18, and 1 Cor. 7:10-11, must do so with an open mind**. I find it intriguing that the letter-writer failed to mention Paul's admonition in **1 Cor. 7:10-11** which clearly and unequivocally forbids divorce and re-marriage which he (Paul) clearly attests is a commandment of the Lord. The Christian who deliberately overlooks or disregards the apostle Paul's command *does so at one's own spiritual risk*.

**Laura Lee writes:**

If a person studies a subject in scripture, any doctrine or conclusion coming from such a study must be based on what the entire Bible says and not be based solely on New Testament scripture. In God's law in Deuteronomy 24:1-4 God allows for divorce. 1 Cor. 7:10-11 is talking about separation between two people who are still married.

1 Cor. 7:10-11 And **unto the married** I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife **depart** from her husband: But and if she **depart**, let her **remain unmarried**, or be **reconciled** to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife.

The very wording in the above two verses shows that these two people are still married, for if they were divorced it would talk about reconciling with a former husband or a former wife and it does not. The usage of husband and wife in both verses shows this is talking about two people who are currently still married and not two people who are divorced already and should reconcile. It even starts out in verse 10 by saying "And unto the married..." So if they are still married then the context of these two verses is about separation.

The word "depart" is Strong's #5563 (*chorizo*) and it means "to place room between, to separate". Where it says "unmarried", it is Strong's #22 (*agamos*) and is the negative form of *gamos*, which means, "no nuptials", in English, no sex. So when it says "remain unmarried" it is saying if you as husband and wife are yet married but separated from each other for any reason, both parties should be celibate while you work out your problems and try to reconcile.

If a married couple is separated because they are having marital problems of any kind, it would be really hard for them to ever reconcile if one or both of them are currently having sex with other people. It has to do with the old worn out phrase that says "you do not go outside your marriage to fix your



problems". If you turn to other people because you have marital problems you would not be working toward reconciliation with the mate you are presently separated from.

God's goal is always for reconciliation if that is at all possible. This admonition actually follows the principle given in Matthew 18:15-17 to keep the problem between husband and wife and work toward reconciliation. Anyway these two verses are not about divorce or getting divorced, but about separation in marriage and trying to reconcile without turning to other people to meet your needs for sex and emotional support while you are having marital problems.

**Philip Todd Derstine writes:**

In Tommy's sister Seventh Day Church of God in Randleman, NC., they have told a Crystal Brown that she must not remarry, despite the fact that her ex-husband, the son of long-standing and respected members of that Church, forsook his marriage vows, remarried and had children by the second marriage within one year of telling Crystal he did not love her any more.

**Tommy West writes:**

Crystal Brown's ex-husband is living in adultery. It doesn't matter what his fellowship decided. He has broken the 7th Commandment. Crystal Brown is doing the right thing. Either she can reconcile to her husband, which in her case is not possible, or remain single. If she remarries, while a member of God's church, she commits adultery.

**Laura Lee writes:**

Crystal Brown was free to remarry the minute, the very second that her husband divorced her. Even if Crystal Brown's husband gets divorced or if his second wife dies and he comes back to Crystal the law of God forbids her to ever remarry him. Read Deut. 24:1-4 where it clearly shows both people are free to remarry after a divorce however once either of them remarry it is not possible for them to get back together because if they did, it would be an abomination. In other words the law of God does not allow it.

**Philip Todd Derstine writes:**

Everything was done in a most scurrilous manner imaginable, with no avenue of reconciliation sought or counsel sought. Done in a manner that would shame a common person in the world.

I told the elderly lady who writes up the lesson plans for the Church there that neither she or any of the others at the Bible Study had any business dictating people's lives or pontificating on the subject of D & R when

they haven't even bothered to study the Greek words which bear upon the subject. I handed her a **D & R manuscript**, which she read, but then proceeded the following week at the Bible Study as though there was no need to modify her stand.

Well, don't you know her eyesight was afflicted greatly by the Lord within one month and she could no longer teach anymore as she had been wont to do in the past. I gave a copy of **my paper** to their Pastor, and also to Crystal, but have gotten no feedback from them on its contents. His compassion for the treachery endured by one of his flock was sorely lacking, to say the least. I asked him if he thought it was just and fair that Crystal's ex should be allowed to enjoy the happiness and contentment of marriage and parenthood while Crystal must face the prospect of spinsterhood and perpetual social and conjugal isolation, but his neck and forehead were like flint, unpersuadable by right words.

Richard Nichols of the **Bible Sabbath Association** is another sabbatarian leader implacable to reason, and divorced from the torah, on this subject of D & R. He and Tommy West apparently think that divorcees are the only captives that Yeshua's grace is not sufficient enough to set free.

**Tommy West writes:**

Being under grace does not entitle anyone who wears the "Christian" label to violate any of the Ten Commandments.

**Philip Todd Derstine writes:**

It is only better for virgins to marry than to burn (1 Cor. 7:), the rest might as well castrate themselves and enter the kingdom maimed, rather than go to gehenna whole. Marriage for them is given only to virgins and widows as a means of avoiding the pitfalls of fornication (1 Cor. 7:2), the heck with the rest. They accuse Yahweh of being the author of divisions and lack of clarity within the body of Christ when the Holy Spirit could just as simply have dictated thru the Apostle Paul to allow only virgins and widows to have their own spouses, instead of saying it was better for every man and woman to have their own mate.

Of course they have no sensible explanation for Paul's question in v. 27, Are you loosed from a wife? Because for them death is the only way to get loosed from the marital bond. But if that be the case, why did he not simply say, Is your wife dead? Seek not a wife. Reason. Because he had already addressed widows and unmarried as a category back in vs. 8-9, and the phrase *loosed from a wife* indeed refers to divorcees. It would be good for Tommy West to get himself a copy of the Septuagint, which many scholars believe was quoted by a number of New Testament writers when quoting passages out of the Old Testament.

Whatever one may think of the LXX, it is surely a useful tool in establishing what Greek words correspond to Hebrew words in the Old.

**Tommy West writes:**

I have a copy of *THE SEPTUAGINT WITH APOCRYPHA* by Sir Lancelot Brenton and do use it for study purposes.

**Philip Todd Derstine writes:**

So when we see porneia, the subject of Matt. 5:31-32, and Matt. 19, being used throughout the prophets for Israel's adultery with the nations, her idolatrous practices, when she went *backsliding* (apostasion) from the Covenant, and a *whoring* from Yahweh, we get a much broader understanding of the spiritual significance of Christ's exception clause, which ties in perfectly with Paul's leniency with believing mates whose unbelieving spouses wish to depart.

**Tommy West writes:**

Paul *did not make room for leniency when it applies to a Christian man and woman*. Read **1 Cor. 7:10-11**. You can't escape it.

**Laura Lee writes:**

I just want to make a note here that I covered 1 Cor. 7:10-11 previously in this letter and I as well as Philip Todd Derstine are not in agreement with Tommy West and his stand in regard to marriage and divorce.

**Philip Todd Derstine writes:**

But, as you said in your rebuttal, Tommy West wants to lift Christ's teaching out of its historical context and make some kind of new, cut and dry absolute law that does away with not just Deut. 24, but Exod. 21:10-11.

**Tommy West writes:**

**Deut. 24:1-4** permitted Israelites to divorce under the Mosaic law because their hearts were hardened (and in many cases still are). Jesus declared that **"From the beginning it was not so."** (See **Matt.19:8** and **Mark 10:5**.)

**Laura Lee writes:**

The Mosaic Law is still in force as it is God's Law, and many hearts are still hardened.

**Philip Todd Derstine writes:**

So much for Yeshua stating explicitly that He came not to do away with the Law.

**Tommy West writes:**

Jesus (Yeshua) certainly *did not do away with the law, BUT HE DID MODIFY IT*. The Sermon on The Mount is a modification of many of the Torah laws as

**given to Moses.** {I will be happy to discuss this issue further if the letter-writer so chooses. I also want to thank the editor for allowing me to respond to this letter.}

**Laura Lee writes:**

Actually much of what is written in the New Testament is not a modification to God's Law in the Old Testament, but rather a referral back to that same law in the Old Testament. God does not change and neither does His Law.

**Philip Todd Derstine writes:**

Solomon said in Ecclesiastes 7:16 that being righteous *over much* destroys the individual given to it. Paul warned that there would be such teaching in the last days (I Tim. 4:1-3). "Forbidding to marry" is there labeled a departure from the faith, the product, in my view, of a seductive, Pharisical spirit, and indeed a doctrine of demons. For anyone who was around in WCG in the 1960's and 1970's to see the fruits of Herbert Armstrong's refusal to relax his views on this subject, demonic is not too strong a word to describe the misery, the broken homes, the destroyed lives that this doctrine of demons bestowed upon those willing to give up everything for "the Truth."

A third "leader" who subscribes to this doctrine is Phil Frankford up there in Port Austin (thanks for reporting on the escapades there, and I'm glad you presented level-headed Norm Edwards' viewpoint of affairs there.) Frankford, who I knew during my four years in Dallas, TX in the mid-80's, is one of the most judgmental, priggish (Webster's defines as "one demanding pointless conformity of others, fussiness about trivialities, exaggerated propriety, esp. in a self-righteous or irritating manner.") human beings I have ever met. Despite not having seen him or had contact with him in over 18 years, he alone blocked my attending the Feast of Tabernacles there in Port Austin last fall.

The scriptures indicate that men must sit down when they judge. These kind of people shoot from the hip, standing up, refusing to exercise due process, which the Bible calls judgment (mishpaht), and I am here to declare that many in the world who are district attorneys, attorneys, judges, court clerks, legal aids, etc. have more sense of proper due process and just proceedings, and rules of evidence than I have seen in my years of being abused by the leadership and laity in the sacred name and Church of God movement, and hence they will enter the kingdom of heaven before the unjust ones in the churches.

**Norman S. Edwards writes:**

I was given a chance to respond to this letter without knowing who wrote it--so I do

not have any more background than what you see here. I have come to many of the same conclusions as the writer on the above verses, though I would hope to present my views in a less caustic manner. I do not think that everyone who teaches against all divorce is evil or demonic--some such teachers simply came from a family with a good marriage, have a good marriage themselves, and believe that by teaching against all divorce, they will be bringing the blessings they have to others. Unfortunately, it is usually not that simple--such a teaching does not make bad marriages good. There are some that have an agenda in teaching against all divorce--a few even using that teaching to entrap a spouse in a demonically evil marriage. I have come to a similar conclusion as the previous paragraph: while the courts of this world are often unjust, I have seen Church of God groups that are worse. The systems used in courts of this country (requiring both parties be present before the judge, methods for appeal, rules for evidence, etc.) are more just than church of God groups that basically leave everything in the hands of the minister who has no rules to follow.

**Philip Todd Derstine writes:**

The events up in Port Austin, Michigan are a very sad commentary on the inability of our so-called commandment-keeping people, even those sharing so noble a common vision for the education of its young people as those up there in the thumb of Michigan, to cooperate, to be decent, to keep promises, to defer to and prefer one another in love, and to walk humbly with our God.

**Norman S. Edwards writes:**

I think just the lessons learned here about how to work with brethren here have been worth the effort. I went through decades thinking I was going to reign with Christ at His return, but it has not been until the last 10 years that I have come to realize that I have not been very well prepared to do that. I think many other Church of God brethren are in the same boat. I realize that I have learned a lot now, but also see that there is more room to grow than I ever imagined possible.

**Philip Todd Derstine writes:**

Norm is the only one there who I would personally entrust with the education of my children, because I've known him, and his wife and parents since my college days in Big Sandy and Pasadena. But even Norm has neglected to afford me the time and forum for confronting the slanderers of my name who continually get away with spiritual murder every time my name comes up.

**Norman S. Edwards writes:**

We certainly have been behind on our

newsletter and I am sorry for that, but otherwise, I do not know what this is about and so cannot make any kind of judgment about it.

**Philip Todd Derstine writes:**

I hope the people on Norm's mailing list will get behind him and support what he is trying to do up there. But as long as we are the carnal, back-stabbing, non-Pentecostal, sold under sin people that we are, the only kind of leadership that will accomplish anything is going to be semi-hierarchical. Let Norm be the sole trustee, that is probably what is meant to be.

**Norman S. Edwards writes:**

From the beginning, I intended this to be an effort in which multiple people would share their resources and leadership for the benefit of all. We still hope to have a larger leadership body. But we learned a painful lesson that it is not enough to have others who simply talk about sharing and doing--they have to really do it. We are still very open to sharing with others who want to contribute significant resources and capability, but will be much more sure that everyone is walking the walk, not just talking the talk. I am not sure what the reference to "non-Pentecostal" is about. We are not looking for people with wild emotional experiences typical of some Pentecostal groups, but we are looking for people who believe that the Eternal can talk and communicate directly with them, and who are led by His Spirit. I appreciate the encouragement from this writer, but would hope everyone would realize that he is not speaking on our behalf. We hope that people will read what we write about [Port Austin](#), seek God on the matter, and help as they are stirred by His Spirit.

**Philip Todd Derstine writes:**

But I'll tell you folks something else, Yahweh is more interested in finding a place where He can place His Name, and where His character and the knowledge of Him and His plans can be attributed to His one Memorial Name, which is Yahweh, than He is in simply building another sabbatarian Church of God retreat or festival site. Your and Norm's braininess has totally failed you in this regard, as any reading of I Kings 8 would surely tell you. The Temple was to be an house for the name of Yahweh God of Israel, and I Cor 3 says that we today are that Temple.

**Norman S. Edwards writes:**

I appreciate this writer's desire to worship the Father and to use his name. I have always welcomed brethren who use various pronunciations of the Father's name to our meetings and included some in our

publications. After studying the subject extensively, I discovered different people who could talk for days about how they felt His name should be pronounced, citing scripture, history, divine revelation and other proofs. While it is obvious that "the LORD" is not a good translation, I fail to find in scripture that the proper pronunciation of His name was ever an issue. The Hebrew *shem*, ("name") can both refer to the words by which someone is called as well as their "reputation, fame and glory". In I Kings 8, we find many references to the temple being for the name of the Eternal, but in all the detail describing the temple, do we find one place where that name is written in the temple? No? It seems like His "reputation, fame and glory" was to be made known to all men, not the specific sound of His name.

**Laura Lee writes:**

If people want to use sacred names, we have no problem with it. We just plain cannot find any such doctrine in scripture. If we cannot find it in scripture we will not teach it.

**Philip Todd Derstine writes:**

And we also should be living Temples who bear and glorify the name of Yahweh the God of Israel. The word "in vain" in the Third Commandment means to destroy or bring to desolation the name of Yahweh Eloheanu. The scribes or translators have accomplished that remarkable feat by doing something to the yod, Hay, Vav, Hay of the tetragrammaton, that they refused to do to any other name in the entire Bible, they translated it (improperly at that), instead of transliterating it. To ascribe His glory, character, plan, love, mind, heart, etc. to any other name as a matter of course and habit is a grave sin borne of Pharisaical stubbornness is refusal to learn.

**Norman S. Edwards writes:**

Part of the reason that they did not translate it was that they were not sure of the pronunciation. I agree that "the Eternal" would have been a better translation than "the Lord". The translators could have put YHVH and let the reader pronounce it as he understands. While I personally would never want to alter the scripture, our Father is quite capable of preserving what He wants preserved--and I believe he has.

**Philip Todd Derstine writes:**

And there is hard evidence in Rev. 14:2 and elsewhere that refusal to use that name and substituting false titles in place of His Name is going to cost an awful lot of Church of God people an awful lot of pain during the so-called Great Tribulation.

**Norman S. Edwards writes:**

I disagree with this. While verse 1

describes these people as having the Father and Son's name on their foreheads, it does not say that they are being delivered because they use the names. Rather, verses 4-5 explain: "These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from among men, being first fruits to God and to the Lamb. And in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault before the throne of God." So which is easier? To use Hebrew names for the Father and Son? Or to be found with no deceit in one's mouth? I have met nasty, evil people who were very careful to use Sacred names. I have met loving people full of the Holy Spirit, who know almost nothing of Greek or Hebrew. We must realize that up until the last century, the average believer had no good way to access the Bible in Hebrew and Greek. Yet our Savior built a Church (or assembly) that has lasted through the ages.

**Philip Todd Derstine writes:**

I am confident they will learn in the wilderness as Left Behind believers (and I do not mean to imply that this is by any means the only reason for people to be left Behind), and will be caught up to be with Elohim at the mid-point along with the Two Witnesses (see Rev. 11:12), 3½ years before the Marriage Supper of the Lamb in Heaven. But to cling to the term God just because ministries are too lazy to change their letterhead, signs, and nameplates in front of their buildings is ridiculous.

**Norman S. Edwards writes:**

It has been my experience that "Sacred Name" groups reach very few new believers, but mostly attract believers from other Sabbatarian or Bible-oriented groups. I think most groups use "God" because it is understood by nearly everyone in the western culture to be the God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob. Furthermore, if the right name were the key to effective work for our Father, one would expect to see some great difference between the work of Sacred Name groups and other Sabbatarian groups, but my experience with several different groups does not bring me to this conclusion.

**Philip Todd Derstine writes:**

There are, by the way, scholars who acknowledge that the sacred name of Yahweh (mostly in paleo-Hebrew occurs in manuscripts of the Septuagint up until the 4th Century, and that it must have been the decrees of Constantine against Hebrew, against Hebrew scriptures, etc. that led to its disappearance. The monks of the Church in the monasteries, responsible for transmitting the New Testament to us, were not fond of things Jewish in any way, and it should not

be expected by modern-day thinkers like Ron Dart, etc. that we would find the name extant in any of the Western or Byzantine texts of the Bible.

**Norman S. Edwards writes:**

These arguments are common to most "sacred name" teachings. They say that the Christians did not like "Jewish" things, so they must have taken out the Hebrew name of the Father in the New Testament. Yet, these same ancient New Testament manuscripts contain about 40 Hebrew words that are transliterated into Greek. One many people know is "abba [Hebrew], father [*pater-Greek*]" (Mar 14:36; Rom 8:15; Gal 4:6). In Revelation 9:11, we find "the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, but in Greek he has the name Apollyon." We also read "the Devil [*diabolos*, 'accuser' in Greek] and Satan [*satanas*, 'adversary' in Hebrew]" in Revelation 12:9 and 20:2. But we do not find one place where the Eternal's name is transliterated from Hebrew in the New Testament. We do not find any place where non-Jews are taught to say or write the name. Even when Paul declares the "Unknown God" to the Greeks on Mars Hill (Acts 17:23), he does not give His Hebrew name, but continues to use the Greek word "Theos".

**Philip Todd Derstine writes:**

But when we move eastward to where John's churches were in Asia Minor, and North Syria, we run into three families who preserved the New Covenant scriptures who do show affinity for using the sacred name, and they called their scriptures the **Peshitta**. Bullinger attests to the antiquity and the integrity of the **Peshitta** family of texts. As far as the content of scriptures in the New Testament, we should look at variant readings in all the manuscripts. One must use various critical methods, including **Ivan Panin's Bible numerics** to determine which readings are superior.

**Norman S. Edwards writes:**

These are the kinds of things that we hope will be studied here at the Port Austin Bible Campus. I do not feel that I have the last word on the "names" issue, Bible manuscripts, the "calendar" or other teachings. Good scholars search for what is true, making it as easy as possible for others to understand, even if it does not exactly fit into their personal beliefs. However, before we claim that a teaching is essential for a Christian--or even essential for a Christian with whom we would fellowship--we should be able to answer all of the reasonable questions that other believers might have on the subject. I have not seen any writing like

**\*\*\*CONTINUED ON PAGE 20\*\*\***

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

**QUESTION #68**

**What is the difference between the following groups: Church of God Groups, Sacred Names Groups, Messianic Jewish Groups, and Hebrew Roots Groups?**

**Church of God.** The large cluster of churches calling themselves Church of God are generally mainstream protestant Sunday observing churches, particularly Pentecostal churches, which emphasize emotions during church services.

The smaller cluster of churches calling themselves Church of God are generally Sabbath (Saturday) observing churches. Most of these are outgrowths of the **Church of God Seventh Day** which was started in the middle of the 1800's. **The Church of God Seventh Day (COG7)** split away from the **Adventist** group after the great disappointment of 1844. The large group, which eventually became the **Seventh Day Adventists (SDA)**, was guided mostly in the early years by **Ellen White** and her visions. Early in life, **White** was hit in the head with a rock. The brain damage resulted in her having many "visions" from time to time. The small group that broke away, the **Church of God 7th Day**, was the group that took her "visions" with a grain of salt. They also took the failed prophecy of **Mr. Miller** (End of the world in 1844) with a grain of salt after the great disappointment occurred. That is, the prophecy was proved false and they moved on. The large group, the **SDA**, however, promoted the idea that something did happen in 1844, the sanctuary in heaven was cleansed, as if the Father would allow the sanctuary to get dirty to begin with. The **COG7** saw the absurdity of their logic, rejected the "visions" of **Ellen White**, and separated themselves from the **SDA**. Newspapers and literature from both the 1800's and the 1900's show that the **Church of God 7th Day** had a tendency to originate their doctrines from scripture in an exegetic manner, as opposed to the usual religious paradigm of instituting man's traditions and picking out proof scriptures as backup. The largest group to come out of **Church of God 7th Day** was the **Radio Church of God**, which was re-named the **Worldwide Church of God** eventually. It's pastor-general was **Herbert W Armstrong**, who had been an experienced advertising man in the early 1900's. He put his skill to work, producing booklets and articles with sensational titles, the **Plain Truth Magazine**, and the **World Tomorrow broadcast**. When **Herbert Armstrong** died in 1986, his successors turned the **Worldwide Church of God** into a mainstream Sunday observing denomination. They did this through the behavior technique of successive approximation, conditioning the congregations step by step toward the goal of accepting the watered-down doctrines. This caused an avalanche of dropouts. These dropouts formed several Churches of God, what some refer to as splinter groups. And out of the splinter groups many would drop out due to the abuses of some of the Church leaders. These would form yet smaller independent groups, many having interactive forums not allowed in the larger groups.

**Sacred Names Groups.** These are groups that emphasize the Hebrew name of God, YHVH. Some pronounce it as Yahveh. Some pronounce it as Yahweh. Some go to the Paleohebrew and pronounce it as YayWay. Some believe they are sinning if they use the name Jesus or God. Some will not say the names of the days of the week, or the names of the months, or the planets because they have the names of false gods.

**Messianic Jewish Groups.** Messianic Jewish Groups are generally those who are Jewish by birth but are, in fact, Christian by religion. Many also have Gentile members who are comfortable with the doctrines and services. Some of them celebrate Christmas. Some do not. Some get doctrines from the Talmud. Some do not. Some require the use of a skull cap at services. Some do not.

**Editors Note:**

There is a great deal of confusion over the lineage of Messianic Jews. Many people believe they are mostly Jews by birth due to the name of their group, however many of them are not Jewish at all. Laura Lee

**Hebrew Roots Groups.** Hebrew Roots Groups are those groups who acknowledge that there are several tribes of Israel, not just the Jews and the Levites. These groups may be more political and social oriented, such as groups in India who believe themselves to be members of the tribe of Manasseh. Their main approach is to see the country of Israel as their homeland. Others simply see themselves as being members of a specific tribe of Israel and having no need to re-locate. For many, the identity of the nations of Israel is simply an understanding through which they comprehend prophecy more fully, regardless of whether they themselves are of Hebrew bloodline or not.

**Answered by: Wily Elder (Ocala, Florida)**

**Item found on line at:**

<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0048/q2008-048-01.htm>

\*\*\*THE END\*\*\*\*\*

this on the names of the Father and Son.

Believers everywhere need more action and less infighting. Those who teach need to work hard at it (Rom 12:7), but realize they will be judged more strictly (Jms 3:1). Whether we are trying to start a campus, write an article or help a neighbor clean her

house, we need to ask for the Holy Spirit to be upon us, and to serve with diligence, because not enough of His Work is being done. May all of us overcome our sins by His Power, and represent Him to others.

**Laura Lee writes:**  
Please go to:

[http://cs.anu.edu.au/~bdm/dilugim/panin\\_mark.html](http://cs.anu.edu.au/~bdm/dilugim/panin_mark.html) and read a review of Ivan Panin's Bible numerics in regard to the book of Mark. We would caution readers not to get entangled in mathematical Bible Codes that cannot possibly be correct due to the multiple versions of the Bible now on the market.  
\*\*\*CONTINUED ON PAGE 21\*\*\*

**PRAYER REQUESTS & UPDATES ---**

[the-cog-messenger@earthlink.net](mailto:the-cog-messenger@earthlink.net)

**September 25, 2008--Ericka and her Family**

Dear friends, My name is Ericka. Please pray for me I am a single mother of three girls, they are 12, 10 and 7 years old. I really need a miracle to happen and the situation I am going through is really very hard, I need God to heal me also. Please pray for me so that I can have total victory over all the enemies that are confronting me and my 3 girls at this time and protection. I need wisdom and strength from God. Please I feel like I am about to die with out Gods intervention on My favor. I also need a financial miracle. Please pray for the girls also that they can be more obedient to me and for all the petitions of my heart. I PRAISE GOD IN ADVANCE FOR THIS for I know nothing is impossible to God and that he really cares for our needs. Please pray for me. Mother of three.

**November 1, 2008--Larry Graff**

Please pray for Larry's full recovery from a hernia operation.

**Prayer Request Archives**

**Item found on line at:**

<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0048/p2008-048-01.htm>

**\*\*\*THE END\*\*\*\*\***

Basically the Bible Code is derived from an ancient Jewish book of mysticism called the Kabbalah. For more information on this go to: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kabbalah> and scroll down the page to: "Number-Word mysticism"

**Philip Todd Derstine writes:**

I apologize for digressing, I know you have a lot to do there. Please keep the **newsletter** coming to my wife's address. We have other articles that we have written but do not know how to upload them onto a proprietary website. You are welcome to publish for discussion some of the ones enclosed in this mailing, including the **Divorce and Remarriage** article. I should also mention that Avi Ben Mordecai, a Messianic believer in Yeshua, has textual evidence that Mal. 2:16 should read, "they hate divorce," meaning that Yahweh was anticipating the treachery of the Hillel generation of scribes and Pharisees who put away their women, but left them in legal limbo by refusing to give them a bill of divorcement. Make no mistake, the men of Yahshua's generation hated the stigma and expense that came with their issuing the apostasion to woman after woman, and so they dispensed with it altogether, contrary to the command of Deut 24. It is not hard to understand Yeshua's teaching on these matters in light of these facts, i.e. Addressing the issue of women who were merely put away, but not divorced, and hence, free to remarry. But then, church people in commandment-rejecting churches do not deserve the liberty and sensibility that comes with Yah's law of liberty. That is the fundamental problem with the less law theology of the Churches of God Seventh Day.

Have a nice fall festival, and keep up the

good work.

**Letter found on line at:**

<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0048/2008-048-03.htm>

**\*\*\*THE END\*\*\*\*\***

***My Head Hurts (01-22-08)***

***by Dale Dupont (Milwaukee, Wisconsin)***

**Dale Dupont writes:**

Interesting information. But all the flashing moving things on the **site** make my head hurt. Good info though.

**Laura Lee writes:**

Thank you for visiting our **web site**. The opening page may be a little flashy, but once you get past that, you should be fine.

**Letter found on line at:**

<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0048/2008-048-05.htm>

**\*\*\*THE END\*\*\*\*\***

***Prayer and Newsletter (04-11-08)***

***by Mariama Dieudonner (Benin)***

**Mariama Dieudonner writes:**

My name is Mariama Dieudonner I just stumbled at your **website** and was very pleased on what I found there. I am a Roman Catholic and would want to know more about Jesus and am requesting that you include me in your prayers and also send me your **newsletters** via email, etc.

Do you have any fellowship or Ministry in Benin Republic? My husband left me for another woman since 9 months now because his parents said that I have not given them a

male child. I need encouragement please.

**Laura Lee writes:**

We will certainly pray for you. We will also send you a **subscription** form for our **newsletter**. If you cannot afford the subscription price then check the appropriate box for that and return the form to us.

**Letter found on line at:**

<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0048/2008-048-04.htm>

**\*\*\*THE END\*\*\*\*\***

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the-cog-messenger@earthlink.net

**SABBATH SCHEDULE--BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA**

- October 18, 2008----Feast of Tabernacles (No Services)
- October 21, 2008----Feast of Tabernacles (No Services)
- October 25, 2008----Open for Hosting--Please Sign Up
- November 1, 2008----Teaching the Law-- Lesson #246 & Lesson #247
- November 8, 2008----Open for Hosting--Please Sign Up
- November 15, 2008----Teaching the Law-- Lesson #248 & Lesson #249
- November 22, 2008----Open for Hosting--Please Sign Up
- November 28, 2008----Bible Study
- November 29, 2008----Teaching the Law-- Lesson #250 & Lesson #251
- December 6, 2008----Open for Hosting--Please Sign Up
- December 13, 2008----Teaching the Law-- Lesson #252 & Lesson #253
- December 20, 2008----Open for Hosting--Please Sign Up
- December 27, 2008----Teaching the Law-- Lesson #254 & Lesson #255
- January 3, 2008----Open for Hosting--Please Sign Up
- January 9, 2008----Bible Study
- January 10, 2008----Teaching the Law-- Lesson #256 & Lesson #257

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, 2008. On those Sabbaths of Open Hosting where no one signs up, we will just play a cassette tape by any of various speakers. All Sabbath Services are Hosted by Darwin & Laura Lee unless otherwise stated.

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**SABBATH SERVICES**

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

\*\*\*\*\*  
**BIBLE STUDY**

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

**Text of Draft  
Proposal  
for Bailout Plan**  
*Sent by Philip Todd Derstine  
(Puckett, Mississippi)*

Webster's Dictionary defines FASCISM as "A philosophy or governmental system marked by stringent socioeconomic control, a strong central government usually headed by a dictator....."

The draft of the Bailout Proposal supported by the President and many members of the House and Senate gives unlimited (dictatorial) power to the Secretary of Treasury.

The draft is only 3 pages. READ IT and contact your legislators to express opposition to this immediate threat to our future and economic freedom.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/09/21/business/21draftcnd.html>

**LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR  
TREASURY AUTHORITY  
TO PURCHASE MORTGAGE-RELATED  
ASSETS**

**Section 1. Short Title.**

This Act may be cited as \_\_\_\_\_.

**Sec. 2. Purchases of Mortgage-Related Assets.**

(a) Authority to Purchase.--The Secretary is authorized to purchase, and to make and fund commitments to purchase, on such terms and conditions as determined by the Secretary, mortgage-related assets from any financial institution having its headquarters in the United States.

(b) Necessary Actions.--The Secretary is authorized to take such actions as the Secretary deems necessary to carry out the authorities in this Act, including, without limitation:

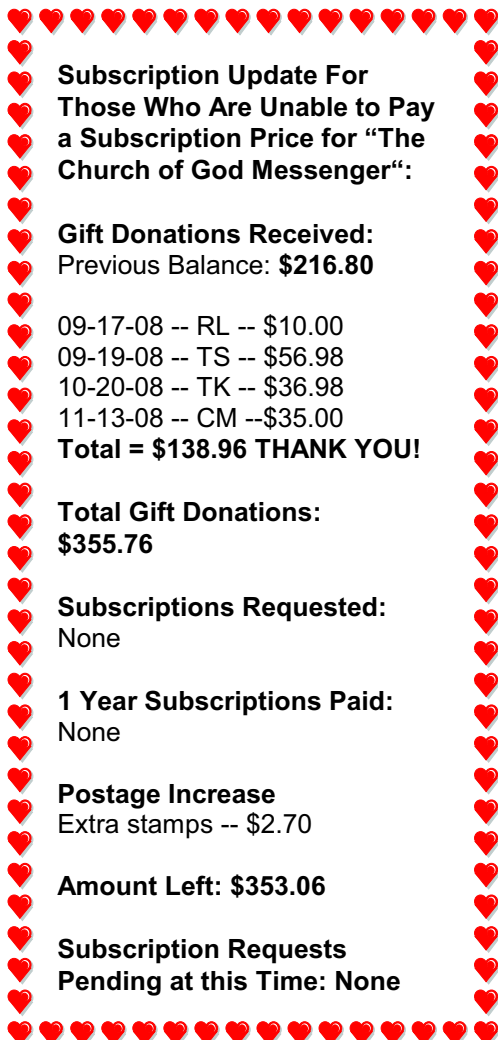
- (1) appointing such employees as may be

- required to carry out the authorities in this Act and defining their duties;
- (2) entering into contracts, including contracts for services authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, without regard to any other provision of law regarding public contracts;
- (3) designating financial institutions as financial agents of the Government, and they shall perform all such reasonable duties related to this Act as financial agents of the Government as may be required of them;
- (4) establishing vehicles that are authorized, subject to supervision by the Secretary, to purchase mortgage-related assets and issue obligations; and
- (5) issuing such regulations and other guidance as may be necessary or appropriate to define terms or carry out the authorities of this Act.

**Sec. 3. Considerations.**

In exercising the authorities granted in this Act, the Secretary shall take into consideration means for--

- (1) providing stability or preventing disruption to the financial markets or banking system;



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

**Gift Donations Received:**  
Previous Balance: **\$216.80**

- 09-17-08 -- RL -- \$10.00
- 09-19-08 -- TS -- \$56.98
- 10-20-08 -- TK -- \$36.98
- 11-13-08 -- CM --\$35.00

**Total = \$138.96 THANK YOU!**

**Total Gift Donations:**  
**\$355.76**

**Subscriptions Requested:**  
None

**1 Year Subscriptions Paid:**  
None

**Postage Increase**  
Extra stamps -- \$2.70

**Amount Left: \$353.06**

**Subscription Requests Pending at this Time: None**

and  
(2) protecting the taxpayer.

**Sec. 4. Reports to Congress.**  
Within three months of the first exercise of the authority granted in section 2(a), and semiannually thereafter, the Secretary shall report to the Committees on the Budget, Financial Services, and Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committees on the Budget, Finance, and Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate with respect to the authorities exercised under this Act and the considerations required by section 3.

**Sec. 5. Rights; Management; Sale of Mortgage-Related Assets.**  
(a) Exercise of Rights.--The Secretary may, at any time, exercise any rights received in connection with mortgage-related assets purchased under this Act.  
(b) Management of Mortgage-Related Assets.--The Secretary shall have authority to manage mortgage-related assets purchased under this Act, including revenues and portfolio risks there from.  
(c) Sale of Mortgage-Related Assets.--The Secretary may, at any time, upon terms and

conditions and at prices determined by the Secretary, sell, or enter into securities loans, repurchase transactions or other financial transactions in regard to, any mortgage-related asset purchased under this Act.  
(d) Application of Sunset to Mortgage-Related Assets.--The authority of the Secretary to hold any mortgage-related asset purchased under this Act before the termination date in section 9, or to purchase or fund the purchase of a mortgage-related asset under a commitment entered into before the termination date in section 9, is not subject to the provisions of section 9.

**Sec. 6. Maximum Amount of Authorized Purchases.**

The Secretary's authority to purchase mortgage-related assets under this Act shall be limited to \$700,000,000,000 outstanding at any one time

**Sec. 7. Funding.**

For the purpose of the authorities granted in this Act, and for the costs of administering those authorities, the Secretary may use the proceeds of the sale of any securities issued under chapter 31 of title 31, United States Code, and the purposes for which securities may be issued under chapter 31 of title 31, United States Code, are extended to include actions authorized by this Act, including the payment of administrative expenses. Any funds expended for actions authorized by this Act, including the payment of administrative expenses, shall be deemed appropriated at the time of such expenditure.

**Sec. 8. Review.**

Decisions by the Secretary pursuant to the authority of this Act are non-reviewable and committed to agency discretion, and may not be reviewed by any court of law or any administrative agency.

**Sec. 9. Termination of Authority.**

The authorities under this Act, with the exception of authorities granted in sections 2(b)(5), 5 and 7, shall terminate two years from the date of enactment of this Act.

**Sec. 10. Increase in Statutory Limit on the Public Debt.**

Subsection (b) of section 3101 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by striking out the dollar limitation contained in such subsection and inserting in lieu thereof \$11,315,000,000,000.

**Sec. 11. Credit Reform.**

The costs of purchases of mortgage-related assets made under section 2(a) of this Act shall be determined as provided under the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990, as applicable.

**Sec. 12. Definitions.**

For purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply:

- (1) Mortgage-Related Assets.--The term "mortgage-related assets" means residential or commercial mortgages and any securities, obligations, or other instruments that are based on or related to such mortgages, that in each case was originated or issued on or before September 17, 2008.
- (2) Secretary.--The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Treasury.
- (3) United States.--The term "United States" means the States, territories, and possessions of the United States and the District of Columbia.

**Item found on line at:**

<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0048/i2008-048-01.htm>

\*\*\*THE END\*\*\*\*\*

**Did You Know?**

*by Howard Bruce  
(Glendale, Arizona)*

**Did you know this ALL came to pass in Iraq?**

- 1. The Garden of Eden was in Iraq.
- 2. Mesopotamia which is now Iraq was the cradle of civilization.
- 3. Noah built the ark in Iraq.
- 4. The Tower of Babel was in Iraq.
- 5. Abraham was from Ur which is in Southern Iraq.
- 6. Isaac's wife Rebekah is from Nahar which is in Iraq.
- 7. Jacob met Rachel in Iraq.
- 8. Jonah preached in Nineveh in Iraq.
- 9. Assyria in Iraq conquered the ten tribes of Israel.
- 10. Amos cried out in Iraq.
- 11. Babylon in Iraq destroyed Jerusalem.
- 12. Daniel was in the lions den in Iraq.
- 13. The three Hebrew children and Jesus were in the fiery furnace in Iraq.
- 14. Belshazzar, King of Babylon saw the writing on the wall in Iraq.
- 15. Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon carried Jews into Iraq.
- 16. Ezekiel preached in Iraq.
- 17. The wise men were from Iraq.
- 18. Peter preached in Iraq.
- 19. Adam and Eve were created in Iraq. (Gen. 2:1-8)
- 20. Satan made his first recorded appearance in Iraq. (Gen. 3:1-6)
- 21. The confusion of languages took place in Iraq. (Gen. 11:5-11)
- 22. Abraham came from Iraq. (Gen. 11:31, Acts 7:2)
- 23. Jacob spent 20 years in Iraq. (Gen. 27:42-45)
- 24. The first war was in Iraq. (Dan. 1:1)

# My God!

Sent by Jeana Anderson (Casa, Arkansas)

I refuse to be discouraged,  
 To be sad, or to cry;  
 I refuse to be downhearted,  
 and here's the reason why...  
 I have a God who's mighty,  
 Who's sovereign and supreme;  
 I have a God who loves me,  
 and I am on His team.  
 He is all wise and powerful,  
 Yahweh is His name;  
 Though everything is changeable,  
 Yahweh remains the same.  
 Yahweh knows all that's happening;  
 Beginning to the end,  
 His presence is my comfort,  
 He is my dearest friend.  
 When sickness comes to weaken me,  
 To bring my head down low,  
 I call upon my mighty Elohim;  
 Into His arms I go.  
 When circumstances threaten  
 to rob me from my peace,  
 He draws me close unto His breast,  
 Where all my strivings cease.  
 And when my heart melts within me,  
 and weakness takes control;  
 He gathers me into His arms,  
 He soothes my heart and soul.  
 The great "I AM" is with me,  
 My life is in His hand,  
 The "Son of the Almighty" is my hope,  
 It's in His strength I stand.  
 I refuse to be defeated,  
 My eyes are on Yahweh;  
 He has promised to be with me,  
 as through this life I trod.  
 I'm looking past all my circumstances,  
 To Heaven's throne above;  
 My prayers have reached  
 the heart of Yahweh,  
 I'm resting in His love.  
 I give Yahweh thanks in everything,  
 My eyes are on His face;  
 The battle's His, the victory is mine;  
 He'll help me win the race.

Item found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0048/i2008-048-02.htm>

\*\*\*THE END\*\*\*\*\*

were in Iraq.

27. The Book of Nahum was a prophecy against a city in Iraq.

28. The Book of Revelation has prophecy against Babylon in Iraq. (Rev. 17:15)

29. Nimrod established Babylon and built the Tower of Babel in Iraq. (Gen. 10:8-7 11:14)

30. Bible names of Iraq are Babylon, Land of Shinar and Mesopotamia.

31. Israel is the most often mentioned country in the Bible, Iraq is next or second.

When your God wants you to know something important He puts it in the minds of His servants to cry aloud, let my people know, men like Daniel, Paul, **Herbert W. Armstrong, Ron Dart, Keith Slough**, my advice listen to them and repent.

Editors Note:

Satan is the prince of the power of the air. Eph. 2:2 "Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:" Please always keep in mind that Satan is always broadcasting things into the minds of people everywhere. If something does come into your mind it is not always from God unless you can find it written or in principle in the Bible, so my advice is: Only follow men as they follow God. If you can't find it in the Bible

Iraq. Friends we are in deep, deep trouble!! Amen Howard F. Bruce - Also **Garner Ted Armstrong**, never forget **Pastor Dave Antion**. How sweet it is!!

Editors Note:

Satan is all over this world and we have been in deep trouble for quite some time now, like ever since the first sin was committed. Laura Lee

Item found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0048/i2008-048-04.htm>

\*\*\*THE END\*\*\*\*\*

## Raymond McNair

by David Ben-Ariel (Toledo, Ohio)

What a crying shame that Raymond McNair refuses to submit to the government of God and hear the Voice of the Shepherd who clearly stated **THE PHARISEES SIT IN MOSES' SEAT** - *not the blind Sadducees* that some Church members continue to blindly follow. God has *restored* this truth to His Church, and some repent of their vain Church traditions and get back on track like the early Church that followed the correct calculations of the *Pharisees*, like the Apostle Paul.

A most important correction:

I should have prefaced my comments by giving credit where credit is due, showing a great love and appreciation for Raymond McNair being blessed to serve as one of the pioneers in God's Church and holy Work under God's apostle **Herbert W. Armstrong**, serving thousands of brethren over the years. I want this on record since he is an elder and deserving of biblical respect, while I respectfully and strongly disagree with him on the sacred calendar, as a brother in the Lord.

Item found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0048/i2008-048-03.htm>

\*\*\*THE END\*\*\*\*\*

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25. The greatest revival was in Iraq. then don't believe it. Laura Lee (Jonah 3)

26. The events of the Book of Esther

**Pastor Dart** says Satan is "Right Now" in