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

Law and Grace

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In the controversy over Law and Grace, grace needs to be seen for what it is—and what it is not: grace is the unmerited favor from God the Father to us in sending His Son to die in our place that we might be freely justified, transformed into the Image of Messiah, overcome our sin life and have eternal life, but grace is **not a license to sin**. Paul said,

"What shall we say then? *Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?* Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?" (Rom. 6:1-2)

Most believers in Yeshua the Messiah (Jesus Christ) would agree that the Lord didn't die for us so that we could continue to sin against Him. The New Testament (as well as the Old) states that sin is the breaking of the Law of Moses. The Apostles Paul and John wrote,

"What shall we say then? Is the Law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary, ***I would not have known sin except through the Law.*** For I would not have known covetousness unless the Law had said, 'You must not covet!'" (Romans 7:7)

"Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: ***for sin is the transgression of the law.***" (1st John 3:4 KJV)

Both of those verses were written many years *after* the resurrection and speak of Mosaic Law as God's guideline in the life of the believer for what is sin, and consequently, what is righteousness. In other words, when a believer keeps the 7th day Sabbath holy it is righteous in God's eyes. The Law was also the Standard of Holiness that determined if Yeshua sinned or not, and He said that this Standard would be with us until the Heavens and Earth were no more:

"For assuredly, I say to you, until the Heavens and Earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the Law until all is fulfilled." (Mt. 5:18)

The Church teaches that Jesus 'fulfilled' the Law at the cross, and so, the Law gave way to Grace, but if one of the concepts of being *under grace* means that we don't want to sin against God, how do we know what sin is if the Law is not our guideline? Is it just 'what's in our heart'? God warned us about our own hearts when He spoke through Jeremiah, saying,

"The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked. Who can know it?" (Jeremiah 17:9)

Subjectivity is not the answer. Yeshua *fulfilling* the Law doesn't mean that it's done away with, but that those things in the Law that spoke of a Savior Messiah *coming and redeeming Israel* were now *fulfilled* in Messiah Yeshua. Israel had been given her Redeemer, just as God had promised our Fathers (Gen. 3:15; 12:1-3; Dt. 18:15-18, etc.).¹

Grace is also the power of God in us to resist sin and to walk with Him in holiness: "***For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under Law, but under Grace.***" (Rom. 6:14)

¹ For more on these two concepts (*fulfilled* and *not under the Law*) see: *Seven Ways Yeshua Fulfilled the Law* at <http://seedofabraham.net/Seven-Ways-Yeshua-Fulfilled-Law.pdf> and *No Longer under the Law? Two Important Phrases* at <http://seedofabraham.net/No-Longer-Under-the-Law.pdf>.

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Being ‘under Law’ meant that the Law condemned me because of my sins *and* sinful nature. Being ‘in Messiah Yeshua’ I am ‘*under Grace*’ and now I am *free from the condemnation of the Law* because I am a new creation in Christ. Being free from the condemnation of the Law doesn’t mean that I can now sin in breaking God’s holy Law (Rom. 7:12), which is how this paper began (that Grace is not a license to sin) and what the Apostle Paul had to say about Law and Grace (‘should we continue to sin that Grace may abound?’). If I am found ‘not guilty’ in a courtroom of murder, am I thus ‘free’ to go out and murder after that? If I am found ‘not guilty’ of failing to keep the Passover, because Christ died for me, does that mean that I can disregard the Passover for the rest of my life?

I don’t keep Mosaic Law to be saved (justified). I keep the Law because I am saved. I obey God’s Law out of a *grateful* heart, not wanting to sin against Him. Knowing the Law gives me God’s Standard for my life in the areas that He speaks of. It’s not legalism, but God’s rules that He would have me to obey, even and especially as a new creation, modeled after Messiah Yeshua. *Obedience, walking in love and God’s grace*—just as all the Apostles walked *after* the resurrection (Acts 21:20-24). It’s a matter of rightly dividing (correctly understanding and walking in) the Word of God (God’s will for us) and not allowing the traditions of men to nullify God’s Word:

“Be diligent to present yourself *approved to God*, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, *rightly dividing the word of Truth*.” (2nd Tim. 2:15)

“Then the Scribes and Pharisees who were from Jerusalem came to Yeshua, saying, ‘Why do Your disciples transgress the Tradition of the Elders?’ (Church?) ...He answered and said to them, ‘*Why do you also transgress the commandment of God because of your tradition?!... Thus you have made the commandment of God of no effect by your tradition! ...in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men!*’” (Mt.15:1-3, 6, 9)

“**All Scripture** [which obviously includes Mosaic Law] is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for *teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness*, that the man of God may be complete, **fully equipped** for every good work.” (2nd Tim. 3:16-17)

Yeshua didn’t free us from Satan’s Kingdom to do our own thing, but to become like Him, and being like Him means keeping the laws of Moses that apply to us. The Apostle John said: “He who says he abides in Him *ought himself also to walk just as He walked*” (1st John 2:6).

“By this we know that we love the children of God when we love God *and keep His commandments*. For this is the love of God, *that we keep His commandments*, and His commandments are not burdensome.” (1st John 5:2-3)

“Here is the patience of the saints: here are **those who keep the commandments of God** and the faith of Jesus.” (Rev. 14:12)

And Paul said,

“Therefore, by the deeds of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight, **for by the Law is the knowledge of sin**...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, *being justified freely by His Grace* through the redemption that is in Messiah Yeshua.” (Rom. 3:20, 23-24)²

We’re not to bend the Word of God to our ways, but we’re to bend our ways to the Word of God.

See Avram Yehoshua’s other articles at:

² Acts 15:20-21 is the CornerStone passage in the New Testament *after* the resurrection that authoritatively establishes the Law of Moses for every believer. For the ‘why’ and ‘how’ of this, read [The Lifting of the Veil— Acts 15:20-21](#).

Revised on July 17, 2018.

Yehoshua, Avram – Church of God, Bismarck (church-of-god-bismarck.org)

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Appeasement - Propitiation

(Copyright 2023) by David Antion (Pasadena, California)

The Bible uses a number of abstract and concrete words. To illustrate. If you hear or read the words "rock" or "cat" your mind can picture that object. What kind of cat you picture is based on your experiences with cats. Rocks or cats are concrete words.

Abstract words are difficult to picture. The word propitiation is abstract -- your mind doesn't make a picture of something so quickly.

In last week's sermon, I tried to explain the word "propitiation" which is found in Romans 3:25. Here is the English definition of "propitiation." It is "the act of gaining or regaining the favor or goodwill of someone or the act of appeasement."

The Greek word that is translated "propitiation" is "hilasterion." The Greek dictionary definition of "hilasterion" is "that which serves as an instrument for regaining the goodwill of a deity."

So now let's read Romans 3:24-25. It is filled with other abstract words that I will explain. Verses 24-25: "being justified [*made righteous or just*] as a gift by His grace [undeserved favor] through the redemption [buying back] which is in Christ Jesus; whom God displayed publicly as propitiation [something to regain God's favor and good will] in His blood through faith. *This was* to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance [patience, putting off] of God He [God] passed over the sins previously committed; (NAS)

Here is what's unique about this. Usually, when a person offends their god, they go and find something to appease their god. Even in the time of Moses and forward, when a person sinned, they had to bring a sin offering or sacrifice to the priests -- a form of appeasement.

But Paul is saying that God was the one who found the object of appeasement. It was the display or putting forth Christ Jesus and his blood for all to see as propitiation. And through faith, we may have forgiveness of sins and be made right (justified) with God. God found the way for us to appease Him and it was through His Son's blood (death). See John 3:16 And it takes faith in this "hilasterion" or appeasement for it to be effective.

There is one other place where the Greek word "hilasterion" is used in the New Testament. It is in Hebrews 9:5 where it is translated as "mercy seat." As you know the "mercy seat" plays a large role on the Day of Atonement. The high priest has to go in and sprinkle the sacrificial blood on this mercy seat where God figuratively sits and has placed His name in the Holy of Holies. The mercy seat is the appeasement to make us right with God.

Here are some other translations of Romans 3:25:

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^{BBE} **Romans 3:25** Whom God has put forward as the sign of his mercy, through faith, by his blood, to make clear his righteousness when, in his pity, God let the sins of earlier times go without punishment; (Bible in Basic English)

^{GWN} **Romans 3:25** God showed that Christ is the throne of mercy where God's approval is given through faith in Christ's blood. In his patience, God waited to deal with sins committed in the past. (God's Words to the Nations)

^{NET} **Romans 3:25** God publicly displayed him at his death as the mercy seat accessible through faith. (New English Translation)

^{NIV} **Romans 3:25** God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood - to be received by faith. (New International Version)

^{NJB} **Romans 3:25** God appointed him as a sacrifice for reconciliation, through faith, by the shedding of his blood, (New Jerusalem Bible)

Most translations do not deal with the subject of appeasement which is the main point of this word which is translated as "propitiation."

The concept here is how much God wants us to have a good relationship with Him and that He was willing to put forth His Son's atoning blood so we could be forgiven and return to a relationship with Him after we sinned against Him. How wonderful is that? And Paul goes on to say that this was to demonstrate God's righteousness or justice (not yours or mine) because God in His patience or forbearance He passed over our sins.

You might have to read Romans 3:25 several times but it would be well worth looking up the English definition of every word.

See David Antion's other articles at:
[Antion, David – Church of God, Bismarck \(church-of-god-bismarck.org\)](http://church-of-god-bismarck.org)

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Famine of the Word

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What does the phrase "famine of the word" mean? Where did it come from? When will it take place? What will cause this type of famine to occur? Who does it adversely affect?

The minor prophet Amos foretold of a time commonly referred to as a famine of the word.

"Behold, the days come," says the Lord God, "that I will send a famine in the land; not a famine of bread nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord.

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"And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east; they shall run to and fro to seek the Word of the Lord and shall not find it." (Amos 8:11 - 12, HBFV).

Amos' prophecy of famine describes a time when people around the world will actively pursue insight and understanding concerning God's will. They will zealously search for those divinely inspired by the Lord (true Christians) but will be unable to find them.

When Will it Take Place?

The famine prophecy of the minor prophet takes place prior to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

"And it shall be in that day," says the Lord God, "I will cause the sun to go down at noon, and I will darken the earth in the light of day." (Amos 8:9, HBFV).

The lack of sunlight during the day parallels events that will occur, in the near future, during the 42 month Great Tribulation period.

And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth - blood and fire and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord (Joel 2:30 - 31, HBFV).

Now in those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give its light; And the stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken (Mark 13:24 - 25, HBFV, see also Revelation 8:12).

According to one Biblical commentary, the Jews expect the Messiah will make his triumphal appearance on earth during a famine of the word.

"This (the preaching of the truth), even according to the Jews, was one proof of the days of the Messiah: for they acknowledged that in his time there should be a great famine of the word of God; and thus they understood Amos, Amos 8:11" (Adam Clarke's Commentary on Matthew 4:25).

Causes of Famine

The Apostle Paul taught that sometime prior to Christ's return there would be a mass rejection of God's truth by those who previously professed faith in him. This apostasy will start the process of the famine as there will be less people spreading the gospel (Romans 10:13 - 14).

Now we beseech you, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ . . . Do not let anyone deceive you by any means because that day will not come unless the apostasy shall come first . . . (2Thessalonians 2:1, 3, HBFV).

The famine of the word will become severe, however, when God allows Satan a free hand to openly and without hindrance deceive the world (Revelation 12:12). The devil will first enforce a "mark" delineating those who choose to worship him. He will then easily hunt down and murder all those without the mark (true Christians) causing the depth of the famine. And they worshiped the dragon, who gave his authority to the beast. And they worshiped the beast . . . And he was given power to make war against the saints, and to overcome them; and he was given authority over every tribe and language and nation (Revelation 13:4, 7, HBFV, see also verse 15 and 12:17).

Conclusion

The famine of the word is a time when, in the near future, there will be a dearth of Christians around the world able to spread the gospel. This situation will begin to manifest itself when countless people begin to abandon their faith in God. It will reach a crescendo, however, when all those who obey God (Revelation 12:17, 14:12, 22:14) are murdered.

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

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Where Have All the Babies Gone? (Copyright 2023) by Joseph B. Baity (Charlotte, North Carolina)



As the world hurtles deeper into the twenty-first century, demographers are increasingly concerned about a dangerous trend and its inevitable impact on our global society. Demography, the statistical study of human populations, reveals that the developed world is aging while producing too few babies. This short-sighted tendency is perilously shrinking the future workforce necessary to maintain a healthy level of economic activity, such as is required to support the critical social balance between generations and the survival of the current world order.

As people age, more resources are required to maintain their health. When a developed society has plentiful young people to work, such resources are available to keep economic activity strong enough to care for the aging and ensure its culture's subsistence.

Currently, the population aged sixty-five and older is the fastest-growing segment in the U.S. and much of the developed world. For the first time, sixty-five-year-olds outnumber five-year-olds. Hospitals in advanced nations are closing their maternity wards due to a lack of business. Local, state, and national budgets suffer from shrinking tax bases while being overburdened by pension payments. Companies struggle to find new employees, and college enrollment is seriously declining, as are economies everywhere.

A developed nation's birthrate has always been a reliable indicator of future economic health and growth. Without unrestrained migration, an average birthrate of 2.1 children (per female at childbearing age) is the minimum required to maintain the current population and preserve a healthy generational balance. Today, the U.S. birth rate stands at 1.6, while China, Russia, Japan, South Korea, and most of Western Europe and the United Kingdom slot even lower. Without an immediate, dramatic, and sustained uptick in native births, much of the developed world is nearing a demographic "death spiral," which could lead, in time, to a disturbing upheaval of the world order and a collapse of normal social functions—a societal catastrophe.

Sadly, the only nations showing robust birth rates are located in or around the African continent, with a few more scattered

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in Central and South America, the Middle East, and Southern Asia. Indeed, the top-thirty nations according to birth rates are all African, save for Timor Leste of Indonesia. Because of their underdeveloped economies and often unstable political climates, most of these nations’ citizens are less educated and lack cross-cultural competence—the ability to adapt to another culture effectively and peacefully. Therefore, while ripe for immigration opportunities, they bring more challenges, costs, and disorder than skills to needy developed countries.

Nevertheless, virtually unrestricted immigration from these poorer countries dominates global headlines. It has already had a worrisome impact on the native populations of the U.S., Canada, the U.K., and Western Europe, as social unrest, cultural clashes, increased criminal activity, and costly aid programs lay bare the struggle to integrate an unabating stream of migrants to compensate for their shrinking birth rates. Though many of these nations’ native citizens bewail their fading heritages, a growing radical movement stigmatizes childbirth while encouraging and even glorifying the elimination of their legacies in the name of diversity and equity.

Ultimately, their leaders appear unable or unwilling to make the hard choices necessary to stem the flow. With only minor exceptions, few in power seem willing to confront or admit the cataclysmic consequences created by modern, godless philosophies of radical feminism and humanism, declining marriage rates, and the end of family-friendly public policy. Meanwhile, near-unrestricted abortion, LGBT ideology, and climate-change dogma continue to add to the relentless demographic nightmare confronting the entire globe.

Most telling is another worldwide demographic trend: declining church attendance, which leads to a diminishing awareness and respect for our Creator and His directive for mankind to “be fruitful and multiply” (Genesis 1:28). Our adversary, Satan the Devil, has long sought to destroy humanity through deception and murder (John 8:44) while attempting to supplant our great God (Ezekiel 28:2-6). Only with widespread repentance can we expect the world and its leaders to understand the enormous benefits our children provide (Psalm 127:3-5) and to experience the joy and blessings of seeing the births of our children’s children (Psalm 128:6).

See Joseph B. Baity’s other articles at:

Baity, Joseph B. – Church of God, Bismarck (church-of-god-bismarck.org)

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New book about British-Israelism **(Copyright 2023) by Craig White (Australia)**

Some weeks ago, I wrote about Aiden Cottrell-Boyce’s book on ‘Jewish Christians in Puritan England’ (2021) and the information contained therein that some in the 17th century believed that the Saxons descended from Israel.

Recently I completed reading his book ‘Israelism in Modern Britain’ available from Amazon [here](#). It is rather interesting to see someone trying to understand and analyse the British-Israelites.

Having read this work it does help to show the background and societal influences that God subtly works through and with to restore truths slowly but surely. The book is penetrating and raises a number of good points, but at no time attempts to really disprove the doctrine but does make the odd comment or point here or there. It is more about the rise of British-Israelism and its relationship to the British Empire and nationalism. He does admit, unlike many others, that most British-Israelites are not racists but rather that God’s people, being special to Him and with a purpose He has bestowed, are meant to be separate.

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Of note are the several references to the early British-Israelites seeing the Germans as modern descendants of the Assyrians. He also mentions HWA and the old WCG on pages 77, 83.

In his analysis, he misses out on a lot of proofs for the doctrine, and he lacks deep assessment of the Biblical, anthropological and historical proofs.

Other works critiquing British-Israelism are available [here](#).

And also have a look at the information on the ancient roots of British-Israelism [here](#) – a much older origin than Cottrell-Boyce is willing to admit.

The following is from the Routledge website about the book: [Israelism in Modern Britain - 1st Edition - Aidan Cottrell-Boyce - Rou \(routledge.com\)](#)

>This book unpacks the history of British-Israelism in the UK. Remarkably, this subject has had very little attention: remarkable, because at its height in the post-war era, the British-Israelist movement could claim to have tens of thousands of card-carrying adherents and counted amongst its membership admirals, peers, television personalities, MPs and members of the royal family including the King of England.

British-Israelism is the belief that the people of Britain are the descendants of the Lost Tribes of Israel. It originated in the writing of a Scottish historian named John Wilson, who toured the country in the mid-Nineteenth Century. Providing a guide to the history of British-Israelism as a movement, including the formation of the British-Israel World Federation, Covenant Publishing, and other institutions, the book explores the complex ways in which British-Israelist thought mirrored developments in ethnic British nationalism during the Twentieth Century.

A detailed study on the subject of British-Israelism is necessary, because British-Israelists constitute an essential element of British life during the most violent and consequential century of its history. As such, this will be a vital resource for any scholar of Minority Religions, New Religious Movements, Nationalism and British Religious History.

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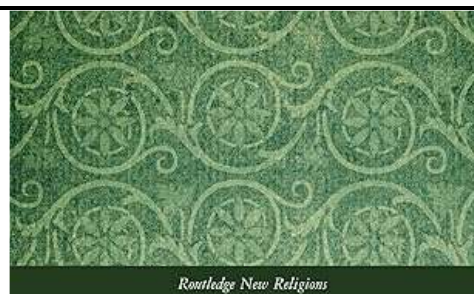
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7 British Israelism and Russia

8 British Israelism and the European Union

Conclusion<

You can read more about the author here [Aidan Cottrell-Boyce \(rcwlitagency.com\)](#). For someone like me who sees value in reading critiques, this book proved valuable.



ISRAELISM IN MODERN
BRITAIN

Aidan Cottrell-Boyce



See Craig White's other articles at:

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

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Hear Our Prayer, O God!
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Let us join with others in praying for the hostages that are being held by Hamas in Gaza. May they soon be released and re-united with their families.

"Not by force, nor by strength, but by My Spirit,' says the LORD of Heaven's Armies. What are you O Great Mountain before Zerubbabel? You shall become a level plain!" (Zechariah 4:6-7).

Zerubbabel was the **governor** of Judea after the Jewish captives had returned to the Holy Land to rebuild the Temple. A mountain can represent an obstacle or barrier to our mission.

Does God listen to the prayers and petitions of government officials?

Did He not answer the prayers of King David and King Hezekiah in their time of need?

Indeed, He did. God is the same today as then. He does not change (Malachi 3:6). Will God hear the prayers of government officials today? Most certainly!

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Let us join with those government officials who recently held a candlelight vigil on the behalf of the hostages. Listen to their heartfelt prayers. I was happy to spot the Representative for my Congressional District, Mr. Doug LaMalfa among the group. I applaud his and the efforts of others in beseeching God for an answer to their prayers.

I found this short video very moving and humbling: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2G8ITPpzQyA>

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

The Last Great Day 2023
(Copyright 2023) by Warren Zehrung (Little Rock, Arkansas)

The Last Great Day this year, 10/7/2023, marked a significant turning point in the prophetic timeline. Who among us expected war to break out in the State of Israel on the Last Great Day. Young Jews were celebrating and dancing all night long! Obviously, no-one could have predicted the terrible events that have transpired since that date.

Will world order ever return to “normalcy?” We have been witnessing the significant moral decline in the Israelitish nations in recent years—a major rejection of God and His ways. We have been witnessing considerable incursions of Islamic peoples into America, Britain, Europe and throughout the western world. But when Hamas terrorists invaded the State of Israel on the Last Great Day, the entire world changed—and not for the good. Who would have believed the rampant anti-Semitism in our legislative bodies and universities that have been unleashed as a result of Hamas’ unprecedented slaughter of babies, pregnant mothers, and elderly civilians? Could it be that a process leading to the destruction of Jerusalem itself has begun?

There is so much to consider, I welcome your comments.

See Warren Zehrung’s other articles at:
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Approaching Our Waters of Marah
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Part 1,2 & the final part 3. Understanding of Timing & Events is being released by Elohim.

This information is backed up by explicit scripture from a variety of Books from Genesis through the Prophets. You will learn *at least* one new thing. If you have not seen all three parts, I highly recommend them all. (Videos by Tom Kerry)

**Approaching Our
Waters of Marah
Part 1**
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Waters of Marah
Part 3

<https://thecogmi.org/video/marah3.htm>

See James Steinle’s other articles at:

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

British Royals Awareness of British Israelism

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Some British king’s and queen’s awareness of British Israelism is contained in the book I referred to recently; and pages 167, 190, 237 of Eric Michael Reisenauer’s thesis here:

https://www.friendsofsabbath.org/iframe/Further_Research/Lost_Tribes_British-Israel/Researchbyothers/researchintobibbyothers.html

See Craig White’s other articles at:

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

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Iron Sharpening Iron

New American Standard Bible (Proverbs 27:17)

As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.

In regard to: Looking Inside Noah’s Ark

Article by James Steinle

Comments by Laura Lee (Bismarck, North Dakota)

Great job on this article, except when I proofread it later, I found a couple of things I need to point out to everyone reading this article.

You mentioned in the article that the flood was around 2348 BC, but the Bronze age started around 3300 BC and the Iron age supposedly around 1200 BC – 600 BC. Well, take the Bronze age and the Iron age and throw it out the window

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as it means nothing in comparison to what scripture says. Uninformed man made all those ages up.

When I hear any one talk about this age or that age, the first thing that comes to mind is evolution and how evolution teaches that man started out dumb and evolved to how smart they believe themselves to be today.

Scripture teaches us that man started with a lot of knowledge which was lost at the time of the flood and more so at the time of the confounding of the languages at the tower of Babel.

Noah could have used metal on the ark as they had metal workers before the flood.

Gen 4:20 And Adah bare Jabal: he was the father of such as dwell in tents, and *of such as have* cattle. **Gen 4:21** And his brother's name *was* Jubal: he was the father of all such as handle the harp and organ. **Gen 4:22** And Zillah, she also bare **Tubalcain, an instructor of every artificer in brass and iron**: and the sister of Tubalcain *was* Naamah.

These people before the flood were very smart people and probably knew how to do all of this stuff far better than what is made today. One very important thing they had over us is that many of them lived hundreds of years so they could share this knowledge and improve on it for generations.

So yes, part of building the ark could have been the use of iron.

The other point I want to make is the anchors. You indicate that Noah didn't need anchors on the ark, but you don't say why you believe that.

In the account of Noah, it doesn't say that after the ark was built, they now hooked it up to their truck and took it down to the boat ramp to get it ready for the flood they knew was coming. Can't you just see people laughing at Noah because he built a huge boat on dry land with water probably nowhere in sight.

The flood was violent. It killed all people and land animals except Noah and those on the ark with him. Noah most likely built the ark in pretty much the same place where it landed, give, or take a mile or two. The anchors would have been used to keep the boat in the same area it was built. Anchors are not just used to keep a boat in the same area, but they are also used to steady the boat and keep it from tipping over in violent weather.

It is my understanding that Ron Wyatt found several anchor stones, which makes sense because they would have had to put them every so many feet apart around the ark to keep it from tipping over when the weather became really violent.

As far as the ark goes, I won't dispute that with you as no one knows where it is right now or if anything is left of it. Ron Wyatt makes a great case for his discovery of being the ark and the other guy seems also to make a good case for his. So, all we can do at this point is wait for more evidence. After listening to both accounts, I do believe Ron Wyatt had more proof not just for the ark but evidence of Noah and his family living in the area where Ron made his discovery.

In regard to: Famine of the Word
Article by BibleStudy.org
Comments by Laura Lee (Bismarck, North Dakota)

I disagree with the conclusion of this article. The article ends by saying all the people who keep the commandments of God will be murdered and then we are given three scriptures to prove this. I can't see what the author sees in those three scriptures.

Rev 12:17 And the dragon was wroth with the woman and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Rev 14:12 Here is the patience of the saints: here *are* they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

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Rev 22:14 Blessed *are* they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life and may enter in through the gates into the city.

None of these three scriptures show that all the saints will be murdered just before Christ returns. There are other scriptures showing that some of God’s people will still be alive on earth when Christ returns for the second time.

1Co 15:51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; **We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed**, **1Co 15:52** In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

I am sure there will be a famine of the word, but it won’t happen because all of God’s people have been murdered.

Special Edition Article
Preparing the Peoples (Part 3)
(Copyright) by Rich Traver (Clifton, Colorado)

In implementing the Ultimate Phase of God’s Plan of Redemption, that being His Plan for World Salvation, it’s necessary that those who are to be a part of the huge undertaking be conditioned for the task. It involves not only the Saints, but also the Societal Environment preparing it to be Receptive of the Program.

In the first article, which reviewed the events that took place involving the united House of Israel nearly 3000 years ago were explained. That involved the dividing of the nation into two separate kingdoms after some 89 prosperous years dating from the time of their first king, Saul.

In that article, the focus was more on the historic aspect of that part of the Plan. We now need to look into the prophetic aspect of it, as it ultimately will play out. The religious configuration of the two Houses: Judah and Israel, still today separate entities, factors into how God will bring all nations to true conversion and into His Covenant relationship.

But to reorient ourselves to where we are in this, we need to be aware that not only was the nation divided, we could say, politically, but it also became divided ethnically. We don’t often think of these two houses being different ethnically, after all, they were of a common lineage initially. But due to their separate captivities and their exposure to different ‘neighbors’ with some intermarriages occurring, it created an ethnic amalgam to where they came to exhibit a different genetic basis!

But even more importantly, the two houses came to differ religiously! In fact, there are (have been) two Israelitish religious systems for 2000 years. (almost 3000 if we count from the time of the beginning of the divided monarchy).

But the alternate religious system didn’t fully take-on its intended form until the time of Christ. What it did in the intervening years was to develop a cultural environment that was more amenable to accepting the new teachings and the Person of their Messiah. The northern Ten Tribes were more accepting of the Messiah than were their Judaic counterparts to the south. There was a reason for that!

We know of that because as it says, “*He came to his own and his own received him not.*” THEY of His own ethnicity were adamantly unreceptive.

Possessing a Common Ethic

From a broad world perspective, it visualizes the two as historically linked, with their two distinct religious traditions sharing a single “**ethic**” known as the Judaeo - Christian ethic. While there are obvious philosophical differences, they’re known to exhibit a common element in their belief system.

It was asked earlier, why were the Tribes of Israel divided into two nations, why were they punished by being taken

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captive separately and why was one “House” restored to their homeland, while the other, vastly greater in numbers, was not?

Separate Nationalities

As a further consideration, the House of Judah remained as a single nation (though some of their heritages are dispersed among other nations – and it’s interesting to note which ones) – yet the House of Israel’s tribes went on to each become separate nationalities, which we could peripherally consider now a ‘company of nations’. There are exhaustive studies which purport to identify the modern nations which descended from the various Ten Tribes. There’s much evidence to support those assertions.

But the two “Houses” remain separate, with no impetus to reunify. Logically we can credit that out-come to their religious orientations, with it posing a barrier against reunification and especially religious assimilation.

But the recurring question is why weren’t the peoples corrected together as a single nation? Why separate them, exile them, and then return one House and not the other? Is this separated condition to have a purpose in the future? By the fact that this separateness exists, we’re drawn to suspect that there is an underlying purpose for it: Especially when considering God’s involvement in history. Nations rise and fall. Empires fade. God even states plainly that He rules in the kingdoms of men, setting up over them whom He chooses, even installing, in certain cases, the basest of men! *“This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men.”* (Daniel 4:17).

Then would it be logical to expect the same oversight among the peoples of Israel? Would it help explain how base men are so often set up over nations?

Underlying Intentions

It’s been long understood that Israel is the nation God is working with. There are massive Promises which extend to the descendants of Abraham. Saints are heirs of those Promises,³ especially the ‘legitimate’ side of the family: those ‘called of God’ who receive His Spirit. (There are physical promises and spiritual promises.) While the physical Promises were and are extended to the descendants of faithful Abraham, it’s the spiritual considerations that are at issue.

Looking at the situation, we’re forced to conclude that these people as a whole are in no way prepared for the ultimate task intended for them! They’re (we’re) just not ready spiritually to be the examples to the world that we ought to be, let alone accurately represent the full Truth!

God has to first call, train and correct these people whom He determined He would use for His purposes. Their ethnicity alone, nor their natural religious inclinations of and by themselves, don’t fully exhibit the character qualities of His Kind. We’d like to think that we do. Each religious denomination thinks of itself as right in all things, but, as it’s said, they can’t all differ as they do and all be right in all things.

Overarching Plan

But there’s a bigger picture here: Evident in the historical record. We don’t tend to think of the events of history as furtherance of some overall long-range plan. But there is one, and it spans some 3000 years. Literally half of what’s called the ‘age of man’.

Yet, we’re faced with the spiritual conditions among the Houses of Israel (both of them) being as far from God and His Will as can be at times. One whole ethnicity is declared to be blinded⁴ until a later time. It’s similarly true of their counterparts, I suppose.

Can we say that the northern tribes are any more enlightened than their southern brothers? Perhaps marginally in certain areas, but the greater ‘christian’ world is similarly blinded to certain Truths as well.

³ Gal. 3:29 *“And if ye be Christ’s, then are ye Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.”*

⁴ Rom. 11:25 *“For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.”*

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John 12:40 says. “He hath **blinded** their eyes and **hardened** their heart; that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them.” What an odd thing to say about His own. Not only is there this condition, but it’s to be ongoing for the majority.

2nd Cor. 3:14 adds, “*But their minds were **blinded**: for until this day remaineth the same veil untaken away in the reading of the old testament, which veil is done away in Christ.*” Despite being in full possession of the Scriptures of old, their understanding is limited, and that until a place in time: “*For as ye in times past have not believed God, yet have now obtained mercy through their unbelief: [31] Even so have these also now not believed, that through your mercy they also may obtain mercy. [32] For God hath concluded them all in unbelief, that he might have mercy upon all.*” (Romans 11:30-32)

Then again, we have the phenomenon of certain ‘christian’ denominations which have rejected the entirety of the Old Testament wholesale. How is that not a veiling effect over their eyes as well?

Another Factor!

Religious, yes, but in possession of a full and correct understanding? NO! That’s another matter. God says of the more religious contingent, who are in possession of the Scriptures of old, that a veil remains over their hearts in how they read their own texts even to the present day. And that veil won’t be ‘taken away’ until they’re ‘called’ and can then accept Who and What He is!

And their situation will change only when the ‘Gentile’ calling period has reached its fullness! When that phase is ended, the next will begin.

As is, the vast majority of the ‘select ethnicity’ – if we can use that term – are not disposed, nor are they ready to carry out the assignment God’s selection gives. Not even willing for the most part, I’m sure.

Religious is one thing, but adequately knowledgeable and sufficiently spiritually informed and motivated to be used in the evangelization and presentation of the conversion opportunity to all of humanity in the Millennial Kingdom is another matter entirely.

Not Just Random Events

What isn’t widely recognized is that the events of history relating to the nations that emerged from the original nation had a purpose. It’d be relevant to acknowledge that the ‘divine purpose’ extended back to the Covenant made with Abram in Genesis 15.

But how are a people prepared? What is required to bring a rather irreligious rabble to a point where God can raise them up as a standard to the rest of the world? (See the prophecy in Zechariah 8:23.)

On the one hand, we find the more ‘deeply religious’ ethnicity, steeped in tradition, devoted to their heritage and belief system, adamantly biased against one major consideration: the acceptance of their Messiah! It’s a most amazing thing. They have all the explicit prophecies, they have all the testimonies of old, yet the most obvious event in their history escapes their view to the point of persecution and mayhem against those who ‘preach His Name’! ⁵

On the other hand, a people less religious externally, while largely accepting of the Messiah, but polluted with all sorts of pagan beliefs and practices, they’re found to be divided into numerous denominations of varying theological accuracy.

Accounting for the Situation

There is a historic situation that brings the Judaeo / Christian world to this point. That’s a result of the division of the House of Israel into two separate and competing Houses and their separate captivities and their exposure to different cultural environments. One house’s captivity was short enough to be effective in reforming and restoring their religion. The other’s exile was generations longer, without the religious heritage and leadership that the first had. As a result, no such reformation resulted. The latter instead succumbed to the religious culture in which they lived. That’s further

⁵ Acts 9:2; Acts 22:5; Acts 4:17-18;

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explained in the chapter on Zoroastrianism. Few have any idea what that belief system entailed and the similarities we find in our modern-day forms of worship.

But we shouldn't consider that religious environment as totally pagan. While in many respects, it would qualify as such by the modern Christian world, yet there was a trace of their former religious awareness retained. There was also an awareness of their ethnic origins. That accounts for the interest in the religious customs practiced in Jerusalem and the significant contingent who made frequent pilgrimages there to observe the Holy Days. (Acts 2:9) It also accounts for the pagan practices and beliefs found among so-called “Christian” denominations today, such as Sunday worship, pagan holidays, and the heaven and hell belief system.

But it was their Zoroastrian / Parthian environment that created an approach to religion that was more accepting of the Gospel message. That was the key advantage in that part of the world.

Obscure, But Not Lost

And, most intriguing, is where we find the descendants of these people in the modern world. While the peoples of the northern “House of Israel” may be ‘lost’ to history, their modern identity would astound academia and especially the religious community. It would astound the very people themselves, as few have any inkling of their own true ancestry. And I'm referring to the nations of Europe and “the West”.

In the first century, their identity was well-known. The Jewish historian Josephus wrote of them in the late first century, stating: “...*the ten tribes are beyond Euphrates til now, and are an immense multitude and not to be estimated by numbers.*”⁶

This remained the case for another 200 years from his time. Parthia dominated the Mesopotamian region for most of five centuries all told.

But it was the experience of captivity and permanent exile that produced a culture receptive of the Messiah that was absent in their southern counterparts. While retaining some aspects of the original belief system, enough to at least preserve its ethic, the rigidity of belief and practice was moderated to beneficial effect. Not that it was a ‘true religion’ but that it allowed an environment more receptive of the Gospel Message!

See Rich Traver's other articles at:

Traver, Rich – Church of God, Bismarck (church-of-god-bismarck.org)

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Holy Days 2024

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

Passover/Unleavened Bread – April 23-29, 2024

Pentecost – June 12, 2024

Trumpets - October 3, 2024

Atonement – October 12, 2024

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

Last Great Day – October 24, 2024

⁶ *Antiquities: Book 11, chapter 5, para.2*