

## America's Founding Prayer was Offered in the Name of Jesus

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**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**November 26, 2022 --- Issue No. 95**

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

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## Articles

### America’s Founding Prayer was Offered in the Name of Jesus (Copyright) by Eddie Hyatt (Grapevine, Texas)



The First Continental Congress opened with Bible reading and prayer on September 5, 1774, at Carpenter’s Hall in Philadelphia, PA. Fifty-six Delegates were present from all 13 colonies except Georgia. Among those present were George Washington and Patrick Henry from Virginia and Samuel Adams and John Adams from Massachusetts. They met to discuss how to deal with Britain’s oppressive actions toward the colonies.

Beginning with the Stamp Act of 1765, relations between the colonists and Great Britain had steadily deteriorated as King George continued to pile on tyrannical taxes and regulations about which they had no say. With the outbreak of protests,

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especially in New England, George had sent six regiments of British soldiers who had locked down the city of Boston and closed its port.

Before beginning their discussions, the delegates agreed to open with Bible reading and prayer. Samuel Adams, a Puritan from New England, suggested they invite Rev. Jacob Duche, an Anglican minister of Philadelphia who was known as a man of deep spirituality, to come and lead them in prayer.

As the elderly, grey-haired Duche stood before the Congress, he began by reading the entire 35th Psalm, which powerfully impacted everyone present. It is a prayer of David for deliverance and begins with the words, *Plead my cause O LORD with those who strive against me; fight against those who fight against me*. The Psalm ends with praise for God’s deliverance.

After reading the Psalm, Duche began praying for the delegates, for America, and especially for the city of Boston and its inhabitants who were under siege. As he began praying, the Anglicans, such as George Washington and Richard Henry Lee, knelt in prayer, according to their custom. The Puritans, according to their custom, sat with bowed heads and prayed. Others prayed according to their own, unique customs.

But although their outward manners differed, there was a singleness of heart and purpose as they all united in prayer for God’s assistance and intervention for America. Duche lifted his voice in prayer, saying,

O Lord, our high and mighty Father, heavenly king of kings, and Lord of Lords, who dost from Thy throne behold all the dwellers of the earth, and reignest with power supreme over all kingdoms, empires, and governments. Look down in mercy we beseech thee on these our American states who have fled to Thee from the rod of the oppressor and thrown themselves on Thy gracious protection, desiring to be henceforth dependent only on Thee. To Thee they have appealed for the righteousness of their cause; to Thee do they now look up for that countenance and support which Thou alone can give . . . Shower down upon them and the millions they represent, such temporal blessings as Thou seest expedient for them in this world and crown them with everlasting joy in the world to come. **All this we ask in the name and through the merits of Jesus Christ Thy Son and our Savior.** Amen (Hyatt, 1726: [The Year that Defined America](#), 108).

John Adams wrote to his wife, Abigail, of the impact of the Bible reading and prayer on the delegates, saying,

Who can realize the emotions with which they turned imploringly to heaven for divine interposition and aid. It was enough to melt a heart of stone. I never saw a greater effect upon an audience. It seems as if heaven had ordained that Psalm to be read that day. I saw tears gush into the eyes of the old, grave pacific Quakers of Philadelphia. I must beg you to read that Psalm (Hyatt, [1726: The Year that Defined America](#), 108).

This was America’s founding prayer, which, by the way, has been censored from the secularized modern versions of America’s history.

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## **Is God a Family?**

**(Copyright) by Bill Hillebrenner (Matthews, North Carolina)**

Some believers think that the Word, Jesus Christ, was a created being. Revelation 3:14 is one scripture that is wrested in attempt to support this position.

And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God (Revelation 3:14, KJV throughout).

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This verse has been twisted to mean that the Amen, the Christ, who is also the Beginning, [the Alpha as well as the Omega](#), came into being at his birth. It is true that Revelation 3:14 does not say that Jesus is the beginner of the creation but the beginning of the creation. So, what does this verse mean? Of what is Jesus the beginning?

For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named (Ephesians 3:14 - 15).

The whole family is named God. Jesus Christ is the beginning of the God family. He is the ". . . firstborn among many brethren" (Romans 8:29). Before Jesus' birth God was not a family with shared genetics. Before the birth of Jesus God (*Elohim*) was a kind of being.

#### **Kinds become genetically related**

In the beginning "God created . . . every living creature after their kind . . ." (Genesis 1:21). The first two dogs were not a family, but a kind. Once they produced offspring, they became genetically related, but each a different genetic mix of the first two. In the beginning God (*Elohim*) was a kind of being. There were two beings of that kind, but only one kind.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God (John 1:1).

#### **Angels not interrelated**

The angels are not really God Kind. They have one god-like attribute (spirit composition), but not "God genetics."

It even would seem that they do not have genetics at all or at least are not a genetic mix but were all individually created as it says of Lucifer "Thou [wast] perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created . . ." (Ezekiel 28:15). Possibly each of the various angel kinds are genetic clones.

#### **Eve, the mother of all living**

Jesus said to the Pharisees, quoting Psalm 82:7 "I said, ye are Gods . . ." (John 10:34). Why could men be called gods (*Elohim*)? Because they were of the same genetic pattern even though that pattern was filled with flesh.

Elohim the kind decided to multiply and be Elohim the family. God is using the Adam kind to do this. And like the first female horse was the mother of all horses except herself and the first stud, so Eve is the genetic mother of all except herself, Adam and God the Father. Eve is the genetic mother of Jesus Christ! Note the following.

We are the offspring (Greek: *genace* meaning genetics) of God (Acts 17:29).

I (Jesus) am the root and the offspring (*genace*) of David (Revelation 22:16).

Levi . . . paid tithes . . . yet in the loins of his father Abraham (Hebrews 7:10).

#### **This is genetics!**

Jesus is the root - the root has the genetic seed to produce the offspring! The genetics for David came from Jesus Christ. But when? At creation! Eve got her genetics from Adam. This allowed a genetic mix. That is why man can be called gods. We are God genetics in dirt - mortal. We need these genetics in immortal bodies to be spiritual God kind! Jesus is the first with mixed genetics, the beginning of this awesome creation of God, the God Family! Jesus is also the only one with genetics of God the Father (only begotten; mono-*genace*, only genetics).

#### **The God family is created!**

When Jesus was born as a spirit being, God became a spiritual family. Jesus was the Son of God in the flesh, but he became a born-again God spirit being at his resurrection. Notice what Romans 1 states.

And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead (Romans 1:4).

God is now not only a kind, but also a growing Family! Jesus Christ is the Beginning of the creation of God, which creation is a Family of genetically related spirit beings. Praise God!

## What to Expect in 2012

(Copyright) by John Jewell (London, England)

**What do you expect to happen in this new year of 2012?** It certainly hasn't started very well. Millions still suffer from an ongoing drought in various parts of the world. Many more suffer from the aftermath of floods over the past two or three years. Others still suffer dreadfully from the massive earthquakes that have inflicted the planet in recent years.. Countries such as Haiti where more than half the population still suffer and regardless of the weather continue to live in ramshackle shelters made of whatever scrap of wood or piece of corrugated iron the people can find. Others are "fortunate" – if that is the word, to eke out their lives under canvas shelters brought in by one or other of the aid agencies. Rebuilding of the infrastructure, roads, etc. has still barely begun! As for getting an income that is not a luxury available to many! The same is true in Japan where the population was badly hit by the earthquake that created the tsunami which caused such devastation and loss of life. Many bodies of those who died have still not been found.

Populations in other countries continue to live life under oppressive governments, governments such as China which, for all its advances, nevertheless demands an enormous effort from the average citizen. Such efforts have made it possible for the nation to effectively wage an economic war against the western nations.

In other nations we witness violent wars in which many thousands have died. And, **still there in the background is the threat of nuclear war.** It is apparent that Iran is on the edge of producing a viable nuclear weapon. Britain and the United States have both said that direct action will be taken should this become likely. However, Israel might take it first and risk a violent reaction from the rest of the Arab world.

Closer to home we see Europe at odds with itself with regard to the currency. Depending on how that all affects the eventual political structure for the area. It is becoming evident that a closer political union of fewer nations will be preferred to the ad hoc grouping that exists at the moment. This has already been aired but awaits those events yet to take place. The United Kingdom is not exempt from these political movements with elements of the Scots government currently trying to take Scotland out of the union with England, Wales, and Northern Ireland. A union which has, in its way, been quite successful. Division serves no one except those who pursue that direction and that will last only briefly! What's the old saying? "United we stand, divided..." you know the rest! **Why you ask do people do these things?** There are various reasons, self-interest being one of the most important. Greed for power and/or money is another. Sometimes, although rare, it is a genuine, but mistaken, reason. The proverb says this: "There is a way which seems right to a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." But who today takes any notice of sayings! Especially biblical ones!

However, as we consider these things, one of the world's biggest cruise ships capsized off the Italian coast, taking some of its passengers to their deaths. Those people, as they ate breakfast at home before they set out for the port in Italy had no idea that this was to be their last day of life. Many, however, seeing the way things are in the world today are preparing for the strong possibility of a breakdown of society not only in other parts of the world, but in Britain. Tim Lang, Professor of Food Policy at City University, London, was quoted as saying "There is a mass psychology of insecurity at the moment, and I think that is worrying. Quietly, but inexorably, the problem of food security has begun to enter into the mass consciousness." **Economists are being quoted as they predict a "meltdown" of economy after economy around the world.** It is reported how many today are now stocking up with emergency supplies of all kinds to enable them and their families to survive initial difficulties.

You may have heard of the Doomsday Clock. The Independent for 12<sup>th</sup> January explained it. This was set up in 1947 by atomic scientists at the University of Chicago and originally the minute hand was placed at 7 minutes to midnight as the threat of world disaster from atomic energy was perceived to be at that time to increase, or even decrease. Since then, the minute hand has accordingly been moved backwards and forwards 20 times. The short article said that "the gauge was initially based on the risk posed by nuclear threats but was widened in 2007 when the Bulletin of the atomic scientists deemed climate change to be one of the greatest risks facing mankind." **The minute hand is now at 5 minutes to midnight having been moved forward by 1 minute due to the combined threat facing the world today.** A threat which is very real! And a lot closer to us now than we might have realized. Climate change is a very real factor with drought and shortage of water already threatening many parts of the world and indeed could see the end of life on earth, this being eradicated directly through famine and in the resultant wars waged over the shrinking food supplies. Wars



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which undoubtedly would go nuclear with the subsequent catastrophic loss of life that they would bring.

However, the one certain thing about life is death! And yet probably the one subject to which we give the least thought. A large percentage, probably in fact the vast majority of people, certainly the British, don't really believe in God and certainly not in a life after death. There are people, probably multiple millions, who think that this life is all there is! Included among these millions are some highly intelligent and otherwise well-educated people. But they are at a loss to explain where life comes from! Or what it is! And how is it that people can think and deal with abstract concepts. We have previously mentioned the Russian scientist Oparin of some years back who theorized that life started in a pool of water which had within it a cocktail of chemicals. This pool he stated was struck by lightning and that was the spark of life and from this one lightning strike all life on earth came into being. Oparin and a whole army of otherwise intelligent people don't even begin to attempt to answer the resultant questions.

**Questions such as by what physical law did the lightning operate and cause sentient life to result. And how did it appear?** How did that minute bit of life survive and grow and by what laws or rules did it take up the myriad shapes, sizes, and variety of life forms that we have today. Did all animals, birds etc. come from this one chance occurrence? If so, then how and why did they all take up the forms and sizes that we see today. Oh! They evolved! Then why two eyes instead of one! And by what mechanism did all these life forms including man come into being. Faced with the realities evolution as a theory is a nonsense to be grasped by those who just will not accept the reality of God and the truth of creation. One of the most magnificent parts of the physical creation is the human brain. It is ultimate foolishness to believe it evolved. Another factor is the non-physical that is part of every human being. We call it the spirit. Where did it come from? What is it. The French philosopher Rene Descartes put it very well, he said “I think, therefore I am!” Spirit is that nonphysical element which enables us to know God, to understand who and what we are. It gives awareness. Without it we would be as the animals. It makes the difference.

**The apostle Paul met many of these same attitudes. Those who preach evolution and that there is no God are not original.** These nonsense beliefs have been around for as long as man has been on Earth. They showed up in the Corinthian church. The apostle Paul battled the same attitudes and wrong beliefs that afflict us today. He referred to Christ's resurrection which, he said, was witnessed by over 500 members of the church of God. They knew Christ, many would have seen him on the cross or stake, they knew he had died. Three days later here he was walking the lanes and walkways of Jerusalem as though nothing had happened! His resurrection was real, it happened! As Christ was resurrected so are we! Paul continues to say that if Christ was not resurrected then our faith is in vain. People believe the nonsense that pours forth from the vociferous evolutionists we are familiar with, an illogical nonsense that simply shows up the lack of wisdom and understanding of those who propound it.

Man agonizes over the question as to the nature of the universe. He sends probes out into space. He blindly says that maybe we shall find the answers to the question of the universe as to how it came into being. How it evolved, not realizing it didn't! Another question that tends to arise is the extent of the universe. In fact, it's a question that can't be asked! This is borne out when new and much more powerful telescopes are set up. The astronomers simply find more and more universe. **They hope to see the other side of the universe! There isn't one!** If, in fact, there is an apparent limit at present to the number of planets, stars etc. we will simply find yet more space and still there is no limit.

Otherwise, intelligent people can believe that intelligence generated spontaneously from a pool of muddy water struck by lightning, yet the sheer logic and veracity of the bible accounts which get right down to the grass roots passes them by. Is it because they cannot accept there is a being with an intelligence and ability far greater than theirs? A lot of damage has been done by the theory of evolution and its priests and it is going to take our Heavenly Father to allow this world and especially Britain and the United States to go through an unprecedented time of trouble that will finally focus the human attention. A time of trouble that is already becoming apparent. But beyond it is a new world. A world now subject to the Father and to Jesus Christ. **A new world, a planet now restored and upon which a project of re-education will be undertaken for the world in general.** For those who either never understood the truth, or had from untoward influences, rejected it unknowingly. A new world, a kingdom which will stand forever. There will be no end to it as we read in the book of Daniel chapter 2.

## A Big Lie of One Scripture (Copyright) by Darwin Lee (Bismarck, North Dakota)

One prevalent lie of a particular scripture held by almost all of humanity, (except the few) throughout most all nations, if not all, is the lie about Gen. 3:16. All readers reading this article know well what the lie is. Except most do not recognize that it is a giant of a lie.

That lie has been woven into the fabric of most of humanity for six thousand years now, that men-husbands are to rule over his wife. In general, men believe they are to rule over the inferior to them, women.

A huge swath of Christians (at least those professing Jesus) also believe this lie. Certainly, the Muslim community believes it to the fullest extent of their laws. Notice I said **THEIR LAWS**. As already mentioned, most of the world over, people love this lie. **2Th 2:11** And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie.

Let's get to the bottom of this big lie. In the Christian community it takes it's root in: **1Co 14:34 ¶** Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but *they are commanded* to be under obedience, as also saith the law.

They note the phrase, "as also saith the law". Then they steer you to Gen 3:16¶ Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire *shall be* to thy husband, **and he shall rule over thee**. (All emphasis mine throughout)

Notice, God was talking specifically to Eve in this verse (Gen. 3:16), not Adam. Nowhere in that statement is there an implication that God told Eve, "I (God) commanded Adam to rule over you".

It plainly says, "and he (Adam) shall rule over you". It is clear that Adam and men after that were going to take it upon themselves to take advantage of the situation and use this as an opportunity to advance themselves as the superior sex and rule over their wife and women in general.

Men blame women and Eve for their predicament. After all, she "tempted" Adam to eat of the fruit, did she not? The attitude of one is, she took of the fruit and told me "Go ahead and have one too. See I'm still alive". The attitude set in, "because she did this, I'm not going to let her forget this" and proceed to rule over her as justification for what she "made me do".

No, she didn't make him do anything, like a wimp Adam gave up his own right to stand up and tell her "God said not to".

Now, to digress further. We need to look at all the results that were to be Eve's misfortunes for having eaten the forbidden tree. There are four in Gen. 3:16. "Unto the woman he said:

- (1.) "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception.
- (2.) "In sorrow you shall bring forth children;"
- (3.) "And your desire shall be to your husband" (Much can be said about that, but for another time.)
- (4.) "And he shall rule over you".

In not any of those four results is there any command that Eve is to obey anything. What God told Eve are conditions or results of her disobedience. God was talking to Eve at this point, not one word said that Adam was to rule over her by a command to Adam to do such.

For the Bible student looking for the truth on any given subject, a major rule, well known, is that one must look to the context of what is being said. In this case, you must take all three accounts of what the results were for each person and being, (as in the serpent), their separate, let's say punishment.

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**Ge 3:14** ¶ And the LORD God said unto the serpent, **Because thou hast done this**, thou *art* cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:

Note well; **“Because you have done this thing”**. Clearly a result of the serpent’s transgression.

**Ge 3:17** ¶ And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed *is* the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat *of* it all the days of thy life; **Ge 3:18** Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; **Ge 3:19** “In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou *art*, and unto dust shalt thou return”.

Again, clearly a result for Adam because of his transgression.

Remember the rule, “look at the context”. Since we know that the serpents and Adams condition set by God is clearly a result of their sin, then it must hold true for Eve too and that condition put forth by God, must be a result for her part in this “threesome” as well.

You cannot pull out of Gen. 3:16 some so-called made-up law for Eve and no specific laws for the serpent and Adam. For all three entities in question, the facts are clear, they are results of sin and their future for all parties involved. There is no special law for Adam to rule over his wife.

This must be repeated. Gen. 3:14, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19, all three parties are given the results of their own culpability of what each did. Not once did God command Adam to rule over his wife. As a matter of scriptural fact, we read in Gen. 1:27 So God created man in his *own* image, in the image of God created he him; male and female. Gen. 1:28 And God blessed them, and **God said unto them**, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and **have dominion** over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

They were given dominion (rulership) together over God’s creation. No word here for one person to rule over the other. Do you notice that **“God said unto them** (both)...replenish...subdue...have dominion over the fish... fowl...every living thing”.

If God wanted Adam to rule over Eve, He would have clearly said Adam was to do so in one of the three verses, in Gen. 3: 17, 18 or 19.

Furthermore, look at the history of mankind and one can find millions of abuses towards women because of this lie. God never had a law intended to be enforced to batter women in its many forms and somehow justify that abuse by a command from a Holy Righteous God. Lies, lies and more lies and most of mankind, gentile and jew alike would rather believe the lies. Jewish history is full of examples of how they viewed women and it’s all very disgusting.

Look at almost any of the so called “Bible scholars”, their take on Gen 3:16 claim it is a law for Adam to beat up-rule over his wife. What utter nonsense that the Holy God of all creation would make such a law.

Ask yourself, what is sin? Let the Bible define that for you. **1Jo 3:4** Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

Now if it is a law for men to rule over their wife and women in general, then if he refuses to do so as defined by 1Jo 3:4, then he is sinning and is now in transgression of the law punishable by death as per scripture? **Ro 6:23** For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

So, if I don’t rule over my wife and not repent of that, God is going to put me to death for not obeying that “law”? Folks, I’m here to tell you, stop ruling over your wife and she will be able to love you so much the more for it and respect you for your leadership role.

Men the world over, rule over their wife with hard bondage and I for one do not buy into the lie that that is God approved or commanded.



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My sister's husband (now deceased) believed that lie to rule over his wife, once took a banana, peeled it, threw it against a wall and told her to go and clean it up. When she didn't do it, she got her beating. Yaa, God approved. Should I vomit now or later?

Gen. 3:16 does not command Adam to rule over his wife. God was talking to Eve when He said Adam was going to rule over his wife. Adam and most men since then took it upon themselves to do so and not by command from God.

## Holy Day Article

### The Sign of Jonah (Copyright) by Richard Frates (Easley, South Carolina)

Christ and the Tomb - Jonah and the great fish. Christians, Non-believers, and atheists ask the question: How can Jonah live in the belly of the whale for three days and three nights? 1 Peter 3:15 "In your heart set apart Christ as Lord. Always be ready to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the - hope - that you have." That would include - questions - the hope that you have. The answer begins with: The bible does Not say Jonah Lived in the belly of the great fish for three days and nights. The words of Jesus Christ dissolves that assumption.

Jonah 1:1-12 - The Lord sent a violent storm. The sailors cast lots to find out who is responsible for the calamity. The lot fell on Jonah. They asked Jonah: What should we do to you to make the raging sea calm down for us? Jonah replied, "Pick me up and throw me into the sea and it will be calm." I know, it is my fault that this great storm has come upon you." After prayer, they took Jonah and threw him into the sea and the raging sea grew calm.

Jonah 1:17 "The Lord provided a great fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was inside the fish three days and three nights." Jonah 2:2 "From the depths of the **grave** I called for help, and you listened to my cry." Jonah 2:10 "The Lord Commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land" three days and three nights later.

Matthew 12:39-40 "A wicked and adulterous generation ask for a sign! But none will be given it - except - the sign of the prophet Jonah. For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a great fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth." Another way to say that is: As Messiah was dead for three days and three nights in the heart of the earth, Jonah was dead for three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish.

Yeshua Messiah compares his death and burial in the tomb for three days and three nights, to Jonah's death and burial in the belly of a great fish for three days and three nights. As Christ was resurrected on the third day from the tomb, Jonah was resurrected on the third day from the great fish. Luke 11:30 "For as Jonah was a Sign to the Ninevites, so also will the Son of Man be (the same sign - death and resurrection) to this generation."

Jonah 3:5 "The Ninevites believed God" the city was saved. Believe Jesus Christ and you will be saved also.

John 5:24 "I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will Not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life."

Most do Not understand - the sign of the prophet Jonah. Why? They love traditions of men more than the word of God. Three days and three nights do Not fit into Friday sunset to Sunday morning.

Most pastors today teach that Christ was resurrected on Sunday morning. Jesus Christ was not resurrected on Sunday morning. Preachers deliberately Lie, why? They love "traditions of men" more than God's Word. Christ said he would be in the tomb "three days and three nights." And he was put in the tomb in the evening at sunset, Matthew 27:57-61; so, he would have been resurrected just before sunset; Not Sunday morning. The tomb was empty Sunday morning because, he was resurrected the seventh day of the week just before sunset.

For God's word says, sunset is the beginning of a new day, Leviticus 23:32. The annual Sabbath, first day of Passover, Leviticus 23:7, that year was on Thursday, Christ was in the tomb, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

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Our Savior died on Wednesday preparation day for the Sabbath and Thursday was a “special Sabbath” a “High Day”, John 19:31. Christ was Crucified on Wednesday. At sunset Wednesday Christ was put in the tomb. Sunset Wednesday to sunset Thursday, Day One, Sunset Thursday to sunset Friday, Day Two, Sunset Friday to Sunset Saturday, Day three. Just before sunset on Saturday he was resurrected; exactly three day and nights, as he said.

Mark 16:9 is false, because it contradicts scripture. “When Jesus rose early on the first day of the week”. John 10:35 “scripture cannot be broken”. Margin notes, regarding this verse: “The earliest manuscripts and some other ancient witnesses do not have Mark 16:9-20 NIV. Verses “9-20 are Not included in two of the best and oldest Greek manuscripts of Mark” The Everyday Bible. The Good News Bible and the RSV and others have the same warnings regarding verses 9-20.

The Sign of Jonah: Three days and three nights and resurrection. Christ has been raised: Colossians 1:18 “the firstborn from the dead” Not the thief on the cross. Some teach the thief on the cross went to heaven when he died - that would make the thief the firstborn from the dead, because Jesus Christ was in the grave for three days and three nights. The correct wording of Luke 23:43 “I tell you the truth today, you will be with me in paradise.” John 3:13, No man has ascended to heaven, except the one who is from heaven, Jesus Christ. Why did Christ promise him paradise? Because he expressed faith in Christ, admitted he sinned and accepted his punishment though it was extreme.

Some, who love false doctrine claim, Jesus Christ was not really dead, but was in the spirit in heaven for those three days and three nights. They do it to hold on to the false popular teaching: Believe and you will go to heaven the day you die. Christ himself calls them liars. Revelation 1:17-18 “When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: Do not be afraid. I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! I hold the keys of death and Hell.”

Deceivers use 2 Corinthians 5:7-8 to teach going to heaven at death. “We live by faith, not by sight.” “And would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord.” Psalms 6:5 “In death there is no remembrance of thee.” Thousands of years may pass but no one will remember being dead! Death of the righteous is like going to sleep at night and awakening in the morning in the promised kingdom of God. To the righteous Resurrection Day: Is the day of your death.

Jonah’s resurrection: Chapter 2:10 “The Lord commanded the fish, and it ejected Jonah onto dry land.” How does a great fish do that? it was miraculous. Jonah ejected on dry land with clothes, hat, and sandals in perfect condition, that were Not wet - was a witness to those at the beach. By the time Jonah made his journey to Nineveh the miracle of his coming from the sea by a great fish was known. God, in his mercy gave Nineveh a great witness of Jonah’s resurrection, and they believed Jonah and repented. God, in great mercy, gave the world a greater witness in the Crucifixion - death and resurrection of Christ Jesus and many believe, but the world rejects God’s promise of salvation.

Brothers and Sisters: Understand and believe, the - Sign of Jonah - and the sign of - Christ Jesus - resurrected from the grave on the third day, precisely as he predicted. Our Heavenly Father sacrificed his Wonderful Son, as atonement for our sins: Revelation 1:4-5 “Grace and peace from” “Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and rulers of the kings of the earth”. Praise our Father in heaven. Jesus Christ Crucified is Light that Shines Beyond the grave.

## Holy Days 2023

**Passover – April 6, 2023 (Observed at Sunset the Evening Before)**

**Unleavened Bread – April 6-12, 2023**

**Pentecost – May 26, 2023**

**Trumpets - September 16, 2023**

**Atonement – September 25, 2023**

**Tabernacles –September 30, 2023 to October 6, 2023**

**Last Great Day – October 7, 2023**

**Articles – More Parts**  
(Other Parts of Already Printed Articles)

## The Model Prayer (Part Seven): Forgive Us Our Debts

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



Among the three personal requests Jesus includes within His Model Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13)—for daily sustenance, forgiveness, and deliverance from evil—only the middle one receives additional comment. Jesus’ commentary appears in verses 14-15:

For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

His instruction clarifies the second half of the request in verse 12 (see Luke 11:4): “And forgive us our debts, *as we forgive our debtors*” (emphasis ours throughout). Our Savior wants to ensure that His disciples do not miss the severe implications of seeking forgiveness while withholding forgiveness from those who have wronged us. As God freely forgives those He calls—despite their horrendous sins against Him—He expects the elect to follow His example and show mercy to others.

The verb tenses in this request, faithfully translated into English, are instructive. The petitioner asks God to forgive him as he has *already* forgiven those who have sinned against him. Luke’s version of the Model Prayer adds a slight twist, reading “for we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us,” which in Greek is in a continuous tense, perhaps better rendered, “as we keep forgiving.” These tenses suggest that God’s original forgiveness at justification is a singular act of grace on His part, but our ongoing forgiveness contains a condition: If we fail to reciprocate forgiveness toward others, God may withhold His mercy from us.

1. What does it mean to “forgive”? Mark 1:20; 5:37; 7:8; 11:25; 12:19; 14:6.

**Comment:** The Greek word behind “forgive” in Matthew 6:12 is *aphiēmi* (*Strong’s #863*), which in classical Greek meant “to send off” in a variety of nuances: “to hurl [a spear],” “to release,” “to let go,” or “to let be.” In Scripture, it is

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often used in the sense of “to leave,” as in Mark 1:20, where Zebedee’s sons “left” their father to follow Christ. It can also mean “to set aside,” used in Mark 7:8 to describe the Pharisees “laying aside” God’s law in favor of their traditions. In Mark 12:19, the Sadducees try to entrap Jesus with a story about a man who dies and “leaves his [childless] wife behind.” When the woman anointed His feet with costly oil in Mark 14:3-9, Jesus uses *aphiēmi* in the phrase “let her alone” (verse 6). Sometimes, it can mean “to allow” or “to permit,” as in Mark 5:37, where Jesus allowed only Peter, James, and John to witness His transfiguration.

The Greeks used *aphiēmi* to mean “to remit” or “to forgive or pardon” in both a secular (to forgive monetary debt) and religious (to forgive a fault or sin) sense. It describes a dismissal or release from obligation. As its many usages suggest, the spiritual sense not only implies absolving a sinner from paying what he owes (Mark 11:25), but it also retains the undertones of “laying aside,” “leaving behind,” “letting go,” and “leaving alone.” When God forgives someone, the debt is wholly removed, never to be revisited or reinstated; it is “laid aside,” “left behind,” “let go,” and “left alone.” It should be the same when people forgive others.

2. Is forgiveness just a legal transaction? Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:12-13.

**Comment:** Notice how Jesus phrases this request: “And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our *debtors*.” It may seem insignificant, but in this way, Jesus emphasizes the human element of the process of forgiveness: We are to forgive the person, not just the infraction. If a person remits a debt on a purely business or legal level, the forgiveness is real, but it has a negligible impact on the relationship between the debtor and debtee. The transaction has been essentially faceless and emotionless, and while the debtor is undoubtedly grateful, there is scant guarantee of a continuing association.

Instead, God desires not just forgiveness but also reconciliation. The debt, offense, or sin has caused a breach in the relationship, and forgiveness removes the hindering element so the involved parties may return to peaceful, positive, harmonious interactions. He has reconciled us to Him through the blood of Christ (Colossians 1:19-21), and He wants us to reconcile with others, especially those in the faith from whom we have become estranged by sin or offense.

3. Do we have any justification for withholding forgiveness from others? Matthew 18:21-35.

**Comment:** Jesus illustrates His teaching on forgiveness in the Parable of the Unforgiving Servant. Peter asks in verse 21, “Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?” He probably thought seven times was extremely magnanimous and merciful, as his figure was well beyond the three times rabbis taught was sufficient. Yet, Jesus demolishes His disciple’s reasoning, answering, “I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.” Effectively, He teaches there is *no limit* to how often we should forgive a brother for trespasses against us.

The parable supplies the reason for Christ’s insistence that we always forgive: The Father, seen in the character of the king who remits the ten-thousand-talent debt, has shown us boundless compassion by forgiving us of our many egregious sins against Him. He asks the unforgiving servant, who would not pardon a coworker’s pittance of a debt, “Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?” (Verse 33). In the next verse, Jesus says the one who would not forgive was “delivered . . . to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him”—the entire ten thousand talents!

Jesus grimly summarizes His point in verse 35: “So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.” God is serious about His people forgiving one another. It is a necessary first step to restoring harmonious relationships and living in peace. It is an act of love toward our neighbor that reflects the outgoing concern of God Himself toward us, a necessary component of the godly character He is creating in us.

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## **Letters**

### **Letter from Ray Daly (November 12, 2022)**

Have a great coming week. And "wow the snow". The Weather Channel even spent a few minutes discussing Bismarck's snowfall. though they said it was 17". They must have spoken before the final snow fell. I really had to shovel a lot of snow to get a pathway for one of our cars to get out. A neighbor came and got the plowing pile for me. I was so thankful that he had a snow blower.

### **Letter from William P. Goff (November 12, 2022)**

Thank you, Laura, for posting our letter on "prayer request" it is much appreciated.

## **Iron Sharpening Iron**

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

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

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

## **In regard to: The Return of Christ**

**Article by Ray Daly**

**Comments by Ray Daly (Lincoln, North Dakota)**

Concerning the trumpets that were used to announce the Holy Days. You mention there only being "seven" trumpets, thus saying there were only seven Holy Days. But perhaps you have forgotten that the "eighth day" following the seven-day Feast of Tabernacles, is a "separate Holy Day". It is not announcing the "seventh feast", which pictures the time when Christ will govern on earth.

But the Scripture 1 Cor. 15:52, is speaking of the time when the Father Himself will come to the earth, along with "his Temple". Thus the "dead in Christ" rising first is speaking of those that were of Jesus Christ, and who have died during the seventh millennium. They will be raised to flesh, bone, and Spirit life, to work with those who will be raised to life at that time, just as the faithful of the past will be resurrected to work with Christ during the seventh millennium.

Thus, when Paul says, "we will be changed", it is referring to those in the first resurrection, in flesh, bone, and Spirit bodies, will become "totally Spirit beings". No more flesh and bone.

People do not seem to see that God Almighty and the Angels are "flesh, bone, and Spirit beings". This is best shown in the account where Moses asks to see the Almighty. He, to this point, as all others, had only heard his Voice. But The Almighty responds that "No man can see my FACE." However, he goes on to say that he would cover Moses's face with his hand "while I pass by, and you shall see my BACK, but my Face shall not be seen". (para)

However, it seems that we never understood that even the flesh, bone and Sprit God Almighty, himself has a Father that is totally Spirit. Which I find to be the meaning of John 1:1. "John 1:1. "In the beginning was the Word [or, the VOICE of the OT], and the [flesh, bone, and Spirit] Word was with God, and the Word was God." Clearly speaking of TWO beings. As I have come to see it, there was the "TOTALLY SPIRIT" being (and maybe many more????) who wanted to have children. But he was unable to reproduce himself, by making totally Spirit children. So, he created the flesh, bone and blood Son, whom created human beings (along with the Angels likely creating some), through whom other total Spirit sons could be born to the totally Spirit Father. I'm sure that by now, God Almighty, the Voice, has also become totally Spirit. But on this I can only surmise.

This may be hard for you and Darwin to see, as it was for me. But please go carefully through John 1:1 and consider the words as they are used. For, whom can the "Word" be referring to other than the Voice/God Almighty??? For, it is the Almighty that "Said", and it came to be. And it is only the Almighty that is on earth with his Created Angels, during the Creation period and onto today.



## In regard to: The Return of Christ

Article by Ray Daly  
Comments by Laura Lee (Bismarck, North Dakota)

### Ray writes:

Concerning the trumpets that were used to announce the Holy Days. You mention there only being "seven" trumpets, thus saying there were only seven Holy Days. But perhaps you have forgotten that the "eighth day" following the seven-day Feast of Tabernacles, is a "separate Holy Day". It is not announcing the "seventh feast", which pictures the time when Christ will govern on earth.

### Laura writes:

1. 1<sup>st</sup> Trumpet = Feast of Trumpets
2. 2<sup>nd</sup> Trumpet = Atonement
3. 3<sup>rd</sup> Trumpet = 1<sup>st</sup> Day of the Feast of Tabernacles
4. 4<sup>th</sup> Trumpet = The Last Great Day
5. 5<sup>th</sup> Trumpet/1<sup>st</sup> Woe = Passover/First Day of Unleavened Bread
6. 6<sup>th</sup> Trumpet/2<sup>nd</sup> Woe = Last Day of Unleavened Bread
7. 7<sup>th</sup> Trumpet/3<sup>rd</sup> Woe = Pentecost/Feast of First Fruits

There are only 7 high Holy Days.

### Ray writes:

But the Scripture 1 Cor. 15:52, is speaking of the time when the Father Himself will come to the earth, along with "his Temple". Thus the "dead in Christ" rising first is speaking of those that were of Jesus Christ, and who have died during the seventh millennium. They will be raised to flesh, bone, and Spirit life, to work with those who will be raised to life at that time, just as the faithful of the past will be resurrected to work with Christ during the seventh millennium.

### Laura writes:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Millennium = 1 to 1000 years (Adam and Eve, and sin entered the world.)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Millennium = 1000 to 2000 years (Time of Noah's Flood midway between)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Millennium = 2000 to 3000 years  
4<sup>th</sup> Millennium = 3000 to 4000 years  
5<sup>th</sup> Millennium = 4000 to 5000 years (Christ was Crucified at the start of this.)  
6<sup>th</sup> Millennium = 5000 to 6000 years (We are at the end of this.)  
7<sup>th</sup> Millennium = 6000 to 7000 years (The resurrection of the first fruits and the marriage supper of the lamb start this off. This is the time period when Christ rules with his elect on earth for 1000 years.)  
8<sup>th</sup> Millennium = 7000 to 8000 years (Time when the rest of the dead are resurrected.)

All of the above has to be completed before we get the new heavens and the new earth and before God the Father comes to earth to rule with Christ forever and forever.

### Ray writes:

Thus, when Paul says, "we will be changed", it is referring to those in the first resurrection, in flesh, bone, and Spirit bodies, will become "totally Spirit beings". No more flesh and bone.

### Laura writes:

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:52 is talking about the first resurrection, which is the resurrection of the First Fruits that will rule with Christ during the 1000-year millennium.

### Ray writes:

People do not seem to see that God Almighty and the Angels are "flesh, bone, and Spirit beings". This is best shown in the account where Moses asks to see the Almighty. He, to this point, as all others, had only heard his Voice. But The Almighty responds that "No man can see my FACE." However, he goes on to say that he would cover Moses's face with



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his hand "while I pass by, and you shall see my BACK, but my Face shall not be seen". (para)

**Laura writes:**

God almighty and the Angels are all Spirit Beings, and man is flesh and bones right now. No one has seen the Father and Moses saw the back side of Christ and he has arms and legs just like us. The reason Moses couldn't look at the face of Christ is because the brightness of Christ would have killed him.

**Ray writes:**

However, it seems that we never understood that even the flesh, bone and Sprit God Almighty, himself has a Father that is totally Spirit. Which I find to be the meaning of John 1:1. "John 1:1. "In the beginning was the Word [or, the VOICE of the OT], and the [flesh, bone, and Spirit] Word was with God, and the Word was God." Clearly speaking of TWO beings. As I have come to see it, there was the "TOTALLY SPIRIT" being (and maybe many more????) who wanted to have children. But he was unable to reproduce himself, by making totally Spirit children. So, he created the flesh, bone and blood Son, whom created human beings (along with the Angels likely creating some), through whom other total Spirit sons could be born to the totally Spirit Father. I'm sure that by now, God Almighty, the Voice, has also become totally Spirit. But on this I can only surmise.

**Laura writes:**

Sometimes I feel like you are either living in "Twilight Zone" or "Star Trek" with the things you say that either make no sense or are totally nonsense. If you believe this stuff, you should be able to prove it from scripture and yet you hardly ever give a scripture and when you do the scripture does not say what you tell us it says.

God the Father and Christ are not created beings. They are both spirit beings with no beginning and no end. Christ temporarily gave up his eternal life to become a man and dwell among us so that we would be saved from the death penalty and would someday become spirit beings and live with God the Father and Christ forever and ever. Everything and I mean everything that was created was created by Christ himself because God the Father wanted it that way.

The Angels created no one or nothing.

**Joh 1:1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **Joh 1:2** The same was in the beginning with God. **Joh 1:3** All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

Now let me sort these verses out for you:

In the beginning was Christ and Christ was with the Father and Christ was a God. Christ and the Father were God from the beginning (or in all eternity). All things were made by Christ and without Christ nothing was made. (And yes, this is my rendition of John 1:1-3 but if you compare the two that is essentially what it says.)

**Ray writes:**

This may be hard for you and Darwin to see, as it was for me. But please go carefully through John 1:1 and consider the words as they are used. For, whom can the "Word" be referring to other than the Voice/God Almighty??? For, it is the Almighty that "Said", and it came to be. And it is only the Almighty that is on earth with his Created Angels, during the Creation period and onto today.

**Laura writes:**

The "Word" is Christ. Christ has always been the spokesman for God the Father.

**Joh 1:14** And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

John 1:14 proves that Christ was the "Word".

## Announcements

### Announcement from Zac Poonen (November 15, 2022)

#### MESSAGES

Blessed by God – In Order to Bless Others (Zac Poonen) (13 minutes)

<https://cfcindia.com/sermon/blessed-by-god-in-order-to-bless-others>

Conference in CFC Austin, USA (Nov 12-13, 2022)

Vessels for God's Honor (Santosh Poonen)

<https://rlcf.church/media/series/vessels-for-gods-honor>

CFC Bangalore

<https://cfcindia.com>

### Announcement from Rich Traver (November 17, 2022)

#### Podcasts

Our local CCoG congregation in GJ, in addition to our YouTube Sabbath messages being on line, we are beginning to produce a series of Podcasts that'll also be available. These are short spots, 10 to 15 minutes, that will address questions that serious believers may have. The first two topics: The **Rapture** and the **Resurrections**. More in the works.

<https://www.goldensheaves.org/>

## Other Items

(Poems, Jokes, Questions etc.)

### Falling Asleep in Church

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

Just for those who sometimes fall asleep in church.

<https://youtu.be/SXU--fCB1f0> (Video approximately 4.5 minutes long.)

### The Amazing Story of Zev Porat

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=REvgjq58rDQ> about 42 minutes of his very interesting struggle as the young son of a Rabbi and his Jewish family and how he came to a knowledge of the truth. Well worth watching – and learning.

### Ukraine Aftermath

(Copyright) by Rich Traver (Clifton, Colorado)

We may not realize what we're seeing in the events in central Europe.

First, we don't know Putin's real objective, but it involves Ukrainian corruption beyond belief.

It even involves important individuals in our current administration.

The bio-weapons labs have been unreported, even though the US Congress had to 'fess-up' after first denying.

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But more than those elements, we are realizing that Russia IS NOT the big boogeyman (superpower) that we've long imagined.

Secondly, that 'smart weapons' even among a small armed force can devastate the more substantial force.

Russia can't place any of its navy in the Black Sea! They are in a position to LOSE Crimea. It's cut off at present. (In another video).

Their outdated and outclassed military hardware is getting obliterated. Much of it 'remotely' from 'out of the blue', literally!

And then, the China Factor. They see what our weapons can do, and as Freedman points out, they would suffer an even worse fate should they invade Tiawan. What they do have is troop numbers, but that can be obliterated in moments.

Witness Russia in Ukraine. It's not a numbers game anymore.

The US is clandestinely fighting this war with Russia. They know it but are reluctant to respond to the acts of war that would be the case in any other similar situation.

(Perhaps the threat of nukes is in reality an electromagnetic pulse to knock-out our electronic weapon ology. That would 'level the field'.

Perhaps Mr. Friedman will put this in perspective as it regards China. Don't rely on our news media!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S1N3v4JBeTc>

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**Have a Great Sabbath!**