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your Bible and see whether these things are true. Iron sharpens Iron

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Articles

Understanding Circumcision and the New Testament Covenant

by Gregory Diaz (Wayne, New Jersey)

The great controversy of the New Testament church regarded whether or not gentile believers needed to be circumcised. It will be seen that this question is one concerning whether the unconverted may fellowship with the church. It is a question regarding communication.

Communication is the key component of the gospel message. We know that God inspired it on Pentecost at the founding of the church. Romans 10:17 says "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Also, Malachi 3:16 says "Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name." And Galatians 6:6 says, "Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things."

Just as the spreading of iniquity is characterized as a mystery (2 Thes 2:7) so is the spreading of righteousness through fellowship (Ephesians 3:9). Considering this mystery helps us understand the difference between the old and new covenants. According to the old covenant the sinner should be "cut off from among his people" and therefore severed from the congregation and from God (Numbers 15:30). This is similar to how Adam was removed from the garden of Eden and the tree of life. But now since Jesus paid for our sins, we again have access to the tree of life, to God's spirit and therefore to fellowship with God and each other.

This explains how that "the commandment, which was ordained to life," Paul found to be unto death (Romans 7:10). The reason is that the law severs us from fellowship since we have and inevitably do sin. And we understand that being severed from God leads to spiritual degradation and death. However, we are now made free from the law of sin and death (Romans 8:2). And this allows us to fulfill the righteousness of the law by regaining access to God's life-giving spirit. Therefore, it is the penalty of the law, or that severance, that we are no longer under the threat of.

The book of Galatians confirms this idea. By this letter we know that even the apostle Peter misunderstood the truth of the gospel. Here Peter by separating from the "sinners of the gentiles" had turned to a false gospel.

Now when reading this it should be understood that gentiles always had the opportunity to convert to Judaism. However, they first needed to be circumcised. This involved a complete transformation of beliefs and obedience. Therefore, circumcision should not be considered as merely a physical operation that you either have or haven't had done. In order to receive circumcision a person must first conform to an acceptable standard of righteousness. Genesis 17:1 says, "And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect." Verse 11 says "And ye shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a token of the covenant betwixt me and you." Circumcision is a token or sign for righteousness and is therefore a symbol for it.

Therefore, clearly the actual operation of circumcision is not required. However, the point is that what it symbolizes is also no longer required. In other words, the idea of living up to an "acceptable standard" of righteousness in order to fellowship with Christians that have already attained or been raised up in that standard is likewise not required.

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Understanding the letter of Galatians this way shows it to be as relevant today as when it was written. No one can be justified and/or made perfect by the "works of the law." Or, in other words, no one can be perfected by the threat of being cut off from fellowship. In Galatians 2:16 Paul says, "for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified." And in Galatians 3:3 Paul asks "Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?"

Notice in Galatians 2:21 Paul says, "for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain". Here Paul does not say that we do not need to become righteous. Instead, we see him explaining the new covenant method for becoming righteous. Again, we understand as Paul explains this process, that the physical act of circumcision is only the sign of a person living righteously.

Notice Galatians 3:2-5. Here Paul is discussing the "works of the law" rather than just the physical operation of circumcision. Here we should understand that the "works of the law" cannot be referring to works of righteousness. This would make no sense at all since the goal of a Christian is to live a righteous and godly life. Rather Paul is again talking about the correct method for attaining righteousness and perfection. Therefore the "works of the law," and "curse of the law," must be viewed as the authoritative severance of sinners which had been the policy under the old covenant. Paul is contrasting the fear of being cut off to "the hearing of faith". In other words, the gospel method of attaining to righteousness is through communication and inspiration.

Notice that in Galatians 4:13-15 Paul compliments the Galatians on receiving him. They did not despise him or reject him because of the infirmity in his flesh. In other words, they did not reject him as an imperfect sinner (which they might have assumed because of his infirmity.)

Paul warns in Galatians 5:15 "if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another." In other words, do not judge one another in the sense of authoritative control. Discerning judgment however is very different and necessary.

Notice again in Galatians 6:1 how that Paul describes the gospel method of inspiring righteousness through meekness rather than a method of authority. "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted." Note here that Paul is talking about faults. In other words, he is talking about sinners and how to treat them.

Let us therefore understand that the definition of right and wrong as defined by the law has not changed. The law still defines sin. Romans 3:20 (Young's Literal Translation) says "wherefore by works of law shall no flesh be declared righteous before Him, for through law is a knowledge of sin." Romans 7:7 says "...I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet."

It is interesting to consider how communication compares to the science of genetics. Through science we know that both healthy and unhealthy genes are passed from generation to generation. Likewise, character may be communicated from person to person. So genetically if a population is isolated it begins to suffer degradation at a faster rate than it otherwise would. In this way a species can go extinct. Likewise, the policy of isolating sinners causes spiritual degradation. However, Christians with access to God's perfect spiritual DNA can pass on righteousness as lights and as the salt of the earth. Fellowship gives life but separation causes death.

The question of circumcision is today as relevant as in the first century. Christians should of course strive to become righteous. However, the correct method of attaining to that righteousness can only be through faith which comes by communication. Christians should not separate from those who have not reached an acceptable "appearance" of righteousness nor restrict them from attending their assemblies. The victory over sin must come from inspiration rather than by the fear of the death caused by severance. This is the difference between the old and new covenants.

Strive to Be a Perfect Servant of the Most High
by Alfio La Spina (Sooke British Columbia, Canada)

Matthew 20:25-28 (ESV) 25 But Jesus called them to him and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over

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them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. 26 It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, 27 and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, 28 even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Those of us that have been called out of darkness have been given certain abilities which we need to build on. We have to be diligent in prayer and be strictly obedient to the instructions given us in the Scriptures. This way we will be useful to our Father and able to help others enter into the Kingdom of God.

1 Peter 4:7-11 (ESV) 7 **The end of all things is at hand; therefore, be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers.** 8 Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. 9 Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. **10 As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace:** 11 whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

We are about to enter a time as exciting as it was during the early church time. The end time church has a purpose just like the early church did. We can see the one world government beginning to be established. The start of the great tribulation is nearby. The servants of the Most High will let their light shine during that time.

We need to get ourselves ready to teach others about the Kingdom of God that is about to be established.

Watching the news that is basically all bad and the politicians that have their own agendas is frustrating. They have been caught in many lies, yet people still listen to them. It is a hard thing to listen to them and not get angry at them, however as servants striving for perfection, we need to have the mind of Christ. Which means we need to be patient with those people because it is possible that they will repent at some point. The best thing we can do is pray for them and hope they will repent. Of course, our carnal nature interferes with critical thoughts of judgment. However, this is what we must overcome. The perfect servant does not make judgments on such things there is an appointed time for that. Our Father is in complete control of what is going on here so we can rest in that and focus on being a perfect servant.

John 12:47-48 (ESV)

47 If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. 48 The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day.

2 Timothy 2:20-21 (ESV)

20 Now in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver but also of wood and clay, some for honorable use, some for dishonorable. 21 Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work.

Romans 12:12-14 (ESV)

12 Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. 13 Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. 14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.

1 Timothy 4:7 (ESV) 7 Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness;

We need to examine ourselves daily, capturing every thought that is not in line with scripture and crush it. Scripture needs to be written on the tablet of our hearts. We need to daily ask our Father to give us wisdom and understanding in scripture and for help to overcome. This is the path to overcoming.

Proverbs 3:3-4 (ESV)

3 Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart. 4 So you will find favor and good success in the sight of God and man.

Our minds need to be constantly on the straight and narrow path of righteousness. We need to be always ready and eager to show others the Kingdom of God and be able to gently correct those that have gone astray.

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2 Timothy 2:24-26 (ESV)

24 And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, 25 correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, 26 and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.

Philippians 2:14-15 (ESV)

14 Do all things without grumbling or disputing, 15 that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,

It is absolutely imperative that we apply the word to our lives in order to come to perfection. Any thing less and we will not be in the first resurrection.

Matthew 5:48 (ESV) 48 You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

James 1:22-27 (ESV) 22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. 24 For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. 25 But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing. 26 If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless. 27 Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

Matthew 5:43-48 (ESV) 43 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 44 But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? 47 And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? **48 You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.**

Can There Be False Prophets... Today?

by Royce Mitchell, Jr. (Manvel, Texas)

Virtually from the beginning of the existence of man there have been those trying to deceive man with false doctrines and teachings. We are even told that one of the last enemies of God to be put away is the False Prophet. Whoever these people are, we need to be aware of their existence and to work steadfastly to keep our minds free from their false teachings. This author hopes to guide the brethren in their quest to be one of those who it is impossible to deceive in the end.

We first need to understand that false statements about God have been the tool of Satan from the beginning. Even in the Garden of Eden, Satan, in the form of a snake, caused our first parents to doubt what God had said by phrasing the deception in a question, "Has God not said...?" Satan tried the same thing with Jesus (Matthew 4 and Luke 4).

We can read of people like Balaam who attempted to curse Israel, and to lead them astray. Jeremiah (23:16) showed that God knew who those false prophets were during Jeremiah's day.

In Ezekiel, a prophet sent to the House of Israel (which tribes had been gone over 130 years at the time of that prophecy), we read that the false prophets were making misleading predictions and having false visions, saying all was well when all was not well (Isa. 13:9-10).

We know that a particularly evil False Prophet will show up at the very end of this age. We can read that an evil spirit like a frog would come from the mouth of that False Prophet and that he will end up in the lake of fire with Satan (Rev. 16:13, 19:20, 20:10). Is there any reason to believe that false prophets do not exist in this day and age?

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The English words “false” and “prophet” derive from the Greek word, pseudoprophētēs. We derive our English word “pseudo” from the first part of that Greek word. Pseudo means not genuine or sincere, despite appearances. Anything labeled as “pseudo” is not the “real deal” no matter how much it may look like it.

The second half of the word is “prophētēs” from which our English word prophet is derived. It means a foreteller or by analogy an inspired speaker. From the combination of these two words, we can derive that a false prophet is one that appears to be genuine but is not speaking according to the inspiration of God but by another spirit, a pseudo god.

In 2 Thessalonians, Chapter 2, we are warned that this particular False Prophet will put himself above every god or object of worship and will sit down in God’s Temple and claim to be God. We are also told that he will come with the power of Satan and will perform miracles and wonders. We are also told that Jesus will destroy this False Prophet at His coming. This is undoubtedly the same False Prophet we read about in Revelation.

But we get something very interesting about this character in 2 Thessalonians 2. This enemy of God will sit down in God’s Temple and claim to be God! We know that Paul wrote that we are the Temple of God. If we can take a bit of license with the joining of texts, it is pretty easy to come to the conclusion that the False Prophet of Revelation will come from within a group of people alleging themselves to be a part of the Body of Christ, i.e., the Temple of God. I certainly do not see any temple being rebuilt in the land known as Israel today and even if there were would it really be “God’s Temple?” I think not, which leaves the only conclusion possible to this mortal’s thinking that this False Prophet will come from within those alleging to be the Body of Christ.

In Acts 13 we read of a false prophet who was confronted by Barnabas and Saul (Paul). This particular false prophet was a Jew named Elymas. But he was calling himself “Bar-Jesus” or “son of Jesus.” This Elymas claimed he was a prophet. Indeed, he was apparently claiming he was the son of Jesus! The first century church certainly had its share of false prophets! But, what about today? Do they exist today?

Jesus warned us, through the apostles in Luke 6:26, that false prophets would be well spoken of. He issues a “woe” to those of whom men speak well. That happened in the past where kings had been deceived by false prophets while the true prophets of God were horribly abused and killed.

Further, in Matthew 7, Jesus tells us to be on guard against these false prophets who will come to us looking like sheep! They will come looking like one of Jesus’ own! But Jesus with the warning also told us how we can recognize them—by their fruits. We may not recognize them by what they say but by looking at what they are, and do we will see that their actions and attitudes are not of God.

It is in these verses that we find the statement that “Not everyone who calls me ‘Lord, Lord’ will enter the Kingdom of heaven...” I’ve heard that verse used to denigrate people who don’t think the same thing as a particular group or denomination. But the context is false prophets, not people who think differently! In the end Jesus will tell them to “Get away, wicked people!”

Can we be fooled by false prophets? Jesus said that MANY would be fooled (Matthew 24). He said there, also, that there would be many false prophets! These false prophets will cause many people’s love to grow cold! The only way this can happen is to distract the brethren with some “new” teaching or other idea designed to, like Satan, spoon-feed a dollop of truth wrapped around a bitter pill of hate that divides brethren.

False prophets will come in many forms! We could be told that the “church” needs to collect a “tithe” so that the “church” leaders can “preach the gospel,” which then tends toward a lavish lifestyle of jets, gifts, and other extravagances while widows and orphans are told to go on government assistance. This has already happened in the past under the guise of “doing the work” when the work designed by men was never shown to be the Work of God except through a twisting of the scriptures—the very thing that the Devil attempted with Jesus in the desert.

For instance, in Mark 13:10 we read that the gospel must first be “published” among all nations, breaking into the thought there. This verse was twisted to mean that magazines and radio or television shows were the work God wanted done. This author feels fairly comfortable in saying that the apostles of the first century never knew about a “Plain Truth” magazine or a “World Tomorrow” television show. Was it wrong to do those things? Of course not! What was wrong was

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making that verse into a mandate to order impoverished brethren to collect more than a biblical tithe and send it in for that purpose! It was a False Teaching! The ends never justify the means!

That word “published” is derived from the Greek “kērussō” which means “to herald, such as a public crier.” That verse was telling everyone that in order for the prophecy to come to pass the message would be taken by word of mouth to the world, and nothing more. The use of that verse to extract money from the brethren under the guise of it being “God’s tithe” was simply a false teaching! There are more false teachings yet to come if the past is any guide to the future.

Something to watch for, as seen in Matthew 24:23, etc., is that these false prophets and false christs will be able to deceive by great signs and wonders, just like the False Prophet of Revelation. But we are told that if a prophet speaks against the Word of God that such a prophet is not of God and to ignore them no matter how convincing they may seem!

These false prophets will bring plausible sounding “doctrines” with which to do their dirty deeds. As an example, I point out the doctrines floating around one of which proclaims that we must use the “sacred names” of God, and another of which proclaims differences in calendars. There are more but these two suffice to show how the false prophets will work.

We read in 2 Peter, Chapter 2, that the false prophets will bring in “destructive heresies.” That word “heresy” merely means “causes disunion.” It doesn’t mean that what is said is a lie so blatant that a biblical novice could spot it! The heresies brought in are those which may have a foundation in some truth, but which are used to divide.

Some proclaim that you cannot be worshipping the same God as they do if you don’t use those “Sacred Names.” This attitude drives a wedge between themselves and brethren who see that Jesus said to call God “the Father” and that Paul called Him “Abba.” There is no love between brethren when they divide over these kinds of things. Finally, there are those who claim you are sinning because you keep a standard Holy Day calendar, as well as those who claim you are sinning if you don’t keep the postponements. This attitude drives brethren apart.

Perhaps one or more of those insights could have some validity in the scriptures. Where the False Prophets or Teachers come into play is that they use those differences, which have nothing to do with what God wants from us, to cause division within the Body of Christ.

These attitudes of false prophets will cause the Way of Truth to be evil spoken of, and if this author may take a little license with 2 Peter 2, the Way will be trashed by those within and without the Church. Peter goes on to say that these false prophets use the brethren for gain! He says further that they despise dominion and speak evil of it. They promise the brethren liberty when all they bring is the slavery of corruption of the simplicity of the Word of God.

Paul dealt with False Prophets in Galatians 5. In that letter, Paul deals with the circumcision issue, about which we can read in Acts, also. Paul proclaims that circumcision would take away the profit of Christ. But was Paul saying circumcision was bad? Of course not, yet that is how some have twisted his words. It was the reason for circumcision that Paul was challenging, saying that relying on such for righteousness was tantamount to attempting to be justified by the Law, and nobody can be justified that way. Paul makes it clear when he says that “neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any strength.”

Paul also gives us a hint at what we need to do to avoid the false doctrines in Galatians 5. He says that we should “let love make you serve one another.” Moreover, he says, in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-21, that we should have joy always, pray, praise God, don’t put out the light of the Spirit, pay attention to the words of the prophets and to prove all things, holding onto what is good.

John tells us the same thing in 1 John 4 where he tells us to test the spirits to see if they are from God. He says this because even then many false prophets had gone out everywhere. John’s solution, like Peter’s and Paul’s, is to love the brethren. If we do, we won’t allow the divisiveness of the false prophets to affect our love for one another.

In Revelation 12:17 we read that the dragon will make war with the remnant of the seed of the woman, which remnant keeps the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus. We know what the commandments of God are. But what is the testimony of Jesus? I submit that we find it in John 13:34-35 where Jesus tells us that He gives us a new commandment, that we love one another.

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We see the same testimony in John 15 where Jesus calls us "friends" and not servants and then commands us to love one another!

The deception can be more subtle and perhaps not recognized by the brethren. A church "leader" may seem to be righteous but behind the scenes secretly hating some of the flock he is supposed to be serving. With that hatred comes the gossiping and maneuvering that drives wedges between brethren. This happens when a "leader" thinks he is over the flock instead of serving them. It has happened all too frequently by these false teachers who still exist today both in large corporate organizations and in smaller unaligned groups. When you find a leader like that fomenting unrest among the brethren, then hiding behind the "don't level an accusation against an elder" scripture, you know you have found such a false prophet and should run from that one as fast as you can—unless, like Paul and Barnabas, you have the power from God to blind them as a sign of their deception!

The solution to surviving the deception of our modern-day false prophets and The False Prophet is this: we must be obeying God, showing love for Him by obeying His commandments and we must be loving our brothers and sisters. If we are doing this, then there is no way that any false prophet can bring any doctrine, true, somewhat true, or even false, that will allow us to be distracted from the simplicity that is the Way of God. We will spot these false prophets by their fruits which invariably cause division in the Body. To answer the question posed by the article's title, "Yes, there are false prophets working today."

We don't all have to believe exactly the same thing. None of us have all understanding or perfect knowledge of the mind of God. God can and will correct errors in understanding. What He can't create in us is the love that He wants to see in His children; that has to voluntarily come from each of us. While the false prophets are continually fomenting division, we need to be overcoming that with love. Love overcomes all things. It is never the source of division.

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Jews of Judea Today

by Ray Daly (Lincoln, North Dakota)

I have been engaged in a normal "2-3" year project. That being, the creation of "room" in my bedroom/office! Meaning, I have to "throw stuff out". To make room for that which is yet to come. Hopefully? Yet, I do not try to "throw out", until I have reviewed contents, to see if I may have passed by the "savable".

Which brings me to an article in the 9/10/16, #119 issue of AR. Titled. "Did Newton Predict the State of Israel". By John Chambers. He is referring to the "Israeli Jews" living in Palestine today. I'm not going to discuss his presentation, as much as to discuss his conclusions. Based on a statement he makes at the end of his article.

He makes the statement that Newton said that the return of today's Israeli Jews to Judea, would not occur, "Til Egypt has a Greek king...!" He goes on to say that "As far as anyone knows, Egypt did not have a Greek king in 1948"! This is absolutely true. But it is what he adds at the end of said statement, that seemingly "negates" all of his "Newton's" so called prophetic teachings. And John's assessments. For he goes on to conclude that "Egypt did not have a Greek king in 1948", by adding the words, "OR ANY TIME BEFORE"!

I'll try to move quickly on. In the early 300's BC, Alexander, the Macedonian/Greek, and his armies, defeated the Persian Empire. They went on to Conquer Syria, Palestine, and Egypt. But Alexander died young. And this resulted in his "kingdom" being divided up between "four of his GREEK Generals". One of whom was given the "kingship" of Syria, and one of whom was given the "kingship" of Egypt.

Daniel clearly speaks of these "kings of the north and south". And, as Daniel shows, the "days, weeks, years" John refers to, would have to have been referring to BC, not AD. It goes on to show that the "Greek" king of the north (Syria), did not usually get along with the "Greek" king of the south (Egypt). And, the Israelite Jews that returned from Babylon, were caught in the middle.

These confrontations between the Greek king of the north, and the Greek king of the south, continued until at least the 200's BC. Now, Rome had taken control, but had not "changed" the rulership at this time. But, at this same time, while Rome was engaged in warfare in the north, an Israelite army of the Parthians (Israelites) came into Palestine,

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and defeated the Greek king of Syria, on their way to do the same with the "Greek king" in Egypt. In between the two conflicts, said Parthians freed the Judahite Jews. And they made a king of the first Maccabean, Judahite rulers.

The first thing that this new Judahite Maccabean king did, was to raise an army, and caused them to invade a people known then as "Idumeans". These peoples were living within the Judahite borders. To the East of the Salt Sea, and off of the west border of Esau. Today's Jordan. Said Idumeans were also known of as Edomites. The Edomites, for the most part, were descended from Jacob's older brother Esau. But called Edomites, as a result of Esau marrying two Canaanite wives. The main point being, that these Edomites were forced to have all their "males" circumcised and forced to observe the laws of Moses.

Some short time later, the Roman forces reappeared in Palestine. And they made one of the Idumean/Edomite's to become "king of the Jews". Meaning, both the I.E. Jews, and the Israelite Jews. Said "new king" being Herod the Great. Now, we find an "I.E.H." family of Jews. Which Jews are not Israelites?

As history continues. The True Israelite Jews rebel against Rome, and are defeated in 70 AD. They are then totally banished from the borders of the Roman Empire. But the "I.E.H" gentile Jews are allowed to remain. For, they supported Rome, in their war against their "brother".

In the early second century AD, Rome made a law forbidding the "circumcising" of baby boys, on the "8th" day. The "I.E.H." Jews rebelled, and were defeated in 132 AD. They too were expelled from the borders of the Roman Empire. Most of them travelled east across the Euphrates. But they were not welcome in the borders of the Israelite Parthians. So, they had to settle in a "no man's land", in northern Turkey.

Here, they became known of as "Ashkenazi's". This name being after a son of Japheth, who settled there for a while after their leaving Shinar. We now have an "I, E, H, A" Jewish religious peoples.

It wasn't long before both the Israelite Parthians, and the "I.E.H.A.'s" had to again migrate. Because of drought, and the influx of Arabic peoples. The I.E.H.A. Jews migrated into the Steppes of Russia. There becoming a prosperous peoples, coming to be known of as Kharzas. We are now at the "I, E,H,A,K" Jews. All still descended from Esau.

The "hordes" of the east come in, and the "IEHAK" Jews have to flee to Eastern and Central Europe. Now known of as the "Russian" Jews. Or "IEHAKR" Jews. The rest of the story is so well known, as not needing to be repeated. These "Jews" are never shown to be "Israelite" Jews. Not THEN, and not TODAY. And, I feel so sad at their future.

Newton may have been right on his "days, weeks, and years". But John was wrong in his application.

A “Populist Uprising” is Confronting the Darkness in America by Eddie Hyatt (Tulsa, Oklahoma)

Back in June, I sensed the Holy Spirit saying that “a populist uprising is coming to America.” I had a sense of the meaning of “populist” but decided to look it up since it is not a word I use. I was presently surprised by what I discovered. “Populist” refers to people—to common everyday people.

I then knew that “uprising” merely referred to common, everyday people arising, praying, taking a stand, and letting their voices be heard. Since that time, I have seen parents flooding school board meetings to protest the introduction of Critical Race Theory and transgenderism into their schools.

A video just went viral of a young teacher, who identified herself as “a follower of Christ,” taking the members of her school board to task for introducing such ungodly policies into the school district. She then resigned on the spot and encouraged parents to put their children in private schools.

This Was the Vision of America’s Founders

The U.S. Constitution begins with the words, “We the people.” The Founders envisioned a nation governed, not by monarchs, oligarchs, or professional politicians, but by the people through their elected representatives and by making their voices known in all sorts of public venues.

Because they wanted a government of "we the people," the Founders instituted the First Amendment to the Constitution. This Amendment guarantees, not only freedom of religion, but also freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom to peaceably assemble, and the freedom to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

In the mind of the Founders, such a government "of the people," could only be maintained by a certain character of

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people. John Adams spelled it out when he said,

Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate for the government of any other.

This is No Time for Silence

Thomas Jefferson said, “All tyranny needs to gain a foothold is for people of good conscience to remain silent.” In other words, where the light does not shine, darkness prevails. When “we the people” are silent, evil gains the upper hand.

You can be a part of this “populist uprising” by praying and then letting your voice be heard, whether at Walmart, at a school board meeting, or on your social networks. The time for silence is over. “We the people” must make our voices heard. It is our duty as Christians and our right as Americans.

I encourage you, therefore, to begin now to pray, along with thousands of others, for another Great Awakening to roll across our land like a giant tsunami wave. I encourage you to join the “populist uprising” by “speaking the truth in love” and letting your light shine into every dark corner, remembering Isaiah 60:1-3 where God promised,

Arise, shine; for your light has come! And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people; but the LORD shall arise over you and His glory will be seen upon you. Gentiles will come to your light and kings to the brightness of your rising.

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A Scriptural Perspective on Tithing

by James Steinle (Swanville, Minnesota)

Tithing has long been established in the various COG’s and emphasized in many religious denominations and usually by most “ministers” (generically speaking) that have a “work”. It seems most feel the tithe(s) is still COMMANDED by Scripture and especially on money. However, how closely do those who like to be receivers of tithes follow and teach actually what the Bible commands about tithing? Remember, we are not to add to or take away from what is taught in Scripture. For many years I tithed on my wages in a 1st tithe, a 2nd tithe (to attend the fall Feast of Tabernacles) and every third year an additional 3rd tithe with the 7th year off, for the poor in the Worldwide Church of God (which they taught using faulty, and maybe greedy, understanding).

Some Questions:

1. What did the tithe (or ‘s) consist of in the OT? “And all the tithe of THE LAND, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, it is Holy (set-apart) unto Yehovah.” (Lev. 27:30) It also included the herd or the flock per verse 32. Nothing else was included. What we see here is only what Yehovah Himself actually CAUSES to have life in itself and that HE causes to increase. Notice, money made by man is NOT included. Money is talked about many times in the OT starting with Genesis 17:12 and 30 times it is mentioned in Exodus through Deut. Notice in Ex. 30:11-16 where ALL (rich & poor) were to pay a half-shekel (no more or no less) as an offering when Moses took a census. The Israelites had money. But nowhere in the Bible are we COMMANDED to tithe on something man has made himself, i.e., money. Our Savior said in Mark 12:17 when he was brought a coin in a test to him, “And Yayshua answering said unto them, Render [return] to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s. And they marveled at him.” Man’s *money* is not something that God has fashioned Himself.

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2. We need to be careful about adding anything or deleting from Scripture Deuteronomy 12:32 What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it. (See also Deut. 4:2; Proverbs 30:6 which confirms this command with a total of three witnesses).
3. Who did the tithe of the land go to (other than every 3rd year out of seven) when they were actually in the promised land?) Answer: the Levites. Question: Why? Because they had no inheritance in the land. The Levitical priesthood served the physical Temple, and that system is now abolished. Do we now equate as a Levite anyone who says they are a minister or are doing a work? Not necessarily. Do most ministers nowadays own homes and property? For most the answer is yes. Some may say, “Abraham gave a tithe of ALL to Melchizedek in Gen. 14.” He did, but the point is Abraham GAVE (voluntarily) a tithe of all the booty of war. Notice the phrasing of this question carefully: Are we COMMANDED by our Creator to send a TITHE of our MONEY to the ministry? I do not find that in the Scriptures.
4. However is it proper and right if we WANT to support those doing a good work even with our money? That answer is YES. (Luke 10:1-8; 1 Cor. 9:1-15; 1 Tim. 5:17-18) Our Father at this time in history wants to know what is in our heart. He wants to know if we will be like Him in His generosity and outgoing loving concern. Are we storing up and concerned only for ourselves or do we truly love others as ourselves? There is a priority that we are to provide for our own family, then others in the faith and then others as we have opportunity. (1 Tim.5:8 & Gal. 6:10) However, notice that in 2 Corinthians 8:1-15 Paul talked of a local assembly’s GIFT to another assembly in need. He did not say anything about a REQUIRED third tithe.

One caveat, if we have in the past made a vow to tithe on our money to our Creator, then we would have to work that out with Him!

Black Criminal Opportunity?

by Richard Frates (Easley, South Carolina)

Love your Black Criminal - Hate Your White Neighbor! Wealthy and powerful - black athletes - relish the opportunity to insult white people and America at sports events; cheered on by media demons. Unappreciative that white people and America has made them rich. They are not thankful for what they have or “love their neighbors”. Instead, they delight in, insulting their neighbors publicly; in support of black criminals they would not, invite into their homes, unsupervised. Why express a - pretend love - for criminal blacks? Is it because they are black racists seeking justification, to attack white America?

Some deceitful devils will say: America has a history of slavery. I never participated in that history and neither did you. And neither did the vast majority of Americans - at that time - participate in slavery. Only about 10% of Americans in the south owned slaves. Tragically, black leaders love to play victim, and accuse; while acting out a - pretense of love - for obvious black criminals they have never met; that is nothing but – a black racist charade. If their Whining Display of anger over black criminals being mistreated by police was legitimate and not racist, they would also have concern for white criminals being mistreated.

A republican black senator said to me: He “Will never forget the hundreds of years of slavery.” My reply: What is there to remember? You were never a slave. Black Racist Gravediggers: Digging up the dead claiming history is racist to justify hate will never be appeased or find peace. Blacks, never forgetting slavery, mentally bond themselves to dead slaves to justify hating living white people. Are those who express Love and Concern based on Race; Hate and Resentment based on Race; the real Racists?

Why is the obvious Racism of black leaders ignored? Media and politicians know that Al Sharpton defended 5 blacks who beat a white woman, with an iron pipe, nearly to death, and gang raped her. Sharpton demonstrated with a mob of

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his black followers shouting repeatedly “What was the bitch doing in the park”. Why do media, educators and government ignore - Blatant Black Racism?

America’s First Black Racist President: President Obama Knew police officer Darren Wilson was innocent in the death of Michael Brown. He knew Michael attacked the police officer with his fist and attempted to take his gun. Regardless of the facts, Obama and black leaders condemned the police officer and treated Michael like a hero; guaranteeing the white police officer would lose his job and be marked for life. Obama’s actions were disgraceful and racist. Resulting in: Encouraging other black criminals to resist arrest. Innocent blood is on his hands.

Media and politicians ignoring black racism is dangerous. Effectively legitimizing black racist attacks against the innocent whenever blacks are offended. If racist blacks perceive that one of their darling criminals was not treated like a delicate kitten in an arrest they will riot. Like they did in the LA riots; racist blacks dragged white people out of cars, beating some, and killing others. Media and political leaders did not call it what it was: Disgraceful Bloody Black Racism. The racist NAACP, black leaders and media applauded them; instead of calling on them to repent, love their neighbors, respect the property of others and police.

President Obama protected black panthers who said: “You gonna have to kill some crackers”. Black panthers also said: “Bomb Nurseries kill white babies”. Black Lives Matter activist: “Kill all white babies” video. Government and media’s failure to call out black racist; rebuke them and charge them with promoting murder and mayhem based on race is: Legitimizing a future Slaughter of the Innocent. What would media and government do: If white people were proclaiming: “Kill All” Black “Babies”?

If blacks riot again and kill white men women and children; will political devils and media blame white people and America? Yes! They are insanely PC: And cannot put the two words together; Black Racism. America has a racist problem; and it is Black.

Matthew 22:37-40 is the Cure for Racism: Only the truly free – “Love God” and “Love your neighbor” as yourself. Black leaders and black preachers need to preach God’s Word; instead of black racist, Victim Theology; Hate and Resentment for white people and America. Slaves of Satan: Dig up justifications to hate their neighbors they will Never be Free

Other Items

Love

Sent by Ted & Joanne Saunders (Renton, Washington)

Whenever there is hope
That keeps a dream alive,

Wherever there is joy
That fills a grateful heart,

Wherever there is happiness
That brings a smile
To another’s face,

There is love...
For love is what makes us
Hopeful, joyful,
And happiest of all.

Have a Really Great Sabbath