

The Journal

News of the Churches of God

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We can know 3 things for sure, says CG7's president

By Dixon Cartwright
BIG SANDY, Texas—There are three things in life that Christians can know for sure, Whaid Rose said in a sermon here the Sabbath of June 16, 2012:

■ God exists, and He is sovereign.
■ God has a Son, and His name is Jesus.

■ Objective truth exists, and it is to be found in God's Word, the Bible.

A key to knowing God, Jesus and truth is summed up in the word *perspective*, said Mr. Rose, president of the General Conference of the Church of God Seventh Day based in Denver, Colo.

Mr. Rose was guest speaker at the services of the Church of God Big Sandy, pastored by Dave Havir.

Broaden your perspective

To gain perspective, Mr. Rose continued, one needs to gain a long view. The astronauts on the way to the moon for the first time, in 1969, experienced a new, broader perspective when they found themselves 98,000 miles from earth and looked back on their home planet hanging in space.

Mr. Rose drew other analogies to make his point. One of them involved two football teams, the Dallas Cowboys and Denver Broncos.

"Life's playoff is in the final seconds of the last quarter of the game," he said, "and things aren't looking very good. But we do not despair be-

cause we have read the end of the book and we know who wins."

A rousing amen

As the audience listened attentively, Mr. Rose noted that he "would have got a rousing amen right there" if he were preaching back in his home church in Denver.

The folks in the Big Sandy audience still didn't say amen but they chuckled politely.

Angry atheists

Although God exists and is sovereign, a conspiracy also exists, said Mr. Rose: "to rid the world of the notion of God . . ."

"The atheists are angry," but "the reality is that there is a God, and we know there is a God because, as the Bible says, the heavens declare His glory."

The "greatest evidence that there is a God," he continued, "is that I exist. Look at me. Look at you. We are here today as prime evidence of the existence of an eternal, sovereign God, and that, my friends, gives you and me a unique perspective."

Objective truth

A necessary part of a Christian perspective is a view of "objective truth," he continued.

"Not only is there a God who is sovereign, and not only is there a

See WHAID ROSE, page 32



FRIENDS FROM THREE CHURCHES—Whaid Rose (center), president of the General Conference of the Church of God Seventh Day, Denver, Colo., visits the Church of God Big Sandy on the Sabbath of June 16, 2012, as a guest speaker. Mr. Rose gave two sermons during the special service. With him are Bernie Monsalvo (left), a member of the board of trustees of the Big Sandy congregation, and Charles Groce (right), president of the Church of God International, based in Tyler, Texas. See the article at left and a related photo on page 32 of this issue of *THE JOURNAL*. [Photo by Dixon Cartwright]

The Journal's Feast-site list in this issue

Beginning with this issue *THE JOURNAL* lists contact information, locations and dates of the Feast of Tabernacles 2012.

If your information is not in this issue's listing (see page 31), you're invited to send it to *THE JOURNAL* at P.O. Box 1020, Big Sandy, Texas 75755, U.S.A., or info@thejournal.org. Or fax it toll-free to *THE JOURNAL* at (888) 488-6603.

Be sure to include the name of the city nearest the Feast site, the name of a person to contact, the name of the sponsoring ministry or individual and the dates.

It is best to include nine days in the date.

For example, many observances this year will be Sept. 30-Oct. 8. The Feast is eight full days, counting the last day, but falls on nine days or partial days on the Gregorian calendar.

Secret author and WND news editor talks about main point of the Bible and birther controversy

By Dixon Cartwright
Joe Kovacs, 48-year-old executive news editor at WND.com, contacted *THE JOURNAL* in April 2012 to offer to sit for an interview about his new book.

The interview came to pass by phone a few days later. *The Divine Secret: The Awesome and Untold Truth About Your Phenomenal Destiny* (Bancroft Press, 188 pages) was released by its publisher three months later, on July 17.

Even though Mr. Kovacs is the main news editor of a widely known politically conservative Web site (until recently WND was World Net Daily), his books so far are about religious and spiritual topics.

His new one, *The Divine Secret*, covers what Mr. Kovacs sees as the main point of the Bible and follows his best-selling (at Amazon.com) *Shocked by the Bible* four years ago.

Phone interview

The rest of this article is based on a telephone interview with this writer

on April 10, 2012. In it Mr. Kovacs, speaking from somewhere on the East Coast, talks not only about his book but about his job at WND and WND's pivotal role in the "birther" controversy.

Birthers allege, among other things, that President Obama or someone associated with him is responsible for forging a "long-form birth certificate" for the president and releasing it to news media.

Shocked by the Bible

THE JOURNAL: You mentioned that your *Shocked by the Bible* book [published in 2008] made people angry. Why do you think that was?

Joe Kovacs: It didn't make everybody angry, but it made some angry who didn't understand that I was actually championing Bible truths.

There have been a lot of books from atheist-type people trashing the Bible and saying the Bible's not true, and I think some people, especially some Christians, misunderstood what I was doing when I was saying things

like the Bible doesn't say Noah's ark landed on Mount Ararat.

They thought I was attacking the Bible. But I wasn't. I was trying to get them to open up their Bible. I just want people to crack open their own Bibles and see the words on the page.

When you see the words on the page they're often very different from what you have assumed or been taught or been shown in TV shows and movies.

Many Christians go to church for decades and don't know what's in their Bible, and when you tell them sometimes they get angry.

Everybody thinks there were three wise men at the manger. There were no wise men at the manger according to the Bible. Some people thought I

See CHILDREN, page 4



Joe Kovacs

Elders approve E-mail voting, redefine 'church member'

Elders of the United Church of God can vote long distance by E-mail beginning with next year's general conference of elders. The E-mail-ballot provision was one of several approved during the 18th general conference of elders meeting in a Holiday Inn in Cincinnati, Ohio, May 5-7, 2012.

More than 400 people—elders and their wives—attended this year's three days of meetings. The UCG dates from its founding conference in Indianapolis, Ind., in 1995.



Melvin Rhodes

2012 amendments

Besides approving strategic and operating plans and an annual budget, the 2012 amendments to the UCG's governing documents include:

■ The provision to allow E-mail voting beginning in 2013.

■ A measure to allow the hundreds of members of the general conference to submit agenda items for consideration to the 12-man council.

■ A rule that states the newly elected council will convene within two days of the general conference.

■ The announcement of a new office: deputy chairman of the council

(as yet unnamed).

■ A redefining of *church* and *church member* in the UCG's "rules of association." Both new definitions state that a member is one "who has been duly baptized and in whom God's Holy Spirit dwells" rather than the old definitions, that said a member is one who "possesses God's Holy Spirit."

Transforming lives

After the voting of Sunday, May 6, elder Mark Mickelson, who pastors congregations in the U.S. Pacific Northwest, gave a keynote address in line with the conference theme, "Transforming Lives Through the Spirit and Word of God."

Mr. Mickelson said there have been times in the church (the Worldwide Church of God and/or the United Church of God) when church leaders directed the lay membership to "follow a man."

Rather than following a mere man, the church should set the example of following God and Jesus Christ, he said.

Voting for council members

During the Sunday meeting, the elders voted for their choices to fill four seats on the council.

Council members whose terms were expiring were Scott Ashley, Bill Eddington, Roy Holladay and Melvin Rhodes. Mr. Holladay, of

See UCG MEETS, page 32

Seminary dean compiling best of WCG and AC

WEISER, Idaho—Potential contributors of theological materials and related information are encouraged to add to a project to store and organize writings from the "Church of God tradition," announced Tom Roberts of Weiser, Idaho.

Dr. Roberts, a faculty member and academic dean at St. Elias Seminary and Graduate School, Seward, Neb. (steliasseminary.org), is a former Worldwide Church of God member who seeks to "reclaim the best teachings of [the WCG and Ambassador College] heritage."

"It is my sincere hope that new life and academic

See ST. ELIAS DEAN, page 31



Tom Roberts

Magazine releases BSA board members' names

Members of the Bible Sabbath Association (BSA) recently selected their directors for 2012, reports an article in the May-June issue of *The Sabbath Sentinel* (www.biblesabbath.org).

The board's new configuration is Marsha Basner, Bryant Buck, Bryan Burrell (treasurer), Calvin Burrell (president), Lenny Cacchio (secretary), David Guerrero, Dusti Howell, Tom Justus, Bill Lussenheide (third vice president), Eric Moore (second vice president), June Narber and Ken Ryland (first vice president).

For more information write *The Sabbath Sentinel*, 802 NW 21st Ave., Battle Ground, Wash. 98604, U.S.A., or biblesabbath@comcast.net.



Calvin Burrell

Letters from our readers

Good and evil

In Ken Westby's essay on page 4 of issue No. 149 ["Open the Wardrobe: The Personal Reality of the Sabbath Day"] he makes casual reference to many doctrines as though there is no question of their legitimacy and even tells us that "the Sabbath is more than a doctrine."

I hope Ken is not like Job's friends and can't allow for the truth being bigger than his understanding of it.

Ken says that "the two positive commandments [Sabbath and honor parents] are linked together in Leviticus 19:2-3 as an introduction to the description of true Holiness."

However, they are separated in Ephesians 6:2: "Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise." It seems to be the only one of the Ten Commandments with a promise.

Ken does well when he says the Sabbath "isn't the weightiest" doctrine. If we make it too weighty, as is possible with most of the thousands of doctrines out there, it could become idolatry by our neglecting the weightier matters and claiming that God wants me to cram my conscience down your conscience.

This is not the way I read Romans 14. What do people think doubtful disputation means?

Truth is not truth because it is true. It is truth because it is relevant. If Christ and unity aren't more relevant to our hope of salvation than Sabbaths, we may be in trouble.

Does the definition of what is good and what is evil change with the day count on planet earth?

Phil Griffith
Delight, Ark.

Saving women

To Tina Engelbart: I read your article in *THE JOURNAL*, February 2012, re women speaking in the church ["Was There a Woman Minister in the New Testament Church?," issue No. 148].

I guess you don't seem to understand that singing and teaching are completely different.

1 Timothy 3:11-15 makes it clear what women's role is. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 14:34-35 that women are to keep silent in the churches.

There is no role for women speakers or teachers in the Bible. That's what's wrong with the people today: the emancipation of women. They were made by the I Am for a purpose, but some women want to have the authority to speak just as men speak.

They will be saved through bearing children if they continue in the faith with love, holiness and modesty.

John Hunter
Castle Douglas, Scotland

Women as ministers

Thank you for sending me *THE JOURNAL*. I read and enjoy all the articles in it. It is like having some fellowship with friends in faraway places.

About the recent articles on whether women should be ministers, etc.:

Could not the answer be in Genesis 3:16-19? We have not been able to change this!

All the best with the publication.
June M. Wood
Bunbury, Western Australia

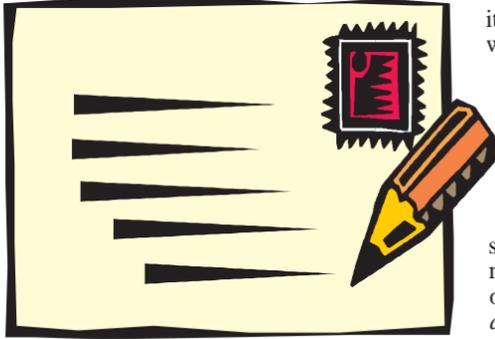
Response to Mr. Mumme

I would like to comment in reference to Lawrence Mumme's comments in issue No. 149 ["God's Word Still Means What It Says, Mrs. Engelbart," from the issue dated May 31, 2012].

First, Lawrence and the rest of us need to realize that the churches of today are nothing like what Paul calls a church.

What we call a church is a weekly ritual meeting and/or the building such meetings are conducted in. What Paul is referring to as a church, at that very early stage of church history, is a group of new believers getting together to help each other, with no one like a pastor to keep order.

This is much like the times of the



it not only embarrassing to witness the closed minds in our midst but have moved to the place in my consciousness that I have to call it what it is: cultish mentality and stupid control.

Isn't it time we put our salvation and decision-making back in the hands of Jesus Christ instead of any man?

June Narber
Via the Internet

Are you a Christian?

Because some people are not aware of 2 Timothy 3:16 ("All scripture is given by inspiration of God," all Scripture), they, in trying unsuccessfully to prove a point, will wrongly attempt to show that the Bible is not God-inspired.

All Scripture is inspired by God, regardless of who might think otherwise. All Scripture is God-breathed (inspired) by God. All who believe otherwise are in a very precarious position to prove they are a Christian.

Do you believe God wrote the Bible, that He inspired it all? Your answer may prove whether you are a true Christian or not.

All truth is God's truth, no matter who says it or where it comes from. If it's true, it comes from God.

Paul and Micki Herrmann
Metairie, La.

Full frontal attack

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to Mark Lee Bosserman's letter to the editor ["The Canon, God and Mr. Malm," page 2, issue No. 149, dated May 31, 2012].

I reminded Mark that I have indeed published articles on the "unitarian"

judges in the Bible.

We also need to understand that Paul is not writing to criticize wives or other women. He's criticizing the husbands and other men who are not accepting their responsibilities as men.

Here, as in the time of Deborah, women are not criticized for accepting responsibility. Rather, the men are criticized for not accepting their responsibilities.

The shame of it all is when men don't accept the responsibilities that God has given them as men. They not only make themselves look bad, but they make God look bad for giving them in the responsibilities in the first place.

When men don't accept their responsibilities, I think it's unjust to criticize women for trying to pick up the slack and stumble along as best they can.

If women are half as bad as Lawrence suggests, it is truly miraculous how well they are doing with what they have to work with in men these days.

"As for my people, women rule over them" is not criticizing women for stepping into the void left by men, unwilling to accept responsibility.

I don't see that any part of the body

'It is time to demand greater financial accountability and transparency from the leaders of the COG. It is time especially for specific salaries to be made public and not just vague salary ranges.'

has authority over any other part. The parts just cooperate with each other, if they are truly of the body.

Sister Deborah Caleb
Delight, Ark.

Be not ignorant

Praise for Velvet Delorey for the fine, well-written article ["WCG/GCI Has Never Lacked a 'Visible Female Presence,'" issue No. 149, dated May 31, 2012].

She gave a good account of all the serving and administering women have been doing.

Yes, I was thrilled to see that this person, and, yes, a young person, had gotten this teaching of Paul correct. Paul concluded 1 Corinthians 14 by stating in verse 37 that "the things I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord."

And verse 38: "But if any person be ignorant, let him be ignorant."

I try not to be ignorant. I hope you out there will try too.

Chuck Biggs
Big Sandy, Texas

50 cars a week

If every Sabbath believer made it his or her personal ministry to write letters to 20 local churches and make flyers to put on 50 cars a week in at least four neighborhoods, the witnessing of scriptural truth would be so far-reaching.

Instead, the majority of us sit in churches giving huge sums of our income to our corporate entities that then in turn dictate to us what is appropriate or not appropriate behavior.

The big three COG corporate churches frown on local personal evangelism unless it comes from ministry-sanctioned activities, and they even teach against reading Sabbath materials from other Sabbath-keeping groups.

I have come to the point that I find

subject and I allowed him to comment on that subject numerous times until I finally cut him off for attempting to use me as a soapbox for his heresy.

He well knows that I completely reject the Trinity and Constantine's paganism.

God is family, and the being who became Christ was the Creator of all things. There are many scriptures that attest to that fact.

The very word *God* is the uniplural word *Elohim*, meaning "mighty ones." The Shema—"The Lord our Mighty Ones is ONE"—refers to the UNITY of the Father and Christ in the same family of Mighty Ones and opens up that family to mankind as the children of God.

We are many and ultimately will be made ONE in the family of the Father and Christ.

Many, many scriptures—including Micah 5:2; John 8:58; 1 Corinthians 10:1-9; Ephesians 3:9; Hebrews 1:8; and Hebrews 7:1-3—declare Jesus Christ as Creator.

Christ gave up His glory that He had in the beginning and was reduced to the level of a human embryo and placed in Mary so He could experience all things experienced by humanity and be an effectual sacrifice and High Priest for ALL humanity.

If Christ were a being created by the Father, He would NOT be an effectual sacrifice for all humanity—because no matter how perfect He would be only one created being among many and could atone for only one other individual (John 17:5).

While Ken Westby says this is not a salvational issue (which brings to mind the question of why are these people so aggressively pushing this one idea), it most assuredly is.

By denying the divinity of Christ, these folks are attempting to destroy

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the efficacy of the sacrifice of Christ (and as such this is the doctrine of Antichrist) and demolishing the way to salvation and reconciliation with the Father of all humanity.

They are calling the prophets and apostles liars for declaring throughout the Scriptures that Christ is God and was the very Creator (Isaiah 9:6).

They deny the declaration of Thomas to Christ: "My Lord and my God" (John 20:28).

I invite everyone to visit the more than 750 articles at TheShiningLight blog (theshininglight.info) and see what I really teach about such things.

The "one God" unitarian position is not only a heresy, it is a blasphemy and a frontal attack on the doctrines of salvation.

James Malm
Maple Ridge, B.C., Canada

A challenge for Jim Franks

The recent conviction of Ron Weiland [pastor of the Church of God Preparing for the Kingdom of God]

for tax evasion should highlight the need for more financial accountability in the Church of God.

Paul articulated a principle of financial accountability in 2 Corinthians that has been forgotten by the COG membership as well as the leaders.

In chapter 8 Paul asks the Macedonian churches to help the Jewish church financially. They do so, but they also choose a representative to go along with the offering.

Paul then articulates a principle that should be engraved into the hearts of the UCG, LCG, PCG, Cogwa and the other branches of the COG regarding how their leaders should act:

"We want to avoid any criticism of the way we administer this liberal gift. For we are taking pains to do what is right, not only in the eyes of the Lord but also in the eyes of men" (verses 20-21).

Given this principle, it is time to demand greater financial accountability and transparency from the leaders of the COG. It is time especially for specific salaries to be made public and not just vague salary ranges.

The recent split from the UCG presents a golden opportunity for those in the Church of God a Worldwide Association (CGWA, or Cogwa) to set a better example than has been set in the UCG.

I therefore publicly challenge Jim Franks (my pastor for eight years in the WCG), in accordance with Paul's admonition, to make public his specific salary and benefits, including vehicle and housing subsidies and expense account.

Dr. Richard F. Griffiths
Elgin, Texas

Dashing through the land

This is in regard to Psalm 137:9 as mentioned by Gavin Rumney in his

editorial about the Bible canon in the May 31, 2012, *JOURNAL*.

The word for "dashes" (as in "Happy is the one who takes and dashes your little ones against the rock" in Psalm 137) can indeed mean exactly what it seems to be saying.

However, "dashes" can also mean "scatters." The word for "rock" is *Strong's* No. 5553, *cela*. *Cela* represents the Lord in the cloud who led the children of Israel in the wilderness.

Thus a good rendering would be "Happy is the man who scatters your little ones against the Lord," a very positive meaning.

In OT scriptures, the Lord-Cela, Israel's God, is "loving, faithful, forgiving, patient, long-suffering, desiring good things."

But this is only one believer's opinion.

Ray E. Daly
Lincoln, N.D.

GCI congregations meet on Sabbath

Don't know how I managed to miss this: Near the end of my response to Tina Engelbart ["WCG/GCI Has Never Lacked a 'Visible Female Presence'" in issue No. 149, dated May 31, 2012] you've got "most congregations still meet on *Sundays*." That's one way to drive the faithful away in droves!

It should read "most congregations still meet on *Saturdays*."

Might have been my bad.

Velvet Delorey
Corner Brook, Nfld., Canada

Actually, it was probably THE JOURNAL's bad. The editor assumed Ms. Delorey's statement that "most [GCI] congregations still meet on Saturdays" was not what she intended to write, so he carelessly changed "Saturdays" to "Sundays."

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Columns and commentary

Disdain for real scholarship dooms COGs

See the writer's Web sites at restorationfellowship.org and 21stc.org. Find videos of his lectures by searching on "Jesus is still a Jew" on YouTube.com. See more biographical information about Sir Anthony at the end of this article.

By Anthony Buzzard

FAYETTEVILLE, Ga.—I am writing in response to the articles about the Bible canon by Dixon Cartwright and Alex Ciurana in *THE JOURNAL* dated Dec. 20, 2011 [issue No. 146], and the writers who responded to Dixon's and Alex's essays in the issue dated Jan. 31, 2012 [No. 147].

I am a retired professor of New

Testament and the biblical languages (some 25 years) and was a member of the Worldwide Church of God until about 1970, having first heard the church's radio program in 1956.

I was initially deeply impressed with the theology of the movement, but, looking back these many years later, I see that I swallowed a lot of false information.

I blame myself and the ignorance that my experience with the Church of

England, from childhood, had left with me as its legacy. I was inadequately prepared (that is a British understatement!) to evaluate what the Armstrongs offered.

But then they, too, were not well schooled in what it takes to evaluate the Bible.

Amazing compilation

As it turned out later, much later, the morality of the movement at the top was deplorably flawed. I knew Charles Hunting for 30 years after he came out. Charles saw and knew a lot—and thus left.

Reading the January edition of *THE JOURNAL*, No. 148, and Mr. Killingley's article in the May 31, 2012, issue, No. 149.)



Anthony Buzzard



Cartoon by Earl Cayton, San Francisco, Calif.

"The success of Moses was amazing considering he began life as a basket case."

Harlots can't be our source for God's Word

The writer is a former member of the Worldwide Church of God and Philadelphia Church of God. He writes here and on his Web site, church-of-god.info/Faithful-Men.htm, under a pseudonym.

By Gun Lap

Should we get the truth (including the Bible) from spiritual harlots (Revelation 17:5) or from faithful men of God?

In 2 Timothy 2:2 Paul gives Timothy the following command: "And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also."

Only to faithful men

Notice it says the truth of God must be committed "to faithful men." This is Paul's instruction on how the truth was to be passed on from generation to generation in the true church. It was to be preserved only by faithful men.

I'm sure there is no example or instruction in the Bible for preserving the truth through Satan's men.

According to the Bible, the Father gave the truth to Jesus (John 12:49). Jesus gave it to Paul (Galatians 1:11-12). Paul gave it to Timothy, and Timothy was to pass it on only to faithful men (2 Timothy 2:2).

These men in turn were supposed to teach others. This is the Bible pattern. So why would God break the pattern and use unfaithful men?

Yet where do the Sabbath-keeping Churches of God get the Bible they use? Did they get it from faithful men? Did they get it from earlier "eras" of the Church of God?

No, they got it from the Protestants, the very people the Churches of God have always regarded as Satan's churches, the harlots of Revelation 17.

According to the Bible, Jesus said He would build His church (Matthew 16:18). Who would build it? He would, not Satan, and not men of Satan. Satan was building a different church (2 Corinthians 11:13-15).

Would Jesus use the Great Harlot or her daughters to build the true church? No. An indispensable part of building

through His church and for His church and sent it to His church. Further, it could be understood only by His church. So would He preserve it using those outside His church? No.

Readers are strongly advised to study how we really got the Bible. The Churches of God have not taught that subject accurately.

Why would God use apostate ministers?

The New Testament shows that God would not use apostate ministers to determine any matter in His true church, and certainly not something as important as the canon of the Bible.

The Bible says it is a shame if church members cannot settle even lesser matters like personal disputes among themselves and resort to going to outsiders to make those judgments.

In 1 Corinthians 6:1-6 we read: "Does any one of you, when he has a case against his neighbor, dare to go to law before the unrighteous and

not before the saints? Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? If the world is judged by you, are you not competent to constitute the smallest law courts?"

"Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more matters of this life?"

"So if you have law courts dealing with matters of this life, do you



God wrote the Bible through His church, for His church and to His church, so why would He allow unfaithful men to determine which books were in the Bible?

that church would be preserving the truth; that is, preserving the knowledge of which writings were inspired by God and what those books actually said.

According to the Bible, did God reveal the New Testament to sinful men or faithful men?

Faithful men. Having started it with faithful men, why would God allow unfaithful men to determine which books were in the Bible? He wrote it

Understanding boundaries can set you free

The writer pastors the Church of God Big Sandy and is a regular columnist for *THE JOURNAL*.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—Have you ever read the book titled *Boundaries*, which was written in 1992 by Henry Cloud and John Townsend?

If you haven't read the book in a while, I recommend you give the information another look. It is priceless. If you have never read the book, it would be well worth your time.

Someone may ask: Why do you recommend the book?

My answer: I believe that the concept of boundaries is more important than many subjects you will ever hear in sermons at your church service.

Is the concept biblical?

It is my perspective that some religious people will discard the notion of ever reading the book because they assume that the concept of boundaries

contradicts teachings in the Bible.

Why would some people believe that the boundaries concept contradicts the Bible?

■ First, some believers hear the word *boundaries* and conclude that the teacher is encouraging believers to be selfish.

■ Second, some believers hear the word *boundaries* and conclude that the teacher is encouraging division and isolation.

Healthy self-respect

The true concept of boundaries does not promote selfishness. In fact, personal boundaries should lead to mature love.

Jesus Christ taught His disciples to love their neighbor as themselves (Matthew 22:39).

His teaching promotes having a healthy self-respect to properly ensure the ability to love others.

When a believer has a healthy foundation of self-respect, he should seek

to esteem other people better than himself (Philippians 2:3).

Believers should choose to serve with a ready mind (1 Peter 5:2). Believers should be cheerful givers (2 Corinthians 9:7).

Promoting mature unity

The true concept of boundaries does not promote division or isolation. In fact, personal boundaries should lead to mature unity.

Paul taught that a husband should love his wife as he loves his own body (Ephesians 5:28). Paul said that a husband who loves his wife loves himself.

When Paul talked to leaders in Jerusalem, he was not intimidated by them. He had a healthy self-respect. Notice:

"But from those who seemed to be something—whatever they were, it makes no difference to me; God shows personal favoritism to no one." See **IF WE REALLY WANT**, page 5



Tina Engelbart responds to critics in last *Journal* issue

The writer is a member of the United Church of God.

By Tina Engelbart

DALLAS, Texas—First of all I would like to thank all who commented, pro and con, on two articles containing my views on the biblical role of women that appeared in the February 2012 issue of *THE JOURNAL*.

[See "Church of God Member Says Bible Doesn't Prohibit Women Elders Including Preachers" by Dixon Cartwright and "Was There a Woman Minister in the New Testament Church?" by Mrs. Engelbart in issue No. 148 of *THE JOURNAL*, dated Feb. 29, 2012.

[See responses to those two articles in the next issue, No. 149, dated May 31, 2012. Four editorials commenting on Mrs. Engelbart's views began on page 3. Two letter writers

commented on page 2. Mrs. Engelbart responds here to three of the editorials and one of the letters.]

It is my desire to have a respectful dialogue on the subject of women in the church, especially because there has been so little study done in the Churches of God since the 1950s.

A lot more research material has become available since then, but

because of various occurrences in our churches—splits, etc.—the subject has been allowed to lie fallow, even though it affects more than one half of the church and by

See **WE NEED TO GO**, page 30



Tina Engelbart

When you're out and about on the Web, stop in at

The Journal
News of the Churches of God

We're right where you'd expect us to be, at www.thejournal.org

Children of a giraffe are giraffes, so what are children of God?

Continued from page 1

was taking away their Christmas story, but, no, I was saying just open up your Bible and see that there's not a single wise man ever mentioned at the manger. They [the wise men] eventually came later, and we don't know how many. It wasn't necessarily three.

Secret of the destiny

THE JOURNAL: Obviously a lot of people did like *Shocked by the Bible* because it became a best seller on Amazon.com.

Mr. Kovacs: Yeah, in fact the week before it came out it hit No. 1 in three Amazon categories. There's a hunger out there for accurate Bible information.

THE JOURNAL: There's a famous New Age book called *The Secret*. Did the buzz over that book influence you to name your book *The Divine Secret*?

Mr. Kovacs: Not really. I had a bunch of titles in mind for my next book, and I just kind of whittled them down with friends and family members. Also playing a part was trying to find an Internet-domain name that was available.

The theme that I was trying to go with for this book developed out of *Shocked by the Bible*. A lot of people are simply not aware of the awesome destiny of human beings, why we were created. I touched upon it in *Shocked*, but I decided it's worth a whole book to explain it.

Our awesome destiny is summed up in *The Divine Secret*. The Bible itself declares it has a secret that's been hidden since the beginning of time.

All, or at least many, of the people in the Bible are trying to reveal the secret. In fact, Paul says he was chosen to explain the secret to everyone.

Secret salvation information

THE JOURNAL: But why would the Bible not openly disclose the information in the first place? Why isn't the information to do with salvation more obvious throughout the Bible?

Mr. Kovacs: Well, it is obvious to people who have a desire to look. Open up the Bible and read the words on the page and it tells you the information. The problem is that people don't have a desire to read all of the Bible.

Many Christians out there know a few verses, like John 3:16, which [New York Jets quarterback Tim] Tebow champions [by writing "John 3:16" in eye black] on his face.

But there are other verses out there that people just are not aware of, and if you bring these verses out to them sometimes they're stunned, saying how come I've never heard this or seen this verse in the Bible, or I read over it and just never really realized it means what it says.

The Bible does mean what it says, and it says what it means. The secret is there for people who look. If you're not looking for it, not looking for the actual truth of God, you're going to miss it, or you're going to be distracted with the diversions in life.

The key that unlocks the secret

THE JOURNAL: You mentioned on page 22 the first key to unlocking the divine secret. What is that key?

Mr. Kovacs: It's knowing who and what God actually is.

THE JOURNAL: The way you worded it on page 22, it's Jesus as the Creator.

Mr. Kovacs: Yes. There are many

people out there who assume Jesus was just a baby boy in a manger who was the Son of God but that He made his first appearance in the manger 2,000 years ago.

The first key to help unlock the mystery of the divine secret is to come to know that Jesus is the Creator, the one who said let there be light. When you understand that Jesus has existed forever, along with God the Father, and that Jesus is the God of the Old Testament, the Bible opens up to you.

At creation there was more than one person in the heavenly realm, this divine family. It was Jesus who did the creating. He's the one who later came down to the earth to save His own creation.

What if Jesus is not God?

THE JOURNAL: I don't know how familiar you are with the Churches of God, which are my audience for my newspaper, but a minority of Christians in the COG movement are so-called unitarians. They believe that Jesus is the Son of God, the sinless sacrifice, but they believe He is not God and not the Creator.

Does that belief, if accurate, negate the plan of God as you see it?

Mr. Kovacs: The plan of God is that

going to be made up of flesh and blood anymore. We're going to be made up of spirit, because flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God.

We're not going to be floating around on a cloud doing nothing forever. We're going to be ruling and reigning on the throne of God. This is what the Bible says, and I take it at face value.

Just what do you mean Christian?

THE JOURNAL: You have a section, beginning on page 124, about the government of God. Then a little later you write that Christians today, throughout their lives, are in the day of judgment.

Who would you say are Christians? How do you define Christian? Is everyone a Christian who professes to follow Christ? Who are the official followers of Jesus?

For instance, is Mitt Romney a Mormon a Christian? How about Rick Santorum as a Catholic? How about Barack Obama, who says he is a Christian?

Mr. Kovacs: I can't say that anybody is a Christian. That's between them and God. Just because somebody says they're a Christian does not mean they are.

In fact, Jesus says there will be many on judgment day who say Lord,

Anybody and everybody who is truly following God and has the Spirit of God in them is a Christian. I'm not going to say who's going to be raised in the first resurrection.

God is reproducing. He's having children and raising them to be in the family of God. We are called children of God all throughout the New Testament, sons of God. God is having many sons and daughters.

Think for a minute: What are the sons of a giraffe? They're giraffes. What are the children of cats? They're cats. What are the children of God? They're Gods. They're going to be in the God family.

THE JOURNAL: Did you just now say they're Gods plural or they're God singular?

Mr. Kovacs: Well, they're Gods.

THE JOURNAL: Plural, okay.

Mr. Kovacs: These aren't my words. The Bible says you are Gods. It says that in the Bible twice. It's in Psalm 82:6 and John 10:34 if you want to refer to it.

Part of the Godhead?

THE JOURNAL: So then we will be part of that God family. Rather than a Trinity or some other configuration, we will be like brothers with Jesus at that time, even perhaps more so than we are now.

Mr. Kovacs: Right.

THE JOURNAL: So is it proper to say we'll be part of the Godhead?

Mr. Kovacs: Well, it says we're going to be in God's family, the brothers and sisters of Jesus. The phrase "of the same family" is used in the Bible. We will be above the angels, judging the angels and judging the citizens of this world.

Jesus said we're going to be sitting down on His throne, which is the throne of God, just as He sat down on His Father's throne.

All through the Bible it talks about the glorious divine destiny. We're not

Lord, didn't we do all these miracles in Your name, casting out demons in Your name? And He will say get away from Me, you evildoers, you breakers of God's law. I never knew you.

The people who are Christians are the people who have God's Holy Spirit dwelling in them and are being led and following the truth of God.

THE JOURNAL: And you're also not saying that any particular person is not a Christian?

Mr. Kovacs: Right. Anybody and everybody who is truly following God and has the Spirit of God in them is a Christian. I'm not going to say who's going to be raised in the first resurrection.

Sabbath and grace

THE JOURNAL: I searched for the word *Sabbath* in your book and could not find it. I searched for *grace* and could not find it in the sense of the theological discussion about law and grace. What are your views on the law including the Sabbath and the other Commandments and on law and grace?

Mr. Kovacs: I think I do mention in the book that we are saved by grace.

THE JOURNAL: Yes, you do. I'm just saying there's not a discussion there about the law vs. grace.

Mr. Kovacs: The law does exist. It was created by Jesus Christ. He followed the law. He said that not the slightest bit of the law is going to be taken away. The people mentioned specifically who will not be in the Kingdom are murderers and liars and fornicators, and those are all violators of the law.

If people think they are going to be in the Kingdom in the first resurrection while they are breaking the law, especially intentionally, they have another think coming.

God is not interested in people who are not interested in following Him. Our whole life is a test to see if we want to walk in His way or not. This is not really a religion; it is a way of life.

Is the Sabbath a test?

THE JOURNAL: You mentioned the word *test* in the Churches of God tradition. Maybe I'm playing devil's advocate here: There is a tradition that the Sabbath is a test Commandment. How would you comment on that?

Mr. Kovacs: Well, the Sabbath is one of the Ten Commandments, and I think it is a sign. The Bible actually states that it's a sign. The Sabbath stands apart to acknowledge who the Creator really is. The very fact that we have a seven-day cycle every week is a testament to His creation.

We are supposed to rest on the Sabbath. If we're not supposed to murder people, we are also supposed to honor and observe the Sabbath.

THE JOURNAL: I assume that by Sabbath we're talking about the seventh day.

Mr. Kovacs: Yes, the seventh-day, Saturday Sabbath.

Sin defined

THE JOURNAL: What is your preferred definition of sin?

Mr. Kovacs: Sin is the breaking of God's law. He has spelled out His laws, and if we break them we are sinning, especially if you know what the laws are and you intentionally break them.

Jesus' main message is knock it off, folks, stop it, because I want to give you life. I don't want anybody to die. So stop this sinning business. Stop breaking My laws and get with the program.

Planet of the walking dead

THE JOURNAL: So you would say that we're not born into physical existence on earth as God's children. Rather, we're born as separate from God, and the Christian journey is one of striving toward and hopefully becoming attached to or integrated with God, with the divine.

So would it be correct to say we're separate from God until our conversion as a Christian?

Mr. Kovacs: Oh, we're not separate from God. We're kind of a prototype. God is creating us in phases. We're in the form and shape of God. We look like Him. God has a head and torso and arms and fingers and feet.

We look like Him, but we are not complete. We have our character properly developed to become part of God's family.

Jesus says unless you repent you will all likewise perish. So we are a planet of the walking dead. Unless you give your life to God and cut out the sin, you are going to be dead forever.

You ever see the show on TV called *The Walking Dead*?

THE JOURNAL: No, I haven't seen that.

Mr. Kovacs: It's on AMC. It's about a zombie apocalypse where everybody gets some sort of bug and they're zombies walking around. The people who are trying to survive are called the walking dead.

We are the walking dead right now. We have only a certain number of years of temporary existence, and unless we repent we're going to be dead forever.

No point

THE JOURNAL: So you're also implying that, if we're the walking dead, our existence right now is fairly meaningless.

Mr. Kovacs: Well, if you don't stop the sin, yeah. I don't want to say meaningless, but there is no point in it, and God will not give you eternal life unless you repent.

The Bible is an easy book. It's a book of life vs. death. It's as simple as that. Follow God and God will give you life.

With every thought that goes into your mind, God is testing you and reading your mind and seeing if you want to obey His way or not.

Reading the Bible at 14

THE JOURNAL: A little bit of your history: I think you said something about age 14 was an important year for you.

Mr. Kovacs: I never really read the Bible until age 14, even though I grew up in a Christian household. I started reading it and was personally shocked by the Bible. I was stunned by the information there.

Some of what I read in the Bible I had heard throughout my childhood or seen on TV, but much of it was the

exact opposite. The more I read, the more I found was different than what Americans typically believe.

For example, there were not just two of every kind of animal in Noah's ark. There were seven pairs of the clean animals, 14 of some kinds of animals.

It started as a factual search more than anything. I just got interested in it because it was so different. I wasn't on a mission to disprove anything or get into people's faces. I wanted to know because I did not know the Bible, so I was starting from a virtual blank state.

Sabbatarian Christian

THE JOURNAL: When did you become a Sabbatarian Christian? How did that happen?

Mr. Kovacs: I think around age maybe 17 or 18 I started observing the Sabbath, at least acknowledging that it was there.

THE JOURNAL: It was on your own, then, apart from the rest of your family?

Mr. Kovacs: Yeah. When I first read the word *Sabbath* in the Bible, I had no idea what it meant. It's not a word that is generally used in society. Even in a dictionary like Webster's you read the definition and it's confusing.

Bible courses

THE JOURNAL: Do you have formal training in theology or biblical studies? Did you go to school to study some of these things? How did it all happen?

Mr. Kovacs: Well, in high school and college I did have courses in Old Testament and New Testament, and those really helped me. I am not degreed in any of that. Because I was so interested in the Bible, I wanted to take those courses just to help me know who the players were, the characters in the Bible.

I know some people go to colleges and get all kinds of degrees in theology and all that, but that was not me.

Hungarian isn't easy

THE JOURNAL: Did you study journalism? Is that how you ended up as an editor and writer?

Mr. Kovacs: It was one of the things that I studied. I took courses in radio and television broadcasting. I started off in radio for 10 years and got to the network level and then jumped to television.

I ran television news stations as managing editor and then I moved to Europe to become special-projects editor for *The Budapest Business Journal* [www.bbj.hu]. I had to learn to speak Hungarian. It's not an easy language.

THE JOURNAL: I'm sure that looks impressive on your resumé.

Mr. Kovacs: I did that for a while, then came back to the United States and worked at a TV station, and then I got frustrated with TV because in TV news it's always the same story every day: who shot who, who stabbed who, what's the weather today.

So I got onto the Internet with WND starting in 1999 at the last of the millennium and have been there ever since just cranking out news on a daily basis.

I'm a news junkie. I just love covering whatever the news of the day is and reporting stories that people might not otherwise hear of. My two passions are news and the Bible.

WND is 15

THE JOURNAL: Your offices are in the D.C. area?

Mr. Kovacs: Right. Just outside of Washington, D.C., but we say it's Washington. WND started in Oregon 15 years ago. This is our 15th anniversary. They moved me out to Oregon when it first started.

We have a bureau in Jerusalem. I don't know if you've heard of Aaron Klein.

THE JOURNAL: Yes, I have.

Mr. Kovacs: He's our bureau chief in Jerusalem.

We shortened our name this year because people sometimes can't spell World Net Daily. It's similar to CNN formerly being Cable News Network, then changed to CNN.

See **AUTHOR OF NEW BOOK**, page 5



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Author of new book reveals the divine secret of the Bible

Continued from page 4

No denomination

THE JOURNAL: Are you a member of a particular denomination or congregation?

Mr. Kovacs: I'm a Bible-believing Christian. I don't have any denomination. The people of the Bible didn't have any denomination. They worshiped Jesus Christ, Yeshua. That's what I do.

THE JOURNAL: Do you regularly fellowship with any particular groups or individuals on the Sabbath?

Mr. Kovacs: I have fellowshipped with fellow believers but no denomination or official group or anything. I try to do it just like they did in the Bible.

I know there are people especially in the Churches of God who have big congregations and smaller congregations. They have buildings or sometimes they rent places.

Maybe 1,000 home fellowships

THE JOURNAL: I would say most Church of God congregations that were once part of the Worldwide Church of God are small home fellowships, the majority of them.

You don't hear much about them. They don't necessarily have a Web site or a name, but we can nail down about 350 large enough to have names or Web sites. But I figure there are at least 1,000 groups counting the home fellowships.

Mr. Kovacs: I think it's better to meet in small groups just like they did in the book of Acts. They met in their homes. Those people were on fire for God.

It's strange in our modern way of thinking that people think they need to go to a certain building and follow a certain formula or worship standing up, sitting down, that kind of thing.

I don't have anything against that if people want to do that. But following God is an everyday thing, a 24-7 thing. You don't just turn on the God switch and say now I'm going to be godly and then turn it off and go back to your normal life.

We have a divine destiny, and this is the divine secret: that we're literal offspring of God. The Bible says we're His children. We're going to be children of God, made up of spirit, ruling and reigning forever on God's throne with Jesus Christ of Nazareth.

I think knowing about our destination answers so many questions about the events of this life, that we are indeed being trained and tested and prepared for this wonderfully fantastic, glorious, sublime destiny that would blow people's minds if they just knew what was actually intended for them.

People have contentions

THE JOURNAL: I've been publishing my newspaper since 1997, the same year WND started. I worked with a church paper called *In Transition* for a couple of years before that.

One of the things that you notice when you publish a church newspaper for going on 16 years is just how contentious some of the groups and people can be.

A lot of the contentiousness has to do with doctrine. It's Christians vs.

other Christians. That's not just Churches of God. It's a characteristic of conservative Christianity as a whole.

When differing interpretations of the Bible meet, sometimes there's a metaphysical explosion.

How can Christians of slightly varied theologies and opinions live peacefully with each other? Do you have an opinion on what would be the key to that: living peacefully with not only fellow Christians but with members of other religions as well?

Mr. Kovacs: Well, basically we are to love God and love our neighbor, just like Jesus says: Love your neighbor as yourself.

If somebody believes something the opposite from what I believe, I don't have any problem with that. God hasn't yet flipped a switch in their mind. We should treat everyone with respect, no matter what state they are in, whether they're a Christian or something else.

It doesn't matter who they are or what they believe. We are meant to care for one another and love our neighbor as ourselves.

But I know what you're talking about, that people have contentions whether they're among Christians or other faiths.

Friends for decades

THE JOURNAL: They disfellowship each other. They excommunicate each other. People who've been friends for decades won't talk with each other because of differences of governance and doctrine. It happens all the time.

Mr. Kovacs: I know. It's like what is going on in the world. I mean, people have to get over themselves. A lot of people are on ego trips. They say I have the truth and you don't. That makes me special and you're not special.

No one has 100 percent of the truth. We are all searchers for the truth, and

The proof of the Bible

THE JOURNAL: You mention on page 2 that the reason you can know the divine secret is that you can open up the Bible, read the words on its pages and actually believe them.

There's a discussion going on in my newspaper and elsewhere in the Churches of God on the nature of the Bible. Herbert Armstrong wrote a book back in 1958 called *The Proof of the Bible*, and he attempted in that booklet to prove the Bible is what it says it is.

I reread his booklet recently. I don't think he succeeded in what he was trying to do. That's not to say the Bible is not what it says it is, but I don't think he proved it.

To your own satisfaction, you have come to believe the Bible is what you believe it is, but how do you know it is the inspired Word of God?

Believe it and try it

Mr. Kovacs: I think if you put it into practice you will come to that conclusion. You will see changes in your life, and the promises of God that are made in Scripture will come to fruition. It's something that has to be tried. You have to believe that it's true and try it.

It's obvious that if you break God's laws—for instance, if you start murdering people—you're going to have problems in your life. You start stealing from people, you're going to have problems in your life.

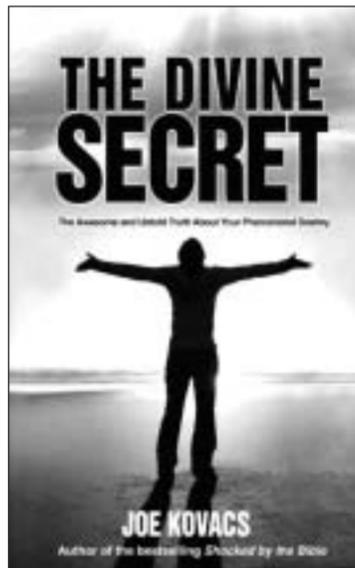
But if you are obeying God's laws you will notice that things tend to get better. You won't be hauled off to jail or have jealous spouses come after you, that sort of thing.

Steps to examine

THE JOURNAL: I agree that the Bible has principles that if followed will bear good fruit. But that's still a ways from

example. Fulfilled prophecy is one of the key things that help people realize that the Bible is the Word of God.

Those prophecies were made hundreds of years before those things happened. They were actually telling his-



tory in advance, telling news stories before they happened.

Tulsa public event

THE JOURNAL: You made a personal appearance in Tulsa, Okla., a few years ago. Some friends of ours from up there wrote us an article about it. Do you accept invitations to speak to groups?

Mr. Kovacs: That was the first time that had happened and it was two years after *Shocked by the Bible* came out. Somebody said, hey, Joe, I just read your book. You want to come and speak? I did and like 300 people showed up, which kind of stunned me. It was a public event.

'You asked me questions that I'm sure other newspapers would never get into.'

we can get along as we seek God and seek his truth.

THE JOURNAL: You would say it's possible to live in peace whether it actually happens or not?

Mr. Kovacs: Oh, definitely. There's no reason why anybody has to have any animosity toward any other human being. There is something called forgiveness. You're entitled to your opinion even if I don't happen to agree with it.

THE JOURNAL: I assume you would say we can still have lunch together. We don't have to avoid each other.

Mr. Kovacs: Oh, definitely. Jesus had lunch with a lot of people. He spent time with prostitutes and tax collectors.

You can speak God's truth to people, and if they don't agree they don't agree. If they don't agree, you can still be nice to them. There's no reason to have your hands around their throat looking to strangle them.

believing that every word is infallible, that every word is inerrant.

It seems to me that's another step up from believing there are good principles in the Bible and that if you follow them you will be blessed.

How can a person, say a conservative Christian, know for sure that the Bible is the inerrant, infallible Word of God, or is that something you've thought about? I didn't see that exactly in your book.

Mr. Kovacs: You can go through a process of steps to examine each thing. For instance, study Bible prophecy and see if the claims made by Bible prophecy have come true. In many cases they have come true.

You go across the Christian spectrum and find people who have looked at the prophecies of Daniel and say all these kingdoms have come as they were prophesied to. That's just one

THE JOURNAL: I remember it was covered as a major story in *The Tulsa World*.

Mr. Kovacs: I don't consider myself a public speaker because I think I'm a better writer than speaker, but I won't rule it out. I think maybe on a case-by-case basis.

The birther controversy

THE JOURNAL: You folks at WND are at the center of this whole birther thing.

For our readers' benefit I'll mention that birthers question the authenticity of a birth certificate President Barack Obama released to news media and claim that since his father was not born in the United States he is not constitutionally qualified to be president.

How is that for you? Is reporting on news of the birther movement something you enjoy doing?

Mr. Kovacs: As a news profession-

al, I'm stunned that the rest of the news media is not jumping on this, and I have my suspicions why.

If Mitt Romney or Rick Santorum or Sarah Palin issued a potentially forged birth certificate—and we have a law-enforcement investigation going on with Sheriff Joe Arpaio of Arizona saying there's probable cause that this is a forged document—we'd never stop hearing the end of it.

As a news professional I'm just investigating facts. We're going to report on controversial news stories irrespective of what the rest of the media does. If they're going to be asleep at the switch, let 'em sleep.

If it turns out that there's nothing to this, so be it. But so far the more we probe the more it looks like there's something to this.

From Connecticut to the world

THE JOURNAL: Where are you from originally?

Mr. Kovacs: I'm from the Northeast, raised in Connecticut mostly. My career has taken me all over the world.

THE JOURNAL: You want to mention your contact information?

Mr. Kovacs: My public E-mail is jkovacs@wnd.com. My Web site is www.thedivinesecret.com.

Unusual questions

THE JOURNAL: Is there anything else I should have asked you?

Mr. Kovacs: You asked me questions that I'm sure other newspapers would never get into because you're familiar with the Churches of God.

But I just want to stress to people the amazing destiny that we have. I just want to emphasize that this message is for all people. It's not just for people in the Churches of God. God is Creator of all mankind, and we're actually created in the God kind.

God wants us to be in His family, and He's trying to raise obedient, loving children—just like every family on earth has kids and they're trying to raise obedient, loving children.

It's no secret. It's in the Bible. It's in the Bible what the secret is. It's an open secret, the divine secret.

I would like to mention a special feature of *The Divine Secret* that is unique to this book: Every personal comment from God appears in red letters, even if it's from the Old Testament.

Many Bibles have red-letter editions, with Jesus' words in red letters, but in *The Divine Secret* every word of God cited in the Old Testament as well as the New Testament is in red letters.

The red letters make the words of God just jump off the page.

Contact Mr. Kovacs

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See also "The Public at Tulsa Church of God—Sponsored Lecture Hears Astonishing Facts About the Bible," *THE JOURNAL*, issue No. 141, dated Aug. 31, 2010.

If we really want to control someone, whom should we control?

Continued from page 3

man—for those who seemed to be something added nothing to me" (Galatians 2:6).

Three problems

At this time let me mention three problems that arise when people do not understand boundaries or when people misapply boundaries.

■ When people try to establish boundaries for other adults, they often try to control other people.

■ When people allow other people to establish boundaries for them, they often allow other people to control them.

■ When people don't establish boundaries for themselves, they often do not control their own actions.

When Dr. Cloud and Dr. Townsend wrote their book, they listed part of their advice as follows: "When to say yes, how to say no, to take control of your life."

■ "What Does a Boundary Look Like?"

■ "Boundary Problems."

■ "How Boundaries Are Developed."

■ "Boundaries and Your Friends."

■ "Boundaries and Your Spouse."

■ "Boundaries and Your Children."

■ "Boundaries and Work."

■ "Boundaries and Your Self."

■ "How to Measure Success With Boundaries."

■ "A Day in a Life With Boundaries."

Additional books

Since the original publishing of their book in 1992, the authors have written other books on the subject.

At this time I want to mention two of their recent books.

In 2010 Dr. Henry Cloud wrote a book titled *Necessary Endings*. Part of the purpose of the book is listed as "the employees, businesses, and relationships that all of us have to give up in order to move forward."

In 2011 Dr. John Townsend wrote *Beyond Boundaries*. Part of the purpose of that book is listed as "Learning to trust again in relationships."

When people allow other people to establish boundaries for them, they often allow other people to control them.

Following are summaries of chapters of the book.

What are boundaries?

There are six chapters under the heading "What Are Boundaries?":

■ "A Day in a Boundaryless Life."

■ "Ten Laws of Boundaries."

■ "Common Boundary Myths."

Boundary conflicts

There are seven chapters under the heading "Boundary Conflicts":

■ "Boundaries and Your Family."

■ "Boundaries and God."

Developing healthy boundaries

There are three chapters under the heading "Developing Healthy Boundaries":

■ "Resistance to Boundaries."

Circular reasoning is a problem, but the alternative is unthinkable

Continued from page 3

JOURNAL including Dixon's amazing compilation of so much material, one is struck by the passion with which the writers who take Dixon to task—Mike Baran, Gordon Feil, Ken Westby and Wes White—make their points.

However, may I offer this: Inadequate information is not absent.

I noted with interest that one writer states that the Hebrew word in Daniel 9:24-27 (the famous 70-weeks prophecy) for "weeks" is *shavuot*, and it is not. The word is *shavuiim* and, as the lexicons all tell us, it means not "weeks" but "heptads," an undefined period of seven. It turns out to be 70 years in this context.

Jesus was a canon person

Then, on the question of canon, I was amazed that one had to read deep into one long article to arrive at the critically important first consideration in any discussion of canon.

This is the precious words of Jesus in Luke 24:44, where He shows Himself to be a staunch canon person, defining the limits of the Hebrew Bible from which He worked.

The same Jesus said that "the Scripture cannot be broken."

Jesus operates as one who is firmly based on the identifiable canon of Scripture. It would be incredible to think that God ceased to work that way and left us without a canon for the final word spoken to us in His unique, virginally begotten Son.

In fact, Hebrews 1:1-2 says just that: God spoke in the past in various ways and through various persons, but "at the end those days" spoke to us in a *son*."

Did God leave us no record of what He said to us in that *Son*?

Dixon is right to challenge circular reasoning as proof of the validity of the canon and the Bible. But if you don't know what Jesus said for sure, then you cannot follow Him. It would be better to say I am not a follower of Jesus if I can't know what He said for sure.

That would be *unthinkable*, and so we have the NT canon, finishing appropriately with Revelation.

I was perplexed by the writer who spoke of an open canon, Alex Ciurana.

Who, pray tell, would be worthy to be in that canon? It would lead to a hopeless subjectivism and further dis-

played on a space unlimited by white lines.

God *must* have revealed His will in a determined text, just as Jesus, the sinless lamb, defined the limits of canon in Luke 24:44: the law, prophets and psalms (standing for the writings, well known to Jews as the sacred writings of the Hebrew Bible).

Jude would be dreaming if there is no "faith once and for all delivered to the saints" that we can put our fingers on.

How can we be judged by the words of Jesus (John 12:28) if these words are not available? How can the Great Commission be carried out if apostolic teaching and the teaching of

the Armstrong theology is far more deeply entrenched than they imagine.

There is a world of good study outside the confines of HWA. I noted, for example, that one writer in answer to Dixon's canon article said that the Roman Catholics would never have put together a canon that opposed their own Friday-Sunday teaching.

The point was self-evident to the writer that Jesus was killed on a Wednesday—but not to thousands of learned expositors over the past 2,000 years. Luke is dead set against anything other than the Friday-Sunday scheme.

Luke 24:21 celebrates the third day

It is an illusion to suppose that just a *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance* and a good heart are always sufficient. Teachers have their place (and they will be judged more severely if they get it wrong), and teachers need education and exposure to the wider field of Bible study.

My impression from what I read is that rather little reading outside the Bible and *Strong's* is going on. Why not the excellent *Word Biblical Commentary* as well, or the amazing *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*?

Many resources out there

The amount of information on Bible words has expanded hugely, and there are many good resources available.

These are my impressions for what they are worth. Teaching the Bible in a classroom as well as much public speaking, radio, videos, etc., is instructive, and I am thankful for that opportunity.

Sir Anthony Buzzard joined the WCG in 1957 and attended Ambassador College, Pasadena, graduating in 1963. He taught English and directed the Pasadena church choir until 1965. He later taught at AC in Bricklet Wood, England.

He left the WCG in 1972 when various scandals were emerging and then taught modern language at the American School in London. He returned to the United States and taught Bible for 25 years at Oregon Bible College in Illinois, which moved to Georgia and became Atlanta Bible College.

He earned diplomas in oboe and piano from the Royal College of Music, London.

Sir Anthony, a citizen of the U.K., succeeded to the title of Baronet of Munstead Grange on the death of his father in 1972.

He earned master's degrees and diplomas from Oxford University, the University of Jerusalem, the University of London and Bethany Theological Seminary.

Sir Anthony's books include *Our Fathers Who Aren't in Heaven: The Forgotten Christianity of Jesus the Jew* and, with Charles Hunting, *The Trinity: Christianity's Self-Inflicted Wound*.

See Sir Anthony's Web sites at restorationfellowship.org and 21stcr.org. Find videos of his lectures by searching on "Jesus is still a Jew" on YouTube.com.

If one has no canon of Scripture, no biblical, theological enterprise is even possible. God MUST have revealed His will in a determined text, just as Jesus defined the limits of the canon in Luke 24:44.

unity, as if the present chaos of disunity, even as exemplified by those in Dixon's *JOURNAL* circle, were not enough.

Be careful

There are signs in *THE JOURNAL* that all is not well. Ken Westby's gentle "Be careful" admonition is appropriate, I think. If one has no canon of Scripture (and remember that Peter in 2 Peter 3 speaks of Paul as canon), no biblical, theological enterprise is even possible.

You cannot play chess if there is no edge on the board, and soccer is not

Jesus are unknown?

Thus the issue of canon is very, very important.

Inadequate information

My strong impression is that the information available to many is still inadequate. I say this after not being in the Armstrong circle for the past 42 years and having seen religion in many forms and having worked at the job of teaching, preaching and writing extensively on the Bible. (I never preached a sermon in all my 14 years with Herbert Armstrong but did teach English, French and Hebrew at AC and directed the Pasadena-church choir.)

I don't blame anyone here, but I suggest that a wider reading in theology would be highly beneficial.

What appears in *THE JOURNAL* at- tests to basically an Armstrong package. It breathes often the spirit of Herbert Armstrong, because that is the only theology and Bible study known to many of the writers.

In many cases the initial thrust of

as the predicted day for the resurrection. Luke counts as did Jesus, inclusively ("today, tomorrow and the third day"), and that third day in Luke 24 was Sunday.

The Jonah comparison, which is the anomaly, not the rule, can be dealt with by looking at Jewish idiom.

Bias against learning

One of the most regrettable falsehoods put out by Mr. Armstrong was that anyone with "learning" was a fool.

Now, certainly there are unbelieving scholars, but that is a very partial truth. When translations mislead, as they do in some passages because of bias, then a good knowledge of Hebrew and Greek is very important.

In the field of "who is God" and "who is Jesus," this is particularly important. For example, the KJV is very misleading and corrupt in some (few) passages, and the critical distinction between *YHVH* and *adoni*, (my lord, not Lord) in the stellar Psalm 110:1 is not to be found in *Strong's*.

Phoning or faxing *The Journal*

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Why would God allow unfaithful men to determine the Bible?

Continued from page 3

appoint them as judges who are of no account in the church? I say this to your shame. Is it so, that there is not among you one wise man who will be able to decide between his brethren, but brother goes to law with brother, and that before unbelievers?" (NASB).

God would not allow outsiders

Since the church was ordered not to let outsiders act as judges in church matters or personal matters between church members, it would be even worse if the church relied on outsiders to determine the canon of the Bible itself. God would not allow that.

Quite frankly, there does not seem to be a true church anymore. If there ever was one, it must have died out long ago. The Churches of God cannot be it, because, if God's true church still existed in this age, it would not need to get the scriptures it uses from apostates.

Does any Church of God member really think that Satan led his churches to get the correct Bible? Do they think that God would lead Satan's churches so they would get the correct Bible?

God does not lead Satan's church-

es. God has no fellowship with Satan: "And what concord hath Christ with Belial [the devil, NLT]? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?" (2 Corinthians 6:15).

What makes sense?

Are we to assume that Satan's ministers just somehow happened to get it right on their own, with no inspiration from God, which happens to be lucky

Would Satan do the job right? No. Would God allow His true church to be beaten down so small and scattered so widely that He had to turn to Satan and Satan's church to preserve the Holy Scriptures? No.

Having started with faithful men, why would He not continue in that same fashion? God does not change. He is the same yesterday, today and forever (Hebrews 13:7, NASB).

passing them off as the works of Peter, Paul and other church leaders (2 Thesalonians 2:2).

Where were the true servants?

Of the many writings that were out there, which ones, if any, were written by true servants of God? Study the history of how we got the Bible and it becomes clear that the decision of which gospels and epistles to accept

Bible, does that perhaps make them Protestants?

One could look at it this way: The COGs are those who follow the Protestant Bible (keeping the Sabbath, etc.), and the Protestants are those who have that Bible but don't really follow it (keeping Sunday, etc.).

Protestants are Protestants

But following the wrong teachings more diligently than others does not make one the true church. The Protestant Bible is still the Protestant Bible. It did not come from faithful men.

This does not mean the Catholic Bible is any better. Catholic scholars are not faithful men either.

None of the COGs can prove they got the Bible they use handed down to them from the previous eras of God's church, or that previous eras of the true church decided which books are in the Bible the COGs use.

The COGs don't even claim they got the Bible from the true church, and they have overlooked the scriptures that show that it is the only proper place to get it. So they did not get it using the Bible method of preserving it through faithful men.

Where are the faithful men?

So where are the faithful men of God today? I cannot find them. There don't seem to be any.

Nobody really knows much about what the early church actually taught because we cannot trust the sources of information.

Now, could someone please tell this to Rod Meredith, David Pack, Gerald Flurry, Larry Salyer, Ron Weinland, Fred Coulter . . . ?

Having started with faithful men, why would God not continue in that same fashion? God does not change. He is the same yesterday, today and forever (Hebrews 13:7).

for us, because God had no other plan to preserve it through faithful men?

Or are we to assume Satan's ministers got the right books from the true ministers even though they were writing their own false gospels and epistles?

None of these things makes any sense. Would God let Satan's churches, controlled by Satan, decide which books are the Word of God? No.

There were many false gospels and false epistles in circulation at the time of the early church. Ministers and other members were falling away from the true church even in the time of Peter and Paul (Galatians 1:6).

In fact, some fell away even while Christ was still with them (John 6:66). False teachers were working overtime writing false gospels and epistles and

were made by apostates, not by faithful men of the true Church of God.

But, some will say, Jesus said He would be with His disciples until the "end of the age" (Matthew 28:20).

Well, what age? Maybe that age ended a long time ago. What age He referred to is subject to interpretation. Don't assume the COG interpretation is correct.

When was the church age?

In other words, either there never was a true Church of God or the church age ended long ago, probably in the 1st century.

In either case the Churches of God that exist today are merely another part of the system of Satan's false churches because they are really just following apostate leaders whose teachings led to the founding of the Catholic and Protestant churches.

Since the COGs have the Protestant



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Connections: Member to Member

Issue No. 138

PUBLISHED BY THE JOURNAL: NEWS OF THE CHURCHES OF GOD

July 27, 2012

Hallelujah! Company's comin'!

By Darlene Warren

BIG SANDY, Texas—So much to do, so little time.

Time really isn't much of a factor, though. Nothing major in my house gets done anyway unless we're expecting company. I can know two months in advance that we will be having house guests and I will wait till the week before to decide that the guest room needs to be repainted.

But that's okay, because I can get more work done in the week prior to house guests arriving than I can all summer. I know. I've done it.

Spasmodism doesn't help

I like to think of it as a motivational system. Why waste an entire summer trying to complete a particular project when you could get twice as much done in half the time just by sitting back and relaxing until the last minute (so to speak)?

Erma Bombeck, bless her kindred soul, once wrote in one of her newspaper columns that her children never knew what a cold zipper felt like.

I can relate to that. I tend to iron an article of clothing immediately before wearing it. And the problem is?

Only one as far as I can tell: that man in the background going spasmodic on me. I handle him by suggesting he go cool down the car because I'll be there momentarily and I don't want to sweat in my freshly ironed blouse. You know, he has never driven off without me.

I'm not saying that this system is without its faults. You most likely will lose sleep during that last week, and you might become slightly cranky (according to some family members).

But look at it this way: You will be stressed for only one week rather than

two months. It all works out.

I don't mean to point fingers, but, bless their hearts, when it comes to time management, in my experience, invariably Northerners and other foreigners seem to think they have everything under control. (We Southerners know better, but we patronize them because that's who we are.)

But have you noticed they're the ones who like to "organize" and "deputize" and "scrutinize" those of us who are actually doing the work?

Working out

I've got company coming in two days and I still have to remove painter's tape in the bedroom, finish mulching the

flower beds and paint the porch.

I would really like to paint the front door, but that might be pushing it. I haven't decided on a color, and our paint stores down here don't stay open all night.

First time for everything

Oops! Got to go. I heard a car pull up outside. Surely my company would've called if they decided to come early. I've got to get that ladder out of the house without anyone seeing it. (Just because my system works for me, I'd hate for people to think I was unorganized by waiting to the last minute.)

Never mind. The car wasn't pulling up. It was pulling out. He left without me. Oh, well, there's a first time for everything.

Still, no stress. I'll just call him on his cell phone and give him the lot number for the porch paint. It all works out.



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Is the Law of Moses the Law of God?

Is the Law of Moses the Law of God? Generally speaking the Churches of God think they are the same. Why?

Abraham obeyed the Law of God (Gen 26:5). Did Abraham obey the Law of Moses? Abraham never tithed to Levi and he never offered his sacrifices on the altar by the Tabernacle of God. These were both required by the Law of Moses (Lev 17:3-4, Deu 12:5-6, 13-14, Num 18:24). So, even though Abraham obeyed the Law of God, he didn't obey the Law of Moses.

Does the Law of God allow people to be hard-hearted? "He said to them, Moses, because of the hardness of your hearts, permitted you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so" (Mat 19:8). The Law of Moses made concessions for the hard-heartedness of the Israelites. Does the Law of God allow people to be hard-hearted? Is there a place for hard-hearted people in God's kingdom?

If the Law of God and the Law of Moses are the same, there must be! (This particular example is quite disturbing considering many of the

Churches of God allow that members may divorce when adultery is involved. This is exactly what Moses allowed. Those who allow that adultery justifies divorce perpetuate hard-heartedness, according to Messiah.)

With the New Covenant, God says, "I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people" (Heb 8:10). God's Law is written in the mind and heart of the believer so he/she will keep it (Rom 2:14-15, Deu 8:2). Is He controlling us or rather expecting Messiah's example to cause us to respond with obedience? In fact, He expects to write His Law in our heart with our own hand when we respond to Messiah's example and turn to His ways. If one doesn't clearly know the difference between the Law of God and the Law of Moses, how can one know that he/she is turning to His Law?

"O LORD, I know the way of man is not in himself; It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps" (Jer 10:23). Our best guess is insufficient. His Law and His ways will only come from His instruction. Understanding the distinction be-

tween the Law of God and the Law of Moses is vital to understanding the mind of God, how He thinks. For instance: He hates divorce (Mal 2:6). The Law of Moses is not the Law of God. Yes, the Law of God is included in the Law of Moses, but not all of the Law of Moses is the Law of God.

The average Protestant believes the spirit somehow just inspires them or somehow makes everything right. Can they tell the difference between their own way and the way of God? Can they then direct their own steps? Do those who go to church on the Sabbath always choose what is right? Is Sabbath recognition the only difference between the walk of a traditional Christian and those attending one of the Churches of God? There is more to knowing the Law of God and His ways than just respecting His Sabbaths or knowing His plan of redemption.

One may be closer in understanding than the average Protestant. One may think that he/she is rich and increased with understanding, but the Protestant roots of the Worldwide Church of God have not been shed until His Law,

as it was *from the beginning based on His word*, is understood and respected. Our best guess is unreliable.

Could this be why the church at Laodicea is criticized for being "poor, blind and naked"? Do you read "I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them" (Eze 36:27) but have little idea in which chapters His judgments and His statutes are concentrated? Do you hold to the traditional pre-1986 WCG belief that "We do not accept the statutes as binding law but, rather, appropriate to the culture"? Yet this scripture indicates the indwelling of the Spirit of God goes hand in glove with the keeping of His judgments and statutes. He gives His spirit to those who obey him (Acts 5:32).

Don't wait for someone ordained of men to look into this for you. Develop your own relationship with your Creator through an in-depth study of His word. Don't guess at what is important to the Creator. Begin to understand why David had to meditate deeply on His Law and never claimed a complete understanding.

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This page is part of CONNECTIONS: MEMBER TO MEMBER, the advertising section of THE JOURNAL

JESUS' DEITY AND HUMAN BIRTH EXPLAINED AND UNITARIANISM REJECTED

This article explains Jesus' original deity, which Unitarians deny, and how a God could have been born as Mary's physical son Jesus and live with his original God mind in a physical body. This article also explains how Jesus surrendered for all future eternity his former Self-existent deity and so leaving his Father as the only remaining true God (John 17:3)—see also my paper, P5, "The Bible Shows Jesus Was A Self-Existent God".

1. Jesus' original self-existent deity

Although paper P5 shows that Jesus was a Self-existent God, this can be also briefly demonstrated by these three points.

FIRST: Paul's teaching of Phil 2:5-7, when translated unencumbered with mainstream Christendom's influences as in the following, leaves us in no doubt over Jesus' original Self-existent Deity: "5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: 6 Who, when in God form, did not consider retention of equality with God, 7 But emptied himself, and took upon himself the form of a servant, and became the likeness of men" (Cp this with the KJV translation which is less clear).

SECOND: Hebrews 6:20-7:1-4 reveals that the Melchizedek who met Abraham, and who had neither beginning of days nor was then of any human descent, must have been the NT Jesus. He was not a created Being but was then still a self-existing God (article A12).

THIRD: In Hebrews 1:8 God the Father addresses Jesus as God with, "But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom".

2. Jesus' pre-existence

Incredibly some Unitarians insist that Jesus had no existence prior to his Bethlehem birth. This they base on Greek lexicon definitions for "to be born" and "to beget" precluding a rebirth

from a prior existence. Of course man's scholarship can not understand what God can do (1 Cor 2:9) but faithful students of God's Word take note of scriptures like John 3:13 and 16:28 which attest to Jesus' existence prior to his Bethlehem birth.

In John 3:13 Jesus told Nicodemus, "And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man, which is in heaven." The underlined phrase plainly declares that Jesus came down from Heaven and therefore Jesus must have existed in Heaven prior to his Bethlehem birth.

This is also clear from Jesus saying to his disciples in John 16:28, "I came forth from the Father, and am come into the world: again I leave the world, and go to the Father," and which reveals Jesus experienced the following cycle of events:—

- His coming from God the Father,
- And his coming into the world,
- Again his leaving the world,
- And his going to God the Father.

That Jesus existed prior to his Bethlehem birth is also clear from Jesus attesting to his former glory with his Father (John 17:5), his existence predating Abraham (John 8:58) and his recalling, ". . . I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven" (Luke 10:18), which occurred during Satan's rebellion prior to the creation of Adam! One wonders which Bible Unitarians read.

3. Incarnation and Resurrections explained

To understand how the mind of a God came to live in a man's physical body (incarnation) we need to first study a resurrection from our grave to spirit life as described for the first resurrection of Rev 20:4-6.

For this I will refer to a computer's "backup disc" on which the computer's data is copied to guard against loss should the computer fail beyond repair (i.e. die).

If God were to resurrect us from our grave without also restoring to us the contents of our former physical mind, then we would not recognize ourselves or know anything of our former physical life and so it could not be said that we live again. Only when God restores to us our former memories, hopes, fears, hates, loves etc will we recognize ourselves and truly live again.

It is similar when God resurrects the rest of mankind from the grave back to physical life in the second resurrection described in Ezek 37:1-14 and referred to in Rev 20:5. Their memories too must be restored before they will live again physically.

Therefore God needs to preserve for all mankind something akin to a computer's backup disc. In that context let us read Matthew 10:28 where Jesus warned, "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul (spirit or backup disc): but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell". Here "soul" (Greek psuche, Cp psyche!) denotes our "backup disc", which God needs to restore our life during our resurrection. Should God destroy this spirit (backup disc), then we can no longer be resurrected. Indeed let us fear God the Father, who alone has this power!

Jesus' birth from spirit God life to human physical life was the reverse of a resurrection from human physical life to spirit life. At some point God the Father must have transferred Jesus' former God mind to the empty physical brain of Mary's child. Then as the Son of man and Son of God the Father, Jesus could truly say, ". . . I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven" (Luk 10:18).

4. Jesus retained his original God mind

Only when we understand that Jesus surrendered for all future eternity his former Self-existent deity to become and die as our Passover Lamb can we understand the full

enormity of his sacrifice and the faith He had in his fellow God and Father to bring about his birth as Mary's child and later his resurrection from the grave back to his former spirit glory.

Since Jesus was also dead for 3 days and 3 nights, He is no longer a true Eternal Self-existent God. Although Jesus did retain his God mind, now only God the Father remains a true Eternal Self-existent God.

Therefore only God the Father could have named Himself to Moses by the all-capitals form "LORD" (Exod 3:13-15, Strong H3068); which literally means "The Eternal". As explained in article A13 the OT all-capitals name "LORD" never applies to Jesus because his eternity was interrupted by those 3 days and 3 nights in the tomb.

Let us note the enormity of Jesus' sacrifice. Not only his physical suffering but his surrendering for all time his former independent Self-existent deity to become and die as man's Passover Lamb and for ever more an obedient Son to his fellow God and now his Father.

Had Jesus not agreed to this sacrifice then God the Father could not have created Adam and Eve and we would not have received the breath of life.

Let us remember that:—

- A created Jesus can not be a sufficient atoning sacrifice for all sins of all mankind.
- Only the fullness of Jesus' sacrifice gave us the "incredible potential" to be born again into God the Father's Family as his literal spirit children and Jesus' younger siblings.
- During the 2nd-century A.D. the Unitarians were the first to depart from Apostolic Godhead teaching. Why return today to their false Jesus-denying scholarship?

The papers referred to above are freely available by writing to Henk Jens, PO Box 121, Belmore, NSW, 2192, Australia or at my homepage www.rightly-dividing.net.

Revelation 14

The key chapter we missed in understanding the End-Time

First, let's understand that the Book of Revelation comprises a series of visions given to the Apostle John, in exile on the Isle of Patmos—a series of visions that are not completely consecutive. Bullinger's 'Companion Bible' explains that they alternate throughout the book, between events that take place in Heaven and on earth, so the timing can overlap.

Revelation 14:1-5, 'Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His Father's name written on their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps. They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth. These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from among men, being firstfruits to God and to the Lamb. And in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault before the throne of God.'

This is the heavenly Mt Zion—Hebrew 12:22, 'But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels.'

Here are depicted the resurrected saints before our Father's throne, standing upon the sea of glass. Revelation 15:2, 'And I saw something like a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the victory over the beast, over his image (as we saw previously) and over his mark and over the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God.'

They now have their Father's name because they have married His Son, as the Bride of Christ.

What follows in this chapter is a quite separate vision, which pictures events that take place on the earth, culminating with the return of Christ to the battle of Armageddon at the very end of the last 7 years.

These are events which, when compared with and inserted into those in Matthew 24 and Revelation 6, completely flesh out the chronology of the last 7 years of this age, before the establishment of Christ's Kingdom here on the earth, something that the church has not generally understood.

Notice :

1. Verses 6-7 of Revelation 14, 'Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people—saying with a loud voice, "Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water." ' This, of course, is exactly the same message brought by Jesus Christ—the gospel of His coming Kingdom, and the need to repent. How will this message be delivered?—read our article 'Dreams and Visions' on our website. The 1st angel's message **begins the end of the age**—the final 7 years of Tribulation (Daniel 9:27, 'Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; but in the middle of the week he shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, even until the consummation, which is determined, is poured out on the desolate.') There will be no mistaking this event.
2. Verse 8, 'And another angel followed, saying, "Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication." ' The second angel's message announces the Fall of Babylon, not many months after the first angel flies. Babylon here is not the religious system of Revelation 17, which falls much later in the 7 years, as we know, but that geographical nation described in Revelation 18 which by the projection of her commercial and military power has oppressed the nations, feeding them a culture of sexual immorality and deviant lifestyles.

Britain first, and now America (Israel), have acted as Babylon. So are Ephraim and Manasseh, the descendants of the leading Tribes of Israel to be brought down by God for their sins only months after the first angel's message, which will shock the whole world. (Refer to the Time Chart of the series on the End-Time on our website for the time detail.)

3. The third angel, verses 9-13, brings the warning that when the world's policeman has been brought down, people should avoid worshipping the Beast who will then lead the emergent empire, which alone will be in a position to dominate and control the Western World. This will be the leader of the EU, probably a German, working in co-operation with a great international church led by the False Prophet.
4. The 4th angel's message, verses 15-16, is for Jesus Christ, who is pictured in verse 14. 'Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and on the cloud sat One like the Son of Man, having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle.' The harvest mentioned here is the **firstfruit** harvest of those saints, which were described in verses 1-5. They are resurrected, or if they are alive, changed, in the twinkling of an eye at **the exact time of the firstfruit barley harvest in Israel**. This event is the 6th Seal described in Revelation 6, and takes place exactly 3½ years before Christ finally returns from heaven with His Bride at the Feast of Trumpets. Notice that on Christ's **final** return with His Bride at the Feast of Trumpets, it is an angel who sounds, Revelation 11:15, 'And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.' However, at the resurrection, it is God Himself who blows the trumpet, Zechariah 9:14, 'And the LORD shall be seen over them, and his arrow shall go forth as the lightning; and the LORD God shall blow the trumpet, and shall go with whirlwinds of the south.' 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 'For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a

shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first.' This cannot be a Feast Day, Matthew 24:41, 'Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.' Notice that the resurrection takes place just after the 'tribulation of those days' and the heavenly signs, Matthew 24:29-30, the Sixth Seal of Revelation 6:12.

5. Verse 17. 'Then another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle.' The sixth and final angel, verse 18, explains that the iniquity of mankind is now fully ripe; that the fifth angel can cast them into the Great Tribulation of the 7th Seal which lasts for 3½ years and is called here the 'great winepress of the wrath of God,' culminating in verse 20, at the Battle of Armageddon. 'And the winepress was trampled outside the city, and blood came out of the winepress, up to the horses' bridles, for one thousand six hundred furlongs.'

These are the details that God told the prophet Daniel were sealed up until the time of the end—Daniel 12:9, 'And he said, "Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end." '

Only now have we reached that time, and God wants us to be prepared for the earth shaking and miraculous events of the 1st Angel, because most of God's people have fallen asleep spiritually, (Matthew 25:5, 'But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept.'). They have blindly followed the traditions of men and so completely missed the full understanding and significance of the important words "firstfruit harvest."

Now is the time to change our lives—to repent, for when that angel flies, there will be little time before Israel (Manasseh and Ephraim) falls. You need to know what God requires of you then; (Read our End Time Series 1-5) in order to understand how to play your part, for this is not something the Churches of God have taught and your future will depend upon it.

(THIS SERIES WILL CONTINUE)

<http://ozwitness.net/>

Click on the 'Media' tab for the Abib film about the Firstfruit harvest

A Lifelong Soldier in the Faith Has Fallen

Dear Brethren,
It is with great sorrow that I find myself needing to inform you, the body, that we have lost an amazing sister in Christ to death. Of course our personal loss is also our collective gain, for when the first trumpet sounds she will rise to meet her Husband in the air. Her walk in the faith started long before most of us took our first breath. Meg was a remarkable woman in many ways. Sitting and talking with her was

a lesson in history on so many subjects it would be difficult to pick out the one she had the greatest command of, for she was a storehouse of knowledge.

She learned early in life that she would have to cut her own path, with the assistance of God the Father and the Son. It has been an honor, pleasure, and an eye-opening humble experience to have known her as a person and as one who was a pillar in the household of God. Linda and Meg could spend

hours talking on the phone, often laughing with each other for much of it. Even though they were thousands of miles apart they talked of things like they lived next door.

Meg's last few years contained her greatest battles, and she held fast and endured through them all up unto the end. Her son in the faith (as she called him to Linda and me), Greg Ireland, faithfully kept the Sabbaths and Holy Days with her. It was always Greg and Meg on every appointed time of meet-

ing with God. We asked Greg to send us a narrative of her life so that we could blow the trumpet loud as to her journey. He has done so, as you will be able to read below. Some of you may remember some of it, for many years ago John Morgan put some of her memories and travels in life to paper. It is a story worth repeating in this age of selfishness and arrogant dominion in that which is often called the Church of God.

—Brian Convery

Margaret (Meg) McCormack, 1916–2012

Margaret (Meg) McCormack passed away on the 5th of July at the age of 96 years in Melbourne, Australia. Meg was born on the 25th of January 1916 to Marion McKay at Coyllon Woodside in the shire of Argyshire, Scotland. Her father, John McKay, died during World War I: killed in action on the Western front in 1915. Marion McKay suffered a mental breakdown and went to live with her father, Willie Young, on the island of Arron. Arron, along with the islands of Milport and Rothesy, is part of the Brute Shire at the mouth of the Clyde river and at that time belonged to the Duke of Montrose.

Meg's grandfather, Willie Young, was a farmer and lived at Lamlash. He was a Sabbath keeper who belonged to the Church of God. He raised Margaret, and she attended the Church of God which held services at Whiting Bay about three miles from Lamlash. Services were held on Friday evenings after sunset, Saturday mornings, and again in the afternoon. Members did not attend all three, but chose the time that suited them best.

The church was simply known as the Church of God, with members on all three islands. Also on the island were members of a United Church and Presbyterians who observed Sunday. There were no Catholics on the island, as no one would employ them. All business was closed on the Sabbath. There was one full-time minister, Ebenezer Muchie, and three elders who were not employed by the church. One was John McDonald.

The building where the congregation of about 200 met was made of sandstone and built with donated labour on a farm. Services consisted of songs, a sermon expounding the scriptures, and lasted about one and a half hours. The Passover was kept on the 14th, and the Night to Be Remembered was kept in individual homes. Unleavened Bread was observed, and homes were unleavened before Passover. Pentecost, Trumpets, Atonement (also known as the Fast Day), Tabernacles, and The Last Great Day were all observed.

However, no one travelled off the island to keep the Feast. Baptism was by immersion; unclean foods were not eaten; although some pigs were raised and sold to non-members. The only part of the pig used was fat used to grease boots. There was a saying, "That was all pigs were good for."

It was clearly understood that

man's destiny was to be born into the family of God at the resurrection. If one remained faithful, then one would be a son of God.

The church knew that Britain was Ephraim, the USA Manasseh, and parts of France Reuben, Holland Zebulon, Belgium Asher, Sweden Naphtali, and they believed Scotland to be Simeon. They also understood that Germany was descended from Assyria. The Catholic Church was the Great Whore of Revelation and the Pope was the False Prophet.

While they knew of other churches of God in the Ukraine, Scandinavia, Chile and China, they were unable to establish contact with them, as they wished to remain isolated. The church knew of Jeremiah coming to Ireland with two of Hezekiah's daughters, a harp of special significance, and King David's coronation stone. At that time there was a land bridge connecting Ireland to Scotland called the Giant's Causeway. Jeremiah walked over to Scotland and taught the people there. This was dismissed as myth by people outside the church.

A form of tithing was practiced. A member paid according to his resources and what he considered fair. There was no hard and fast rule. The money was put into a large wooden box in the church building on the Sabbath. The income was used to pay church expenses and to help the poor and those in need. There was no social security in those days. No money meant no food or medical treatment. The church members kept to themselves, considering the people on the mainland as deceived and "in the world."

It was in this environment that Meg grew up, accepting everything she was taught as truth. In 1934 at the age of 18 she married Hugh McKenzie, a church member 10 years older than herself. Hugh owned Auchenrowen farm, about a mile from the church at Whiting Bay. His whole family were church members. Hugh and Meg had six children. Hugh, Marion, Jack, Ann (1941), Mary (1946), and Avril (1948). It was a very unhappy marriage, as Hugh was an alcoholic. Meg was baptised in 1936 at the age of 20.

In 1949 Meg inherited 6000 pounds from a relative and left Hugh, moving to Loch Gilpead where there was a church of God with about 60 members. She met a member there, Duncan Turner, whose brother had migrated to Australia. Some years later, Meg

contacted him where he was living at Box Hill, a suburb of Melbourne. His name was Jimmy Turner. At the time, he was still keeping the Sabbath on his own, as he found no Church of God to attend.

About 1951, Meg divorced her husband, who subsequently died about 1953. She met Alexander Whemond McCormack, then working for British Electricity, after serving for 12 years in the Royal Navy, and surviving 14 ships being sunk beneath him during WWII. An astounding story in itself! She had known Alex for years and then they were married, having one son, who they named after his father. Alex (senior) then took a job in forestry preservation so he could be at home.

In 1959 they migrated to Australia, arriving in Fremantle on the 26th August that year. Alex was then employed by the Australian Broadcasting Commission (A.B.C.) and his job caused them to move to Shepparton, a town in north-east Victoria.

Alex was a Presbyterian, and Meg accompanied him to church on Friday nights for a while, but was not happy doing so. He left the Presbyterian Church after being told by a minister not to take any notice of the Bible except for the Gospels. Meg then just kept the Sabbath at home, until she heard Garner Ted Armstrong on the radio in the early 1960's, from what was then the Radio Church of God. They wrote for all the literature offered and started to tithe, and commenced the Bible correspondence course. Around 1967 they were visited by Bob Fahey, a minister in the church, and began attending the Worldwide Church of God at Ballarat, Victoria. In 1975 Alex was baptised for the first time and Meg re-baptised by Bruce Tyler.

As time went on, both of them became increasingly unhappy about the constant appeals for money and the hierarchical form of government; in particular, Herbert Armstrong's claim to be God's chosen apostle. Meg's two youngest daughters were also attending Worldwide. After Herbert Armstrong's death, the

church started massive doctrinal changes. By around 1990, both Meg and Alex had lost interest and confidence in the W.C.G. and stopped attending. In January of 1992 Alex died, which left Meg greatly distressed as it had been a very happy marriage.

Meg and her friend Lily Morgan started to look around for a church where they could still find the Truth of God. Both attended the Global Church of God for a short time, Meg only going twice. Then, hearing of the Christian Biblical Church of God,



Meg, Greg, and Linda in Meg's home in Melbourne.

they wrote for and received care packages, which they studied carefully. Meg attended the C.B.C.G. Feast of Tabernacles in 1994, her first in five years. Sadly, Mrs Lily Morgan's poor health prevented her from attending, and she died a few days after the Feast, aged 83.

Here were two elderly widows, with little or no money, who would not accept false teachings flooding into their church. Rather than accept them, they chose rather to risk losing all their friends of many years, and go it alone. This account of Meg's life up until 1995 was compiled by John Morgan.

The last chapter of Meg's life in the church began with the local upheaval of the C.B.C.G. in Australia. This occurred after the death of John Morgan (2000), who ran the Australian office. This upheaval caused a number of brethren to splinter off and meet in even smaller groups than previously, even as few as two on Sabbaths. Meg and myself (Greg Ireland) continued to observe the Sabbath together.

These events turned out to be a blessing from God. The C.B.C.G., as do many other churches of

God, have always strictly adhered to the calculated rabbinic calendar (C.R.C.). This calendar is not Biblically based. The month of Abib is the first month of God's year (Ex. 12:2; 13:4). The C.R.C. uses the seventh month, Tishri, as the start of the year. The breakup of C.B.C.G. in Australia gave greater opportunity and indeed need to study this matter.

The conclusion reached by Meg and a number of brethren was that Aviv barley determines the start of God's year in association with new moon visibility at Jerusalem. This was a major change in understanding particularly for a lady in her eighties. Meg gladly embraced this God-revealed truth.

Significant as this change in understanding was God, had not finished. The international dateline posed problems for brethren, who were wanting to keep God's appointed times. Those living on the globe east of Jerusalem, and west of the dateline, where Australia is located, have this world's calendar set one day in advance of that observed from Jerusalem.

Brethren wanting to keep God's Sabbaths correctly in Australia actually have to postpone one day to keep in sync with the holy land. The correct day for Sabbath observance is therefore Sunday in Australia. Without Sabbath keeping there is no sign between God and His people (Ex. 31:13), and working on the Sabbath leads to death (Ex. 31:15).

Once again Meg and other brethren embraced this truth. Meg was always tenacious in observing God's truth, as she understood it, not willing to compromise. She was always a generous and true friend to brethren and had a gritty sense of humour. Meg exhibited many of the qualities of the Proverbs 31 wife. She was someone for whom it was a privilege to know, and have as a friend. Sadly, the last four years of her life were spent confined in a nursing home, but her faith never wavered.

The words of Paul in Timothy 4:7-8 come to mind. "I have fought a good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith, henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day, and not me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing."

Also Ps. 116:15: "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints."

Yes, Meg, we will keep our kilts swinging!

—Brian, Linda and Crew

Professionals

All through life we are taught to look to the professionals in society for advice. Have a medical problem? Go to your doctor. Have a tax problem? Go to your CPA. Have a legal issue? See your attorney. Need your car repaired? Take it to the dealer so a certified ASE and Factory Trained mechanic can fix it. Professionals are the acknowledged experts in the field they are licensed in. Their testimony in the court of public opinion or court of law is considered above reproach. To contradict a professional you must have another professional of higher standing or iron clad, rock solid proof they are wrong.

But does the fact that most of society places near absolute trust in these people make them actually nearly infallible? Do the opinions or services they offer really deserve the high praise that is given them? What qualifies them as professionals? How do they reach the level they have in society? And, to the point, DO THEY DESERVE THE STANDING THEY HAVE? And secondly, even if they do deserve the reputations they have, should we place our lives in their hands without question?

First of all, let's look at the word. Some of the equivalent terms would be expert, qualified, proficient, certified, licensed, authority or specialist. Clearly, a professional is expected to be well studied in their field. They are expected to have a higher level of training and experience than the layperson or an amateur. How do they receive that knowledge? Typically they start their educational experience at a college or university. Some have to serve in the field under the direct supervision of another professional; i.e., medical students serving an internship.

The term also many times implies that the individual is licensed by some governmental agency, or has been certified as passing some set of standards as determined by a nongovernmental agency. These tests are required to prove that the individual has mastered his field of study. And that they are qualified to practice that profession without harm to the general public.

So you probably already knew this. I went over it because I wanted to make sure that we are all on the same page. That we all agree on the accepted premise that a 'professional' has a higher level of training, is responsible to a greater level than the average person, and this all has been verified by experts who can certify this individual is qualified to practice their 'trade.'

Notice I used the word 'practice.' Doctors 'practice' medicine. Lawyers 'practice' law. Most licensed or certified professionals 'practice' their profession. Let's look at the word 'practice.' Equivalent terms are do, perform, apply, carry out. But it also can mean rehearse, prepare, run through, try, attempt. Or it might mean custom, tradition, habit, routine, procedure or ritual. The word can mean a lot. We would like to think it means the first set of definitions. But the reality is that when a doctor makes a mistake, and his feet are held to the fire, his defense attorney will claim that the practice of medicine is just that, practice. Meaning that it is not an exact science. Some parts of it may be more certain than others, but the end claim of that defense will be that all humans are different to some extent, and therefore medicine has to be understood to be an inexact science.

If you start looking at all 'professions,' I contend that you will find that many, if not all, will make similar claims. Some, for instance the auto mechanic, have a much more defined field of expertise and we can expect more consistent results. After all, every 2005 Ford Focus, with the same options, will be built the same way, and should require the same service. BUT, since every one of them is not treated the same way, there can be differences in the repairs

that need to be made to them, requiring some subjective judgments to be made by the mechanic. How much more the case with a lawyer? Or even more by a physician? My point is that NO other individual can be TOTALLY sure of the best course of action any other person needs to take.

Using the example of the car again, let's say there is an intermittent problem. Maybe it stalls sometimes, but you don't know when this will happen. Your mechanic is going to try to get you to remember what the conditions were at the times that it stalls. He will be asking you about the history of the car: what has been done to it, who did the work, what kind of conditions it's driven in, etc. He is looking for some clues to lead him to the most likely conclusion on what could be the problem. He will most likely give you a set of options on what kind of repairs need to be done, or what kind of testing should be done. But the decision will be yours, because YOU will be paying the bill when he gets done.

Same with your doctor. Or your attorney. Or your Realtor. Any professional hopefully is going to give you their best opinion of what course of action you should take. BUT, IF THEY ARE ETHICAL, THEY WILL MAKE CLEAR THAT IT'S YOUR DECISION.

So why do we even bother going to the professionals if they won't 'guarantee' results? Because they have more experience than we do. Or at least they are supposed to. After all, you can't be expected to know as much as your doctor. Or lawyer. Or even auto mechanic. They spent years learning their trade. Just like you did with yours. So we DO trust them.

Unfortunately sometimes we find that trust is misplaced. My mother-in-law had a hip replacement some years ago. It caused her constant pain, and a year ago she finally went to a different doctor for a second opinion. The doctor she went to did X-rays and found that the original implant was not sized correctly. Her original professional that she trusted did NOT do the job correctly for whatever reason.

Every one of us has similar stories of professionals we have trusted to do work for us or provide opinions that we rely on to make decisions that,

take the Catholic faith. We don't accept many of the doctrines that they believe and practice. Most of us would agree that if we did we would jeopardize our opportunity for eternal life. But no one can reasonably argue that most priests of the Catholic Church have a LOT more training about the Bible than we do. The same can be said for just about every student of every faith's seminary program.

So, if these well intentioned people can spend sometimes an entire lifetime studying God's word, and according to our opinion still can't get it right, what makes us think we have a better handle on God's word and what He wants from us than they do? God's revelation. He clearly says that IF we are close to Him, He will open our minds to His word, and we can then see what He is saying. And He also says the opposite. IF we are NOT close to Him, He will close off His understanding of His word from our minds.

We know we need to use professionals in the physical aspects of our lives. We know we have to use some discretion, wisdom and advice to make sure we are choosing the right professional for the job. The reasonable assumption we, as humans, make is: I have to rely on a professional for spiritual advice as well. THAT'S WHERE WE CAN GET INTO TROUBLE VERY QUICKLY.

When I was in Worldwide, our local minister gave a sermon about this. He likened our thinking about using a doctor or lawyer to our thinking about coming to church. That's where the idea for this ad came from. He said that we trust a doctor, auto mechanic, lawyer, plumber or whomever to take care of our physical needs. We give them the problem, and they make it go away. He said that FAR too many of God's people do the EXACT SAME THING with their spiritual problems.

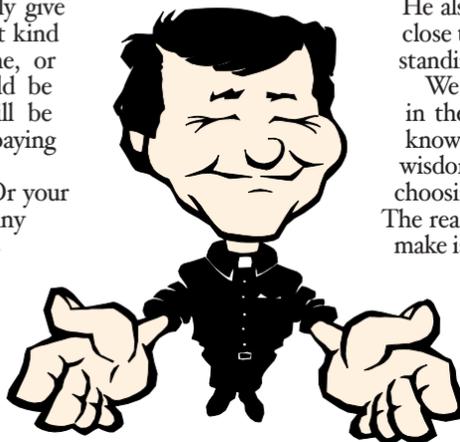
What I took from that sermon was that Church of God members were not so very much different from any other church members. That they would expect to come to the minister with problems and he could make some magical proclamation and, POOF, all their spiritual problems would vanish.

One of his points was that WE need to study God's word. We do NOT need to totally rely on a 'professional' to tell us how to worship or how to have a relationship with God. Unfortunately I think he was about 20 years ahead of his time. How many of you reading this rely on your minister to tell you what to think? How many of you follow your church's line and believe whatever the church says to believe? How many of you really DO search the scriptures as we are told to?

I hear and see MANY people say that they have studied this or that topic and have come to the exact same conclusion as their minister has. Well, have they? Or have they simply read their church's pamphlet or booklet on the matter, memorized the scriptures listed, and gone on their way? We have been told that HWA did all the hard work for us. He presented it all for us and encapsulated it in his last book, *Mystery of the Ages*. Mr. Armstrong did a lot of hard work. Mr. Armstrong did encapsulate HIS teachings in HIS last book. Was he a professional theologian? I'd say so. Was he right about a lot of things? I'd say so. Was he 100% infallible and ALWAYS right? Well, who did he pick to take his place?

Don't trust the professionals on everything. In carnal matters, or spiritual matters. Do your own research in besides just accepting what your church says.

Make your own decisions, because eventually, YOU (not your minister) will have to answer to God.



We do not need to totally rely on a 'professional' to tell us how to worship or how to have a relationship with God. How many of you reading this rely on your minister to tell you what to think?

over time, have proved faulty. Sometimes the professionals we have relied on develop such a bad reputation that they lose their standing in society. However, that is normally not the case. They might get a bad reputation in one market, but they may move to another, or be able to hide their mistakes. We've all heard that doctors bury their mistakes.

So we know we have to have professional opinions or work done in our physical lives. How about our spiritual lives? After all, there are men (and women) that have devoted their entire lives to studying God's word. Using the same reasoning, that we can't spend as much time and effort in studying as they have, it would seem reasonable to say that ministers and seminary graduates should be considered professionals.

I think we can all know thinking like that can be VERY dangerous to our spiritual life. For instance,

bill.hawkins1@gmail.com

Connections runs classifieds

CONNECTIONS runs classifieds: help wanted, for sale, pen pals, prayer requests and more. Send ads (including prayer requests and obituaries) to CONNECTIONS (see the address and more information in the box elsewhere in CONNECTIONS). You may also send prayer requests to Rosy Halley at 24 Jumilla Ln., Hot Springs Village, Ark. 71909, U.S.A., telephone

(501) 915-8843. Her E-mail addresses are prayerlines@sdcog.org and prayerlines@earthlink.net. As space is available, requests to Mrs. Halley will also be printed in CONNECTIONS each month.

When submitting prayer requests on behalf of others (whether you send them directly to CONNECTIONS or to Mrs. Halley), please do so with their permission.

Titles of Christ

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Adam	Everlasting	High Priest	Lion of Judah	Redeemer
Alpha and Omega	Father	Holy One of God	Lord of Glory	Savior
Bread of Life	Firstborn from the dead	Immanuel	Mediator	Seed of Abraham
Chief Cornerstone	Good Shepherd	King of Kings	Only Begotten	Son of God
Chief Shepherd	Great Shepherd	Lamb of God	Prince of Peace	Son of Man
		Light of the World	Prophet	The Word

Resources

Put excitement back into your Bible studies. (Free instructions on how to do a concordance Bible study with friendly, knowledgeable people.) Write to Paul Robinson, 10 Jackson St., Umatilla, OR 97882. Or Email: wildriverflowers@yahoo.com.

Virtual Church, Ken Westby, every Sabbath, 11 a.m. Pacific, 1 p.m. Central, 2 p.m. Eastern, (916) 233-0562, www.godward.org.

www.creators covenant.org, P.O. Box 1002, South Pasadena, CA 91030.

ICY, P.O. 208, Pochontas, AR 72455.

Jan Aaron Young, jan_aaron_young@q.com; articles: <http://23jan.spaces.live.com>.

The Ezekiel Watchman, P.O. Box 8819, Modesto, CA 95357, ezekielwatchman.org, (209) 772-0737 or (209) 524-1304.

Ministry Publications, P.O. Box 715, Cottonwood, AZ 86326.

Zwbrt89, P.O. Box 80338, No. 6833, Chicago, IL 60680, zwbrt89@yahoo.com.

Henk Jens, P.O. Box 121, Belmore, N.S.W. 2192, Australia. www.rightly-dividing.net.

Radio4Living.com, whatnextmedia.com, whatnext@pobox.com.

Art Mocarow, P.O. Box 1197, Montgomery, TX 77356, art@mocarow.com, www.GodsPuzzleSolved.com.

Building Bridges Not Walls, www.ReconciliationGroup.org.

The Church of God is not prepared, www.ChildrenofGod.net, P.O. Box 30332, Little Rock, AR 72260.

The Church of God Big Sandy, www.churchofgodbig sandy.com.

Personals

Widower, retired teacher, conservative, fit, longtime COG member, seeks single COG lady 50-62 for long-term relationship. Friendship first. Write Gordon Winkelman, 9571 E. 5th St., Tucson, AZ 85748. Pictures, please.

Free/trade

Free: About 20 copies of the Ambassador College yearbook, *The Envoy*, from the 1970s through the 1990s. I'm giving them away, but you will need to pay postage. Mrs. Clyde Mottin, 514 Milan Ave., Ravenna, NE 68869. Phone (308) 452-3340.

Pen pals

Sabbath-keeping Christian from India (68), would appreciate pen pals from all over the world. Hobbies: reading Christian books and literature. P.V. Henry, Pulickal House, Njaralloor Kara, Kizhakkambalam, Kerala-683 562, India.

Obituaries

Carol Ann McCauley Bosserman, born Nov. 7, 1961, died June 30, 2012, attended the WCG in Springfield, Mo., from 1963 until 1990 and in Fargo, N.D., and Minneapolis-St. Paul until 1995. She is survived by her husband, Mark Bosserman, and her lovely daughter, Larisa, her father, Jerry McCauley, an elder in Springfield in the WCG from 1968 to 1995. She is also survived by her sister, Patti, and her brother, Doug. Rarely in life does one meet someone with Carol's sense of style, grace and class. Her beauty was outshined only by her warmth, honesty and kindness. She was the consummate entertainer and chef. If you ever had a opportunity to come to a party at her house, it would never be forgotten. She was loved by all who knew her, and she will be seriously missed but never forgotten. I thank God for the 22 years with her, and my only regret is not having her around for the rest of my life. Mark Bosserman, mb912e@msn.com.



Carol Bosserman

Funeral services for Mrs. Lela M. Fisk were July 15, 2012, at Gladewater Memorial Park near Gladewater, Texas. Mrs. Fisk died July 12, at Hill Country Memorial Hospital in Fredericksburg, Texas. Lela was born in Lake Village, Ark., on Aug. 21, 1925. She was married in 1943 to John C. Fisk of Sterling City, Texas. She was baptized into the Body of Christ in 1955 and dedicated her life to the raising of her sons and gave countless hours of service to the church, elderly and needy. In 2005 she moved from Gladewater to the Texas Hill Country to be near her sons, where she lived until her death. Lela was preceded in death by her husband, John C. Fisk, and grandson Micah Shane Jones. She is survived by her three sons, Jack, Noble and Robert; eight grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.



Lela Fisk

Obituaries

"For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 'Death is swallowed up in victory' . . . Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 15:52-57). § James Lee Moran died on June 18, 2012. Born August 1932 at the family's Watsonville, Calif., farm, Jim later attended a one-room schoolhouse. As a young man, Jim considered becoming an architect, but after a personal meeting with Frank Lloyd Wright he redirected his energies. § Jim served in the National Guard and as an Air Policeman in the U.S. Air Force. He continued public service as a police officer (for 14 years) in Hayward, Calif., but, after being called into God's church, Jim left the police force and worked in construction. He attended WCG services at Oakland, Calif. (Dennis Luker was his pastor). § In 1968 Jim became director of security for Ambassador College, Big Sandy, Texas. § Jim met Laura Mae Johnson Daniels during church services on the AC campus. They were married in 1974 at the Feast Administration Building at Ambassador College. Dale Shurter performed the ceremony. § Jim's love for God the Father and Jesus Christ was the foundation of his personal and professional life. He earned degrees in law enforcement and criminal justice and psychology and a master's degree in psychology from the University of Texas at Tyler. Jim used his God-given gifts as a servant leader to help many people in his profession as a psychotherapist. § Jim attended and ministered at the Church of God Big Sandy. He also taught psychology at area colleges (including a brief time at Ambassador). He served as staff psychologist at the Sabine Valley MHMR Center in Longview, Texas, and for many years helped those in prison as a psychologist with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice at Skyview Psychiatric Unit in Rusk. Jim was in private practice at American Counseling and Testing Services in Tyler, for over 20 years. § Jim was a loving, devoted husband and the patriarch of his family. Among those who love him and miss him are his wife of almost 38 years, Laura; children Tim Moran, Laura (Ian Ashley) Judelson, Michele Voyce and Cindy Wright; his daughter-in-law, Bert, and sons-in-law Brian, Jason and Rick; grandchildren Jessica, Joshua, Sarah, Casey, Randy, Renee and Katie; six great-grandchildren; his Aunt Winnie; and stepsiblings Sally, Monty and Irene. Jim will also be missed by his many friends, patients and colleagues. He was preceded in death by his father, Warren Lee Moran, stepfather Don Adams, and mother Irma Beck (Moran) Adams. § A memorial service was held at the Church of God Big Sandy. Our gratitude and appreciation go to Mr. Dave Havir, and all our church family who made Jim's memorial service a comfort and blessing to his family.



James Moran

Obituaries

Denzil F. "Dan" Thayer, 83, of 11 Paulson Rd. in Farmington, N.H., died June 21, 2012. Dan was born Oct. 11, 1928, in Andover, Mass., the son of Lawrence Senter and Eunice (Sellers) Senter. Dan was adopted when he was 13 in 1941 by Fred I. Thayer. He lived most of his life in Farmington, where he attended school and was a graduate of Farmington High School, class of 1948. § Dan joined the U.S. Navy in August 1948 and went through boot camp at Great Lakes Naval Training Center. He graduated from Machinist Mate School in January 1949 and was assigned to the USS *Foss DE 59* in Key West, Fla. Dan served on the *Foss* during the Korean War as a 2nd-class MM petty officer. He was honorably discharged in August 1952. He was employed by Gray's Petroleum for a short time. § Dan was a member of the Farmington Fish and Game Club. He served as vice president with President Everett Emerson. Dan was also a member of American Legion Post 72 in Alton. Dan enjoyed playing golf with his friends at the Farmington Country Club, where he was a shareholder. § Dan married Frances E. Hutchins of Cornish, Maine, in Aug., 1953. Dan worked in shoe factories as a side laster in Farmington, Rochester, Exeter and Epping. For a short time he worked at Van Kuran's Machine Shop in New Durham. In his mid-40s Dan started Thayer's Window Washing Service, retiring after 25 years. In his later years Dan served a small Christian Biblical Church of God house church in Penacook. § He was predeceased by his wife, Frances, whom he missed very much. He leaves a daughter, Debra Walker, and husband David; granddaughters Ashley Moffitt and her husband, Brian, and Heather Skanse and her husband, Eric; and great-grandsons Mark and August; all who live in Farmington on Paulson Road. Dan also leaves behind sister-in-law Carol McGarigle and her husband, Jay, of Maine; a half-brother, Richard Senter; cousins Jim and Bill Sellers, Connie Vail, Donnie Littlefield; and many other cousins.



Dan Thayer

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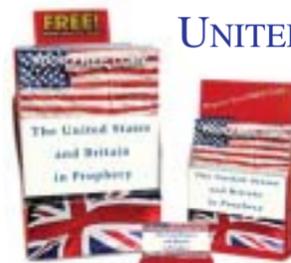
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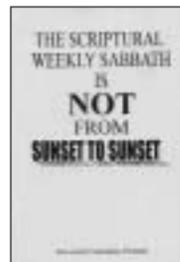
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Now and New World Order

Part 17

Shadow Government (2009)

By Grant Jeffrey about governments spying on their own citizens: RFID tags monitor movement of people and items purchased, one step removed from implanting microchips in humans, and that has begun. Are these chips the Mark of the Beast?

All-Seeing Eyes: The United Kingdom had the most surveillance cameras before 911, but increased them so 4.2 million watch now so a citizen is on camera 500 times a day. Claimed to fight crime, but criminals will find places not watched, and those monitoring may be bored, focus on things more personally interesting. Better lighting prevents crimes 7 times more than monitoring. Many cameras also record sounds, and some speak so the watcher can warn. Even citizens can tattle on their suspected neighbors because some of the video feed is available on TV—as 1984.

US corporations watch more than other nations' companies, even in bathrooms. Employee keystrokes are recorded to check on their productivity, and their rating among other employees posted. Their phone calls are recorded. The ACLU claims criminals have more rights than some employees, since police must get a court order to eavesdrop on a suspected criminal. Sun Microsoft CEO Scott McNealy claimed "privacy is dead, deal with it."

Google archives your Internet surfing, and this data can be bought by anyone. Searches for your friend's father's troubles as Alzheimer's may be construed later as looking into your own problems by a boss who accesses this data and so denies your job application. Items you buy and your medical tests can be known by anyone at a price.

Cameras can be so small they are not noticed. Industrial espionage conducted better with them or cell phones recording, including pictures. If you try to keep your privacy too much with encryption software, you will alert others you are trying to hide something.

Smart credit cards can provide high security with chips retaining 173 distinct traits of your iris. And your iris can be scanned several yards away, as the movie *The Minority Report*. Voice recognition software can detect your distinct voice. A machine can puff air over the back of your hand to detect 30 of your unique body odors for ID.

About 90% of companies have been hacked by spy ware. Switzerland, due to its neutrality, was trusted for its encryption software Crypto AG and purchased by many companies of nations. But the NSA of the US and Germans had embedded a key so they could read secret government and company data during 50 years of the Cold War. US demanded nations or firms wanting our financial or military support had to use Crypto AG.

Email and Internet activity are permanently recorded. Too many think what they post on a newsgroup is deleted shortly. The Internet was begun by DARPA and continues the surveillance of Echelon, monitoring all communications. Even once-secret FBI files can now be bought. [Recently, con artists have copied people's voices and personal info on Facebook to trick their relatives into sending them money.]

RFID tags can be embedded in any product to track them, and companies do not have to say which ones. Even IBM warned "The widespread use of RFID tags on merchandise such as clothing would make it possible for the locations of people, animals and objects to be tracked on a global scale—a privacy invasion of Orwellian proportions."

Most all global transactions are recorded electronically, so 97% cashless. Japan and the European Union plan to embed RFID in their currencies. A criminal with a reader device could see which person is carrying the most cash. RFID embedded smart passes allow cars on toll ways to pay without stopping.

The US government promised in 1932 it would not use Social Security numbers for national ID, yet they are used for driver licenses. China spent \$6 billion for adoption of RFID for its 1.3 billion citizens, to record even reproductive history, religion and landlord identity.

An RFID card can be inconvenient, lost, stolen or damaged. RFID implants are already used for pets and livestock. Some humans have it for medical reasons or security jobs.

Analog cell phone calls can be intercepted by criminals with radio scanners. Princess Diana and Prince Charles were embarrassed by private calls intercepted and made public. High tech shops sell scanning devices so any-

one can hack digital encryptions. Cell phone users can already be tracked to within 400 feet, as long as the battery is working. O.J. Simpson found this out when fleeing.

Even identical twins with the same DNA have unique fingerprints. Now high tech devices can more easily read fingerprints despite dead skin, aging, dry or oily condition. Subtle signs or micro-expressions can reveal in a tenth of a second that a person is lying. Detected by a trained person (as TV series *Lie to Me*). Devices can detect heart rate and temperature at a short distance for clues.

Each person's voice can be identified and tracked in various calls. A person's call can be terminated, and a substitute call and duplicate voice activated so the person called does not know the difference. And he can be located in a few seconds (not 30). Echelon was kept secret until it was found out that embassies in foreign nations were used to monitor there. US Echelon monitors all communications with 120 satellites and translates 70 languages. UK's Menwith Hill station allows US to check on fiber optic cables from Europe.

Star Trek weapons: Russian Virus 666 sends to a computer screen a subliminal and pulsed pattern that can induce a trance-like state in the computer operator. Some buses and cars with Iraqi insurgents were melted when a new weapon was used, like a flamethrower with lightning. Most of the scene was bulldozed by US forces within hours to cover up the evidence, but molten metal was found, and fibrous mounds—apparently the tires. Metal Storm delivers 500 shots in .03 seconds, so can ward off missiles. Thermobaric Rifles fire a bomb over an enemy that can be triggered for distance so its fire sucks the air out of anyone who survived the blast. A large version called Bunker Defeat fights those in caves.

[Washington DC has started an ID card for its school children retaining face scan and fingerprints for the CIA and NSA. A student must have a thumb scan or no lunch. ABC News called it *Finger Food*. Back packs or bags kids use must be see-through. School security police harass them.]

Most conquering empires allowed defeated nations to keep their own ways, but the Roman Empire required its laws, religion and language to dominate, replaced by Roman law and culture. So hundreds of years after it, modern nations still retain much of its form of government, language (Romance languages), culture and laws (as the US, even with Latin terms). Mussolini tried to re-create the Roman Empire, joining with Hitler.

FBI chief Hoover said "The individual is handicapped by coming face to face with a conspiracy so monstrous he cannot believe it exists. The American mind simply has not come to a realization of the evil which has been introduced into our midst."

Turning Solomon's Key (2006)

By Freemasonry expert Robert Lomas: George Washington founded DC on Masonic astrology. "The layout of Washington D.C. creates a massive Masonic symbol." He made astrological notes in his diaries and pasted in pages of the *Virginia Almanack* showing star charts and rising of Morning Star-Venus.

Francis Bacon believed astrology affected weather and plagues. Elizabeth van Buren wrote that his secret plan was followed. That "The design for both the Great Seal of the United States and earlier, its flag of the colony, indicate they were inspired by those with esoteric knowledge . . . Masonic."

Masons as Washington kept the solstices of summer and winter [which later morphed into Christmas and Independence Day]. Masons meet on a fixed day each week, so when keeping these feasts they meet on the day closest to the solstice. The first 3 degrees of Masonry depict the sun's location on the two solstices and an equinox. "Masonic ritual says that the positions of the officers of a Masonic lodge represent the movements of the sun."

Richard Carlyle wrote "The key to the mystery of Freemasonry . . . is the worship of the sun as God . . . Astrology, gypsy fortune telling, Modern Freemasonry, [Islam, mainstream] Christianity and Judaism have sprung from and are so many corruptions of the ancient mysteries of the Pagans." [Mystery Babylon.]

"The Masonic temple was built to allow the light of the Bright Morning Star to shine into it as a sign of divine approval . . . George Washington laid out the focal points of the capital city

of the newly created United States according to the principles of Masonic astrology."

"[Millionaires do not use astrology, billionaires do]."—J. P. Morgan. Going through the 32 degrees of the Scottish rite, Masons worship pagan gods of Egypt, Persia, India, Greece and Babylon. The 17th degree is accessed by the password Abaddon (Rev 9:11) to give him entrance at judgment day to the Masonic great architect of the universe god, Satan.]

Communion with the Gods (2005)

The Pagan Altar of Freemasonry by Greg Durance (see online): "Masonic authority, Allen E. Roberts wrote *Symbolism is the lifeblood of the Craft* . . . It is the principal vehicle by which (we are taught) *Masonic philosophy*." Likewise, Albert Mackey stated "In *Freemasonry, all the instructions in its mysteries are communicated in the form of symbols*." (Traced back to Egypt.) [As the images on US national buildings.] Pike wrote that the lower degrees were intentionally deceived, they were told the symbols meant something nice [as US patriotic symbols].

Sexual Meanings of Masonic Symbols: Former 33° Mason James D. Shaw told that the Square and Compass refer to male and female parts joined in a fertility rite, as sun and earth. Also symbolizing god Baal and his consort Astaroth or Easter, Queen of Heaven. "Degeneration into worship of the creation (Num 25:1-3; Rom 1:18-27)."

Occult Meaning of 5-Point Star: "Upright position of one point up means Lucifer as morning star, goodness and light. Inverted position means evil and darkness, man's sensual nature or Satan." [Both bad!] The former's deeper meaning is creation or male generative principle or organ of nature, as the 5 points are head, arms and legs. The latter is symbol for the female version, the Eastern Star for female relatives of Masons.

Of equal importance is the Hexagram or 6-point star [as on the Israeli flag, it symbolizes 666 a number of ways] that J.D. Buck wrote in *Mystic Masonry* is another form of compass and square (fertility act). Also called the Seal of Solomon. But of the Solar Man, Sol-Om-On (sun god in 3 languages). "Mackey wrote: *The Phallus was an imitation of the male generative organ. It was represented usually by a column which was surmounted by a circle at its base, intended for the female generative organ*." The Masons' Washington Monument represents phallic worship, an obelisk for the sun god. [Amid a circle of 50 US flags (not state flags), each standing for the sun, so 50 intensifies the effect. The obelisk and circle matches the Vatican's.]

From my article Semiramis as Star

Quotes from other writers: "The 5-pointed star [is] a powerful symbol of Satan (2nd to the hexagram) sacred symbol of Nimrod . . . the pentagram is the star of Venus or Lucifer . . . At dawn Venus is called the Morning Star and also the god of war . . . used by nearly all murder machines of the world, standing militaries. Generals wear this star on their shoulders for they sacrifice the most blood of young men to Lucifer." So the patriotic star of nations is really for Satan. The Fraternal Order of Police logo is a 5-point star, with Eye.

US military symbols and logos use dragon: as Dragon Warrior (joint-effort warfare), Dragon Eye (infrared cameras), Dragon anti-tank missile systems, unmanned Dragon aerial vehicles, Dragon Runner scout robots, Dragon Skin ballistic vests, Dragon Fire mortar systems. The Marine Corp Warfighting Lab has the logo of a Green Dragon like Godzilla, not as enemy but as the spirit behind US assault.

After Franklin's proposed flag of a 13-part snake, other newspapers used snakes in their mastheads to represent the US. The coiled rattlesnake of the Gadsden flag says *Don't Tread on Me!* as does the Culpepper flag with elongated snake on 13 red and white stripes. In Washington's first inauguration, the Gadsden flag waved. So snake, All-Seeing-Eye, sun or stars refer to Satan as transformed angel of light (tries to act that way to deceive). Add moon and cross, all interchangeable symbols of Lucifer, light-bringer. Satan's stars are used in rating excellence as for generals, hotels and movies. Two proposed US flags had the 13 red and white stripes plus the All-Seeing-Eye in the canton, but deemed too difficult to sew, so replaced by stars. And deemed too offensive, so hid as the Eye on the US Great Seal over 100 years.

Dan Rather is a 33° Mason who claims he may have the CBS eye tattooed on him. ABC

uses a sun disk, a symbol for the Eye. NBC's peacock has spots on feathers that resemble eyes, and the sun prism colors. Masons helped form Rotary Club and Kiwanis; also Shriners who give an oath to Allah.

US Congress 1977 flag book states "The star is a symbol of the heavens and divine goal to which man has aspired from time immemorial; the stripe is symbolic of the rays of light emanating from the sun." A star can refer to the sun so the sun rays match. Lucifer has set himself as the divine goal for man.

Net services of American Online, Illuminati Online and Juno.com feature Eye and pyramid. British M15 logo has the I above an Eye at top of a triangle.

The patriot Thomas Paine wrote in *Age of Reason, Origin of Freemasonry*: "Masonry (as I shall show from its customs, ceremonies, hieroglyphics and chronology) is derived of the religion of the ancient Druids, who like the Magi of Persia and the priests of Heliopolis in Egypt were Priests of the Sun. They paid worship to this great luminary as the great visible agent of a great invisible first cause . . . The Christian religion and Masonry have the same common origin, both are derived from the worship of the Sun." True that most all so-called Christians embrace idolatry of Sunday worship instead of following what is in the Bible accurately.

The Boy Scout goal of becoming an Eagle scout is idolatry since the official ceremony tells that the eagle use is from Ashur the sun god, or the Greek Zeus' favorite bird, or Roman Jupiter. Roman soldiers marched under the eagle standard, emblem of Caesar [the Beast]. The US and Nazi eagle is emblem of power and authority. Boy Scout founder Daniel Beard was a Mason using idols for Boy Scout symbols of fleur-de-lis, 5-point star, heart and eagle from worship of the Trinity—Nimrod, Semiramis and son. An abomination on the 'wings' of God's Temple (Dan 9:27) was the placement of an eagle statue on it by the Romans, signifying Roman rule over God.

Pamela Simpson on US civic iconography reported "[I began] studying the statues, painting and architecture of public and government monuments . . . most of these were graven images . . . patriotism becomes idolatry. The US Capitol building was modeled directly on the Pantheon of Rome . . . a temple to all the false gods. In the top of the dome is a fresco entitled the Apotheosis of George Washington." Placed among pagan gods, as Mercury financing US bankers. "Lincoln memorial is modeled after the Olympian Temple of Zeus."

An ex-librarian of Library of Congress wrote that "the Queen of Heaven in her manifestation as False Liberty as one of the prevailing spirits of our culture." Also told about Alabama's Vulcan statue 56 feet tall, 180 feet with pedestal, the largest cast iron statue in the world. She cites Richard Realf's *Hymn of Pittsburgh* that idealizes Pittsburgh iron products as inspired by Vulcan. Tubalcain is used favorably in Masonic ritual. *Mackey's Revised Encyclopedia of Freemasonry* states he is the Roman god Vulcan.

The New Colossus poem on the Statue of Liberty pedestal compares her with the sun god Helios, whose rayed-crown she copied.

666mark-of-the-beast.org

The pope is the little horn of blasphemy, claims himself vicar of Christ, later infallible. He did not want people reading the Bible; so worship was said in Latin that most do not understand!

More than 50 popes were atheists. "The history of popes records drunkenness, homosexuality, rape, murder, torture, adultery, incest, selling religious offices. Many popes have been labeled the most evil men in history." [Vehemently persecuting 'heretics' and doing Satan's bidding. Priests' sexual abuse of children is sued about in court.]

Ancient Babylonians wore an amulet to ward off evil gods with 6 columns and 6 rows each numbered 1-36, 666 total. The Mark of the Beast could include invisible marking of Sunday worship. "Of course the Catholic church claims that the change (i.e. Sabbath to Sunday) was her act, and the act as a mark of her ecclesiastical authority in religious things."—H.F. Thomas, Chancellor to Cardinal Gibbons.

"Sunday is our mark or authority . . . the church is above the Bible, and this transference of Sabbath observance is proof of that fact"—Catholic Record of London, Ontario, 1923

Pope Benedict spoke to nations and began an uproar referring to the Catholic Church as the Mother Church and called for her daughters to return to Her. As Martin Luther, a Catholic priest, started the Lutheran Church.

[Wikipedia on Mystery Babylon cites Rome as a city with 7 hills cited in some ancient writings before the book of Revelation. The Roman Empire persecuted Christians and destroyed the Temple and Jerusalem. So it was the Beast, and Roman Catholicism is the

Continued on next page

Now and New World Order

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

image of the Beast—its hierarchy based on the Roman model.]

Committee of 300 (see online)

By John Coleman: “300 men . . . direct the economic destiny of Europe [and the world].”—Walter Rathenau of General Electric 1909

“The Committee of 300 evolved out of the British East India Company’s Council of 300 which was founded in 1727 by the British royal family. For decades the British East India and Dutch East India Companies amassed fortunes from their opium trade with China and . . . they continue to wage phony drug wars around the world today.” [Claim to fight against illegal drugs, but actually profit. “The global drug trade is controlled and run by the intelligence agencies . . . as intelligence insiders know MI5 and MI6 control the other intelligence agencies in the world (CIA, Mossad, etc.)—James Casbolt, formerly of MI6”]

Coleman was an MI6 agent who exposed the NWO and the 300 who control populations. “The Committee of 300 is the ultimate secret society made up of an untouchable ruling class, which includes the Queens of England, Netherlands and Denmark and the royal families of Europe. These aristocrats decided at the death of Queen Victoria that in order to gain world-wide control it would be necessary for its aristocratic members to go into business with powerful leaders of corporate business on a global scale, and so the doors to ultimate power were opened to what the Queen of England likes to refer to as the commoners.”

“The Skull and Bones building at the Yale campus is called *The Tomb*. The imagery and décor inside the Tomb is of death and darkness, crypts, tombs, skulls, bones, blood, knives, swords, armor [and Nazi relics]. Inside the Tomb the Skull and Bones brothers [as the Bushes] annually perform their sexually promiscuous initiations. Ear-piercing screams are often heard from outside, and many say the Tomb radiates negativity that they feel physically. In April 2001 ABC News and the *New York Observer* filmed Bonesmen enacting mock throat-cutting rituals.” Yet the relative few number of Bonesmen dominate leadership.

“I never would have agreed to the formulation of the Central Intelligence Agency back in (19)47, if I had known it would become the American Gestapo.”—President Harry S. Truman

“Shortly after Operation Paperclip [to gain Nazi scientists and leaders for the US] came Operation Mockingbird during which the CIA trained reporters and created media outlets to disseminate their propaganda. One of Project Mockingbird’s lead roles was played by Philip Graham who became publisher of *The Washington Post*. Declassified documents admit that over 25 organizations and 400 journalists became CIA assets which now include major names like ABC, NBC, CBS, AP, Reuters, *Time*, *Newsweek* and more.”

New Temple and 2nd Coming (2007)

By Grant Jeffrey: Jesus said Gentiles would trod Jerusalem—as Islam on the Temple Mount? Presently, no Christian or Jewish worship is allowed there. Only the Sanhedrin can rule on Temple issues. It formed again in 2004. Dan 8:14 has sanctuary cleansed, so this 3rd Temple is cleansed after the abomination (idol sitting on Mercy Seat), and thus continues after that for awhile.

Huge cisterns under the Mount could hold a total of 12 million gallons and indicate where the Temple must have been. Jeffrey has searched many of the rooms under the Mount, an underground city to thwart attack. Jerusalem has been sacked 27 times. The limestone rock was easily carved, being soft, then with age hardened. An 11-mile escape tunnel was recently found.

Some original Herodian foundation stones 46 × 20 × 10 feet are exposed to view. Modern equipment could hardly transport such a stone from the quarry to the Temple about one mile. The east gate was found and is directly opposite a cupola to the west, called the Dome of the Tablets or Spirits. Also matches the *Mishneh Torah* that states the priest sacrificing the red heifer on the Mount of Olives could see the veil of the inner Temple.

Gold and silver are accumulated for vessels and building material. Levites are training as priests. A Copper Scroll found in a Dead Sea cave indicates where many Temple items were hid, as ashes of the previous red heifer, though

time has obscured the indicators. The anointing oil is now in possession.

Secret Societies and Infiltration into Seven Churches of Revelation

By John Daniel (2008): He claims USA is the Beast, and England is the Whore of Revelation. Satan had false teachers become the preachers. The Ephesus era warning of Nicolaitanes (Rev 2:6,15) means in Greek *to conquer the laity* [or victorious over the people]. A hierarchy was formed to control the laymen (not what Jesus wanted of the laity to choose their leaders), and those in charge interpreted the Bible. Also sexual license was allowed as in pagan religions.

Regarding the Pergamos era: “This time their heresy was called Arianism, which like all other heresies before them, denied the deity of Christ.” Claiming He was never God. [Denying such verses as “Before Abraham was I AM” (John 8:58).] Arianism was founded by Arius who claimed God created Jesus.

Pagan holiday fertility rites were called Christmas as Christmas for the winter solstice. And Easter [as worshipping the rising sun in the east (Eze 8:16)], a fertility rite with rabbits and eggs.

Daniel’s website of scarletandthebeast shows current Church of England head Rowan Williams wearing Druid garb [see other info there too]. Druid practices continued in the US.

Scottish Rite Freemasonry leads all secret societies. Its 4-33° degree initiation rites came from the Jewish *Cabala*. Albert Pike wrote in *Morals and Dogma*: “All truly dogmatic religions have issued from the Cabala and returned to it. Everything scientific and grand in the religious dreams of all the Illuminati is borrowed from the Cabala.” While Masonry copied the Jewish *Cabala*, most of its members are not Jews, but claim to be Jews. [So many non-Jew Masons claim to be Jews. Besides Ashkenazi Jews that are not Jews either, 90% of Jewry.]

There are only a relatively few number of ethnic or Sephardic Jews in Masonry and fewer still controlling it. *Life* magazine 10-8-56 showed a photo of Masons enacting the ritual of prospective Royal Arch Masons depicting priests and Solomon. Mackey’s *Encyclopedia of Freemasonry* states “Each Lodge is and must be a symbol of the Jewish Temple; each Master in the chair represents the Jewish King; and every Freemason an [impersonation] of the Jewish Workman.”

Noted confirmations: 1st note of danger in 1738 by Pope Clemens XII citing Freemasonry as the synagogue of Satan. Just 33 days after Albino Luciani was elected pope in 1978 he died. Investigation into his murder found over 100 cardinals and priests were Masons despite excommunication law against it. Masons told by the 33 days (33°) that they assassinated him and rule.

2nd, Roman Curia’s 1961 book *The Plot against the Church* revealed Mason infiltration and called the Scottish Rite the synagogue of Satan.

3rd, Ex-Masons say the same, as former 33° Scottish Rite Mason Jonathan Blanchard’s book *Scottish Rite Masonry Illustrated* states “every lodge is a synagogue of Satan and its ritual is sorcery.”

4th, from French Freemasonry recitation: The 30° initiate burns incense to Lucifer, the angel of light. The 31° initiate mounts the mystic ladder with Satan’s compact. The 32° initiate becomes prince of the Luciferian Secret and marches to avenge Lucifer. The 33° initiate becomes Pontiff of the Synagog of Satan.

The Scottish Rite was founded in Paris, France with 32 degrees. In 1801 the 33° was added and headquarters of Universal Freemasonry was founded in Charleston, South Carolina, and it leads all secret societies now. So Daniel claims Satan moved his seat to attack the growth of US Christianity that began to lead the world. In 1926 the Scottish Rite announced orders for Masons to infiltrate churches and revitalize them [actually lead them astray more].

So half the Masons in the US are Southern Baptists. Masonic symbols such as the compass and square may appear on the signs for church buildings, and Masons may meet there for their lodges, or female Masons in Eastern Star. Some Masons do good in distributing free Bibles in the Gideons.

General Douglas MacArthur was 33° and only had Masons as staff. He had one of them lead the Tokyo Lodge in the occupation of Japan, restoring Masonry there.

William Morgan tried to reveal Masonic secrets in his book, but knew they controlled the

press and civil offices. He was kidnapped and killed by Masons, and they were not convicted. But this led to an anti-Masonic movement. Masonic meetings in Paris 1841-45 planned how to counter the movement against them. They used their ploy of *order out of chaos*, so during the US Civil War they started, they could regain members. Daniel cites numerous examples of how Masons helped other Masons though apparent enemies. The big Gettysburg monument for Freemasons shows two opposing generals, but one aiding the other because both were Masons and gave the right hand sign.

Mason FDR appointed Mason Supreme Court Judges as Earl Warren who lauded public education funded by the government to replace Faith with Reason. The Bible and prayer were thrust out of public schools.

The secret society of the Muslim Brotherhood founded in Egypt 1928 was based on the Masonic pyramid structure. They founded al-Qaeda.

Most Masons do not go past the first 3 degrees. Pike claimed these are the outer court of the Temple to mislead them.

[John Robinson, a Freemason, was asked to join the Illuminati. After studying the group, in 1798 he published *Proofs of a Conspiracy*: “An association has been formed for the express purpose of rooting out all the religious establishments and overturning all the existing governments . . . The leaders would rule the world with uncontrollable power, while all the rest would be employed as [their] tools.”]

Endgame DVD by Alex Jones (2007)

Most top 500 Companies have logos of triangle or pyramid with All-Seeing-Eye of Horus—as AOL, CBS [see Rense and images of corporate logos online], names of pagan gods of companies, services and products. The elite could have changed the calendar to avoid pagan god names of days and months but did not, thus must have wanted them.

US troops were irradiated and test animals during atomic bomb blasts, and pilots were ordered to fly through mushroom clouds to study the effects. Israelis tested radiation on dark skinned Jews coming to Israel. Sephardic Jewish foster kids were dosed with too many x-rays.

Many gallons of nerve gas were dumped on the US east coast. Pesticide tests were conducted on prisoners, and dioxin attached to their bodies. Robber barons as Carnegie and Rockefeller funded eugenics; 27 US states had sterilization laws to sterilize some deemed unfit to procreate. Hitler said he copied these laws. Native Indians were sterilized. [Henry Kissinger wrote “Depopulation should be the highest priority of U.S. foreign policy towards the Third World.”]

US rich men encouraged, funded and did business with Hitler before and during WWII. After the war they and Britain wanted German eugenicists experts and they were not prosecuted in war crime court. Eugenics was given a bad name [obviously!] so called Social Biology or Planned Parenting. Ted Turner, Bill Gates and Warren Buffet spent billions of dollars to depopulate, but this was touted as saving the people! Nobel Prize winner Bertrand Russell spoke for vaccine factories, talking much about mercury and other substances in them as *partial chemical lobotomies*. Cheney lauds ethnic targeting to get rid of certain peoples.

The rich elite favored breeding (as Egyptian royalty) to make super kids by Galton and Darwin, and within 3 generations babies were malformed and mentally deficient. Though the elite tend to intermarry some anyway.

Video shows Mexican demonstrators in Seattle protected by police, while cops manhandle and arrested US citizens. Other US citizens were arrested for protesting against the protesters, while none of the Mexicans were. The police committed treason. The Mexicans do have a point, that they do much hard work for little pay.

The CIA is not suppose to act against US citizens. Congress tried by law to get the CIA to quit using food and water shortages as weapons in the US. Chemical warfare against US citizens is planned and millions of cemeteries are ready.

Iron Mountain archives in Pennsylvania were shown on evening news, from a KOMO 4 News broadcast (available on YouTube). Most protected area on earth, houses corporate secrets, media tapes and records. 95% of those who use the facility want secrecy. It is 2 miles by 3 miles and 220 feet deep. The site was picked for no earthquakes.

Megiddo: March to Armageddon

DVD (2009, see online): Thomas Jefferson was of the Illuminati and wrote the *Jefferson Bible* retaining, as he said, only diamonds out of the dunghill. Getting rid of key parts such as the virgin birth and Christ’s resurrection. Jefferson requested his death marker resemble an Egyptian obelisk, and it does.

Pike in *Morals and Dogma* wrote that Freemasonry is from mystery religions; that lowest orders are intentionally misled.

All Bible prophecies have come true so far. The DVD describes the standard meaning of Daniel: Babylon head; Medes and Persians its breast and arms; Greece of belly and thighs; and 2 lower legs of empire: Rome and Constantinople (Istanbul now) of Dan 2:37-49.

The Club of Rome defined 10 regions of the world. Are these the 10 toes of Dan 2:41-44?

Foretaste?—The French revolution was created when grain stocks were manipulated to cause a shortage so the starving people beheaded the king. After the revolution much unemployment was solved by extermination. The new rulers wanted the 25 million reduced to 16 million by guillotine, though killing stopped at 300,000. The NWO in France wanted to instigate another revolution in USA.

Winston Churchill told in 1920: “From the days of Spartacus (Weishaupt’s nickname) to those of Karl Marx, to those of Trotsky . . . this world wide conspiracy for the overthrow of civilization . . . has been steadily growing. It played a definitely recognizable role in the tragedy of the French Revolution. It has been the main-spring of every subversive movement during the 19th century, and now at last this band of extraordinary personalities from the underworld of the great cities of Europe and America have gripped the Russian people by the hair of their heads, and have become practically the undisputed masters of that enormous empire.”

English Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli said in 1844 “The world is governed by very different personages from what is imagined by those who are not behind the scenes.” 1876—“The governments of the present day have to deal not merely with other governments, with emperors, kings and ministers but also with the secret societies which have everywhere their unscrupulous agents and can at the last moment upset all the government’s plans.”

Henry Kissinger told in 1994 “[The NWO] cannot happen without U.S. participation, as we are the most significant single component. Yes, there will be a New World Order, and it will force the United States to change its perceptions.” [He wrote the book *How to Achieve The New World Order*.]

Robert F. Kennedy said “All of us will ultimately be judged on the effort we have contributed to building a New World Order.” But he and his brother later rebelled. JFK warned “There exists in this country a plot to enslave every man woman and child. Before I leave this high and noble office, I intend to expose this plot.” [And so both were assassinated.]

General MacArthur said “Our government has kept us in a perpetual state of fear, kept us in a continuous stampede of patriotic fervor—with the cry of grave national emergency. Always there has been some terrible evil at home, or some monstrous foreign power that was going to gobble us up if we did not blindly rally behind it.” [He stated many times that the atomic bomb was not needed: “My staff was unanimous in believing that Japan was on the point of collapse and surrender.” Instead, the atomic bombs were blasted on mostly civilians to start the Cold War threat. So the US is the real WMD villain!]

George H.W. Bush’s speech before Congress entitled *Toward a New World Order* was on Sept. 11, 1990. A coincidence?

H. G. Wells in his book *The New World Order* (1939): “The struggle seems to be drifting definitely towards a world social democracy, there may still be very great delays and disappointments before it becomes an efficient and beneficent world system. Countless people . . . will hate the New World Order . . . and will die protesting against it. When we attempt to evaluate its promise, we have to bear in mind the distress of a generation or so of malcontents, many of them quite gallant and graceful-looking people.”

British prime minister Chamberlain signed a peace treaty with Hitler, yet in 6 months Hitler took Poland.

Stalin killed way more people than Hitler. Stalin with Allies FDR and Churchill were top Masons. Masons swear blood oaths, against Bible’s swearing oaths. Swear to keep secrets or else be killed horrendously. [Many might think this is just like kids swearing *Cross my heart and hope to die* if they break a promise. But Masons rehearse plays of killings, and Morgan was tortured and killed according to the oaths by Masons for telling Masonic secrets.]

—Mr. Jan Young

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Life and Death

By Art Mokarow

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Science is still looking to discover “life” and what “life” really is. Death is a mystery, as well. Is your soul immortal? According to Jesus it can be destroyed (Matthew 10:28). God can destroy both body and soul. Men can only destroy the body by killing it. All this causes such a conundrum.

Soul Is Life

In Greek “the flesh” is “sarx.” “The soul” in Greek is “pseuche.” Neither explains “The Spirit—In Man.” There is a difference between “the soul” and “the spirit.”

The soul (*pseuche*) is the part of humans and animals that makes you have life. Only God can take life away. Your body is just a “tent” which is temporary and ultimately decays, as The Apostles wrote. Your body is a “tabernacle,” which is not who you really are (II Peter 1:13). Your fleshly body is nothing more than a corruptible, temporary house in which you live your physical life. “Your body” is “not you.”

Your soul makes your body travel each and every day while living your life. But your body needs constant repair like any house throughout your physical life.

The Holy Days and The Feast of Tabernacles represent The Millennium a time when individuals live in booths and are literally in The Kingdom of God, but still in their flesh as humans.

The Kingdom of God under



Art Mokarow

The New Heavens and on The New Earth has no physical humans, but only are “spirits”—“the spirit” God gave you at birth. You have “your soul” or “your life,” but what gives your soul life is “your spirit” given by God.

Your soul can only be immortal as long as “your spirit” is “a separate being” living on your own. Christ said the same thing about himself, “For as the Father has life [soul] in himself: so has he [God] given to the Son to have life [soul] in himself” (John 5:26). How clear!

In Greek, the word “given” in English is “directly delivered to.” Christ was “The Son of Man.” God gave Christ “eternal life” as a gift, just as God will give “eternal life” to you.

Life is the soul but is not immortal of itself, so it must be a gift given to you as God gave to Jesus. “The soul” of itself is not “an immortal being.”

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

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CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Immortal Life Is Spirit

“Immortality” is “*the spirit given to you at birth*” as part of Homo sapiens. Your “*spirit*” is more than life as the plants have. “The Spirit—In Man” includes “*human intelligence.*” Here is what Elihu, Job’s young friend, said: “*But there is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty gives them understanding*” (Job 32:8). The word “*inspire*” refers to “*The Spirit—In Man.*” It is defined as a breath of air. When God breathes His breath on you, you have God’s given understanding. It is a gift above plants and animals that have life as well.

The Hebrew for the word “*understanding*” is “to have knowledge” as opposed to an animal looking for food and plant life that gets its substance from the rains, the sun or from humans.

However, to have knowledge or facts does not tell you what is “*right*” or “*wrong.*” Your five senses do discern knowledge, but not much more. To know “*the truth*” and *good* and *evil*, you need to repent so God can give you The Gift of The Holy Spirit of God.

The Holy Spirit of God grants you the *power*, *love* and *sound mind* of God (II Timothy 1:7). It is The Word of God, which is “*truth*” (John 17:17). You now have the *scriptural* truth of *body*, *soul* and *spirit*.

The power of “*The Spirit*” is from God and directly from His bosom (John 1:18). “*Spirit*” according to Jesus “*is wind,*” which “*is energy*” and can cause “*electricity*” so that you can have power for machinery, and today you have light to see in the night. God said “*light is good,*” because you can see the truth of reality (Genesis 1:4).

Christ uses the same Greek word—“*pneuma*”—for “*spirit*” and “*wind*” (John 3:6-8). Wind can blow gently or violently, as a tornado.

“Wind” creates energy, which produces light. There it is from flesh—to soul—to spirit. So now what is death?

Death Is Nothing

Without “*life*” or “*spirit,*” what is death? “*Nothing*” is “*death.*” Except what God gives and creates, there is nothing. In Latin, it is “*ex-nihilo.*” God took from nothing or non-existence, and from within Himself, His bosom, He gave life. The tense for “*bosom,*” the present participle, means “*continual.*”

If God stops granting the gifts He has, there would be “*nothing*” left. Only God acknowledged that it is not good for man to be alone. He needed a helpmate (Genesis 2:8). Putting all *scriptures Biblically* together

gives you understanding to know “*ex-nihilo,*” which is Latin for nothing, is death. There is no feeling felt or awareness to understand.

The whole story of life and death is told. “*Or ever the silver cord be loosed, or the golden bowl be broken, or the pitcher be broken at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern. Then shall the dust [body] return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return to God who gave it. Vanity of vanities . . . all is vanity [useless]*” (Ecclesiastes 12:6-8).

The Menorah

The chapter continues showing how Solomon had wisdom and taught knowledge to the people, because God gave him wisdom. Wisdom and knowledge are all of God’s heavenly treasures, which were given to Christ also (Colossians 2:3). Solomon said, “*Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep his [God’s] commandments.*”

The one difference between Solomon’s wisdom and Christ’s wisdom was He had repentance, was baptized and had God’s mind growing “*In Him.*” You need to understand *The Biblical Menorah*, which is to follow in another article.

Except what God gives and creates, there is nothing. If God stopped granting gifts, there would be nothing left.

Where Is the... True Church today?



Jesus Christ said, "I will build My Church." He did not say "Churches," denominations, "sects." He said the gates of hell would not prevail against that Church. Somewhere that original true Church exists today. But WHERE? WHICH? . . ." (*WHERE Is the True Church* booklet, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong).

"And the dragon was *enraged* with the woman and he went to make war with the rest of her off-spring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ" (Revelation 12:17).

Dear Brethren,
America and Britain are all but gone!—having been delivered by God to Satan the devil for their destruction! Surely, *IF* you are keeping up with the news in these two countries you must be aware of their terrible sinful condition that not only now exists, but is rapidly increasing! Satan the devil is gleeful knowing he has accomplished his mission of leading the house of Joseph to its soon-coming destruction as nations; just as he did to bring about his **WRATH** on the pre-Flood world along with Sodom and Gomorrah!

Evil Dominates: The evil has now overwhelmed the good! The latest Gallop Poll reveals 52 percent of the people approve of 'same sex marriages,' with the president and his vice-president setting the pattern for the rest of the country.

The Roman Empire: And *IF* you truly believe God and Jesus Christ exist, then you must also know very soon Jesus Christ is going to bring to pass the end-time prophecies that reveal the coming together in Europe of the terrible **un-Holy Roman Empire** that is prophesied to destroy all Israel as nations! *Daniel 2:40; Revelation 13:3-4.*

Powerful Germany: The discerning eye can see by the tumultuous and grave economic problems, changes in leadership, rebellion in the streets occurring within the nations in Europe, that they are being forced to look to Germany to save them. And this she will not do without the return of political favors that will align them under her authority and government.

This is the first major step in preparing them for Satan the devil to bring them solidly together as one massive military machine under the dominion of Germany (*Revelation 13:3-4; 17:10*), who will undoubtedly be the leading nation of the prophesied Ten Nations that will make up the Holy Roman Empire.

Under German Leadership 2012/05/02 BERLIN

(Own report)—German foreign policy experts are discussing what form "German leadership" in Europe and the world should take. Germany has "a duty to take the lead," according to the latest edition of the most influential German foreign policy journal *Internationale Politik*. Several well-known experts are presenting their proposals on the role German hegemony should play.

The appeal for a "renaissance of the West" is not uncontested in Berlin's establishment. High ranking government advisors, including, for example, the co-editor of *Internationale Politik*, are advocating a "multipolar global order," which is rejected by Speck (German-foreign-policy.com reported). They also conceive of the EU playing a central role, which, according to the latest edition of *Internationale Politik*, should be under "German leadership."

The Prophesied 10 Nations: There will soon be a reshuffling of the present 27 nations connected with the EU, leaving only the prophesied Ten Nations that will comprise the unholy Roman Empire (*Revelation 17:12-13, 17*).

Nations of Israel: Prophecy makes known the House of Israel will be conquered by this massive military machine headed by the Beast (*Revelation 13:3-4*). This means Britain, France, and other Israelite nations will not be within those 10 nations; instead they will be conquered just as France was by Germany during World War II.

Satan Possessing Hitler: Almost immediately after overpowering France during World War II, Hitler entered Paris and danced a jig in the street, saying, "**I have fallen from heaven.**" Can there be any doubt but that this was Satan the devil possessing Hitler? Satan was the one who fell from heaven (*Luke 10:18*). To humiliate the French, the embittered Hitler forced the leaders of France to sign the paperwork of defeat in the same railroad car where Germany was forced to sign it with France in World War I.

Bitterness yet dwells in the minds of high ranking Germans against Britain and America for having defeated her in both wars (*Habakkuk 1:6-10*). As the result they will be ecstatic in a short time to come, having finally conquered the nations of Israel.

Satan's Attack on God's Church: And, *IF* you are seriously studying your

Bible, 'daily,' and believe what it says, then you must also realize Satan the devil is not only seeking to destroy each one of God's true and faithful people by **deception**, but soon he will bring terrible **persecution** on it (*Revelation 12:12-13*). These will be followed by the pouring out of his **wrath** on both Israel and those of God's Church not accounted worthy to escape the **horrors** that are even now at our doorstep in the **Great Tribulation**.

Satan's World of Demons: A Word of Warning!—If you are a true and faithful Christian, sooner or later each one will personally be confronted by Satan or by one of his demons in one way or another, for his great anger is mainly directed toward God's true and faithful people (*Revelation 12:12-13; 3:7-13*). *IF* you are not, then he knows he will have you in the **Great Tribulation** (*Revelation 3:14-21; 12:17*).

The Great Tribulation: God reveals the Laodicean Church of God will experience the horrors unto death, even though they will have repented of their self-righteousness and made their robes white in it. *This will be a most terrible and tragic time for not only God's true people but for the people of Israel as well!*

A Personal Experience: Frankly, brethren, most of you just don't get it any more than I did before being sent to Germany for combat duty during World War II as an infantryman. Though I had seen films in military training,

heard lectures about what to expect, the seriousness of it was not grasped by me. However, just before being shipped over in January 1945, I remember a startling statement made to a few of us by an officer who had served in combat that did affect me when he said:

"Fellows, some of you are not coming back because you did not take your training seriously." That struck me because I was guilty! Even then, the reality of what I would be facing in combat was still foreign to me, as it is with thousands of you now.

After having arrived in Germany and being assigned to General George Patton's Third Army, I then began to grasp the reality of war upon seeing the dead, the wounded in pain, guns firing, and shells from large guns exploding. I was sobered. Yes, I had not taken my training seriously, but now it was too late!

What will it be like for the people of Israel and members of God's Church after arriving in Europe as captives of the Roman Empire?—*Minds running wild, cramping of the stomach, faces ashen with fearful anxiety of the kinds of death they will have to endure* (*Jeremiah 30:5-6; Daniel 5:6*).

"God, where are You?" This anguished cry was undoubtedly voiced by millions of Jewish people before they died horrible deaths in the death camps run by the German Gestapo; one Jewish woman doctor survivor from a death camp wrote this in her book; but God was NOT there for their deliverance.

Millions of times this will also be cried out by the peoples of Israel and by the many thousands of members of the Laodicean and Sardis Church of God members before they die excruciatingly painful deaths.

The Liberated People of Israel from Slavery: Among the millions of people of Israel who will have survived the harsh bondage of slavery during the **Great Tribulation** will be of a different spirit upon being released by Jesus Christ; there will be much weeping with heartfelt repentance because of their sins.

Jeremiah 31:8-9: "Behold, I will bring them from the north country, and gather them from the ends of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, the woman with child, and the one who labors with child, together; a great throng shall return there. They shall come with weeping, and with supplications I will lead them."

A View of the Past—A few years ago, I watched a very moving documentary film, entitled *The Last Days*, that was made in 1998 by OCTOBER FILMS. It was an hour and one-half long and focused on a few Jewish men and women who had survived the death camps run by the military German Gestapo during the holocaust of World War II. These survivors were relating the terrible times they not only had experienced but what they had witnessed with others including seeing members of their own families perish in one way or another.

Six million men, women, and children were taken from their homes and crammed into box-cars with no restrooms, no food, and no water. They traveled for many hours in this condition until they entered the death camps in one place or another. Most were immediately put to death. The twin children and dwarfs were not put to death but underwent terrible and very painful experimentation by the infamous Dr. Mengerle.

This was so very sad and sobering I could not help but shed tears while watching and listening to the survivors relate those painful memories while they were wondering: *Why? The tragic part of seeing such a film as this is to know this is going to be repeated in a very short time.*

Warning from Jesus Christ: He has WARNED us many times from Scripture and through His late apostle of what is soon coming to pass; a time that will be worse than anything in past history or ever will again (*Matthew 24:21*).

The Prophet Ezekiel tells us there will be no real advance warning for America and Britain before they are struck by the enemy with a **lightning blitzkrieg nuclear attack!** This will leave both countries leaderless and absolutely helpless! It will all be over except for their armies coming in and gathering up the captives to ship them to Europe, most to horrendous deaths, the few remaining to slavery (*Ezekiel 7:14; Habakkuk 1:9*).

Surely you should be able to see by the news media that time is running out for America and Britain and the Church of God; the end is virtually in sight! Will you and I be counted worthy to escape from wherever we may live when that very small window of opportunity, *perhaps 30 days, opens just before the modern day Titus (Beast) with his enormous armies begin their Nuclear Attack* and conquer the House of Joseph? *Hosea 5:7; 8:1; Luke 21:36; Revelation 18:4*. I pray you and I will be so blessed.

My Prayer for You—Brethren, somewhat similar to the army teaching and training I received during World War II prior to my being sent into combat, I am appealing to you from experience with arduous compassion to please take your calling very seriously! Please come out of the wrong places where you now are and return to the faith once fully delivered to the saints (*Jude 3*). With your Bible, please study seriously the original *unedited* publication of the *MYSTERY OF THE AGES* by Mr. Armstrong to help your understanding in getting back on track—**REMEMBER: "God's eyes are upon the TRUTH" (Jeremiah 5:2; John 17:17; Matthew 4:4).**

Please—do NOT wait! Soon it will be too late to be PROTECTED from the soon-coming horrors! However, as always, the decision is yours to make; no one else can do it for you or me (*I Corinthians 11:31; Deuteronomy 30:15-19*). I do pray for you.

Your caring and entreating friend and servant in Christ Jesus our Lord and Savior,
—Don Billingsley

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The Ezekiel WATCHMAN

God's *Warning* Message

“. . . The end has come it has DAWNED for you; Behold it has come! . . . a day of trouble is near; . . . Now upon you, I will soon pour out My fury . . . So you, son of man: I have made you A WATCHMAN for the house of Israel; therefore you shall hear a word from My mouth and WARN them for Me” (Ezekiel 7:6-8; 33:7).

“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet BEFORE the coming of the great and dreadful Day of the LORD” (Malachi 4:5).

By Alton B. (Don) Billingsley,
Church of God, Faithful Flock

“The Trumpet of War”

“Blow the Trumpet in Zion (God's Church) and SOUND AN ALARM in My holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the earth TREMBLE; For the Day of the LORD is coming, for it is AT HAND” (Joel 2:1).

The Trumpet of God is yet being sounded! Except for a short interval of time between 1986 and 2006, it has been sounding since 1934 unto now! God had opened Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong's mind and understanding to what will soon befall the nations of Israel and the Laodicean Church—to the **horrors of famine, pestilence** and the demise of the nations of Israel via **Nuclear warfare** from Europe, due to their abominable sins!

Jesus Christ began using Mr. Armstrong powerfully as His Watchman in 1934, inspiring him to LIFT UP his voice like a Trumpet to **WARN** the nations of Israel of these soon-coming calamities (Isaiah 58:1):

“So you, son of man, I have made you A WATCHMAN for the house of Israel; therefore you shall HEAR a Word from My Mouth and WARN them for Me” (Ezekiel 33:7).

Sadly, the warnings for the most part have fallen on closed ears!

“Also, I set WATCHMEN over you, saying, ‘Listen to the (warning) Sound of the Trumpet!’ But they said, ‘We will NOT listen!’ Therefore HEAR, you nations, and KNOW, O CONGREGATION, what is among them. Hear O earth! Behold, I will bring CALAMITY on this people—the fruit of their thoughts, because they have NOT HEDED MY WORDS, nor My law, but REJECTED it” (Jeremiah 6:17-10).

Undeterred, Mr. Armstrong, knowing the end was virtually in sight for Israel and that his own long life was soon to end, he, like Jeremiah of ancient Judah, felt great compassion together with urgency and the need greater than ever to warn the people:

“O my soul, my soul! I am pained in my very heart! My heart makes a noise in me; I cannot hold my peace, because You have heard, O my soul, the SOUND OF THE TRUMPET, THE ALARM OF WAR . . .” (Jeremiah 4:19-22). Further: “. . . His word was in my heart like A BURNING FIRE . . .” (Jeremiah 20:9).

Rejecting God's Words: There are the *gainsayers and disbelievers* who do NOT want to accept the fact that Jesus Christ is still using that same man, *though dead*, by use of his *Recorded Works* on our 14 websites—*preposterous, you say?* Nevertheless, this is True!—and both Scripture and Time will fully make this known! (Habakkuk 1:5; 3:2; 2:1-3; Isaiah 29:14).

The Day of the LORD—Soon the DOOR will be closed—and the Day of the Lord will BEGIN! Beginning at the very time when God's true and faithful Church flees under His protective care to escape the *horrors* soon to befall the House of Joseph and all Israel—during the **Great**

Tribulation—as the following Scriptures make known—**“And while they (five foolish virgins) went to buy (too late, famine of the word, true ministers gone) the Bridegroom came” (Matthew 25:10-12)!**

The context, and putting other related Scriptures together, reveal this is NOT speaking of the second coming of Jesus Christ returning to this earth, and the time of the resurrection of the saints (II Thessalonians 4:12-18, Matthew 13:30, 40-47), but rather His personal direct involvement in directing His people through His chosen leader to the Place of Safety.

Note this from the parallel Scripture of Matthew 25:12, together with the following Scripture; it clearly reveals this to be the beginning Day of the Lord.

“Strive to ENTER through the Narrow Gate, for MANY I say to you will SEEK to Enter and will NOT be able. When ONCE the Master (Jesus Christ) of the House (God's Church) has ‘Risen Up’ and SHUT THE DOOR (the cut-off time that will separate the Faithful Elect from the Laodiceans, Matthew 25:10; Revelation 3:7-13), and YOU BEGIN to stand OUTSIDE and Knock at the Door, saying, ‘Lord, Lord, OPEN for us’; and He will say, ‘I do NOT know where you are from’ (meaning all others not of His true and faithful Elect, Luke 13:24-27).

Faithful Flock—Jesus Christ chose to use such a very tiny flock of people as we are because no other leader was willing to step into the gap with the fullness of doctrinal teachings, including the teaching and practicing of God's government with His true and faithful leader, during the 25 years since his death with respect and support of all those teachings. They were interested only in their own pursuits.

God's Chosen Man—Had any man chosen to do the Work that Christ is using us to do, he would be continuing to use the Recorded Works of Mr. Armstrong, His apostle, the Elijah to come and the Zerubbabel. And when one studies those Scriptures about the Zerubbabel, they make clear he was to go to the finish line in building the Spiritual Temple under Jesus Christ; and not anyone else (Zechariah 4:9).

Time is flying! Soon all of the *disbelievers* will be very sorry for not fully believing and practicing all of the teachings Jesus Christ used him to *restore* within His Church. Instead, every leader of whom I am knowledgeable chose to establish his church for recognition with gain of members and their tithes.

Knocking at the Door—The end of this age is now so close it becomes much easier to visualize the **Open Door** being closed by Jesus Christ (Revelation 3:7-8). In the little time remaining, Christ is still *KNOCKING* at the door of the minds and hearts of His people: **“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone HEARS My voice and OPENS the Door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me” (Revelation 3:20).**

PROBLEM—The real difficulty of the Laodiceans hearing and heeding His voice is they had been well taught by God's late apostle; they know the Scriptures, understand the prophecies, keep God's commandments, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ (Revelation 12:17), *but*—**“because YOU say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy (with the correct teachings), and have need of nothing’—and do NOT know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked . . .” (Revelation 3:16-17).**

God's Indictment—**“. . . WHOEVER hears the SOUND of the Trumpet and DOES NOT take Warning, if the sword comes and takes him away, his BLOOD shall be on his own head. He HEARD the Sound of the Trumpet, but did NOT take WARNING; his blood shall be upon himself. But he who takes Warning will SAVE his life” (Ezekiel 33:3-5).**

The Trumpet with which Jesus Christ used Mr. Armstrong to sound His **WARNING** as His WATCHMAN will soon cease to sound—ending just shortly before the beginning of the **Great Tribulation!** And similar to what Christ said at the end of His physical life to His Father, **“I have finished the work You gave Me to do” (John 17:4)**, the work that Jesus Christ gave Mr. Armstrong to do will have also been finished.

And because of faithfulness and loyalty to Jesus Christ, and His **TRUE TEACHINGS**, as taught by Christ through Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, the Elect of His faithful and true Church, will shortly be going to the *place of refuge* (Revelation 3:7-13)—leaving behind the *Laodicean and Sardis* members to endure the **horrors** that are even now beginning to fall on the House of Joseph by **the fury of nature** (Revelation 3:14-22; Ezekiel 7:12, 26).

Question—Are YOU cupping your ear to hear the sounding of the Trumpet—and responding to it? You can know, **IF** you are experiencing a right and close relationship with God and Jesus Christ—and by coming to be part of the Congregation of the *Philadelphia Church Era* that Jesus Christ is now using to complete His Work with the fullness of the true teachings—that is going through the *Door* that is yet **OPEN** (Revelation 3:7-8). Please know time is running out and is of the essence!

The Mystery of the Ages

Jesus Christ led His apostle and the promised Elijah—*His teacher*—to write the last book of his life, **THE MYSTERY OF THE AGES**, to be *A REMINDER* of all of the doctrinal teachings Christ RESTORED within His Church through him. By the use of this original *unedited* book with the Holy Bible, His people should be enabled to recognize the strong deception that is now on His Church by Satan the devil and keep themselves from it.

The Philadelphia Remnant

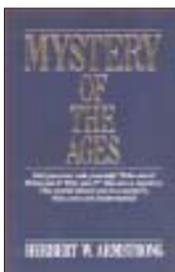
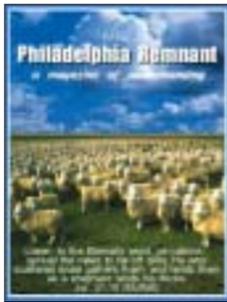
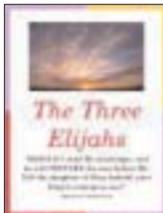
To be kept informed from a Biblical perspective of the meaning of the continued **record breaking disasters** in the nations of Israel and other major problems that are now coming closer together, we offer freely a subscription to our magazine. It can also be read on our website (www.cog-ff.com).

The Three Elijahs

The book of **The Three Elijahs** has been updated and completed. It can now be read on our website (www.cog-ff.com) or downloaded from it. This book makes known how these **Three Men** were used by God to perform basically the same responsibilities and for the same reasons.

God had ample reason for these three men to have the same name as Elijah. And though John and Mr. Armstrong had their own names, they were **“. . . to go forth before Him (Jesus Christ) in the spirit and power of Elijah” (Luke 1:16-17)**. The identity of the end-time Elijah is established with Biblical proof and by his fruits.

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DON'T LET THE CURRENT QUESTIONING OF THE CANON OF SCRIPTURE SHAKE YOUR FAITH IN GOD'S WORD!

The question of the correct canon of Scripture is the latest in a series of shocks to test the faith of Church of God members since the 1986 death of Mr Herbert W Armstrong (HWA), who founded the former Worldwide Church of God (WCG). Since 1986 just about every doctrine that HWA taught and even his personal integrity have been questioned by many and in particular during the 1990s.

Questioning the canon of Scripture is close to the ultimate snare Satan can put before the Church of God because, if we can not depend on the Bible for Truth, then how can we be converted? Surely God must have provided his NT Elect with a reliable Bible at least in the original OT Hebrew and NT Greek.

The canon of the Hebrew OT preserved by the Jews was endorsed by our Lord Jesus reading from this in synagogues (Luke 4:16-21). This canon the Jews have preserved in its three divisions of: the Law, the Prophets and the Psalms or Writings (Luke 24:44). Some may wonder about the Apocryphal books but since neither Jesus, nor the apostles nor the Jews claim these as part of the OT these should not be added to the canon of the Hebrew OT.

That leaves the question of the canon of the Greek NT. Did God leave that to the priests or theologians of mainstream Christendom and therefore in some doubt? This article reveals a surprise agent to complete the canon of the Greek NT.

During the 1st-century AD converts in the Apostolic church of God depended on the OT Scriptures and the teachings of the apostles (Acts 17:10-12). Today we still have the OT Scriptures and the apostles' NT teaching in the form of 4 Gospels, Acts, 21 epistles and Revelation.

Fourteen of the epistles were written by Paul, and Peter endorses Paul's writings (2 Pet 3:15-16). In John 17:20 Jesus endorsed the

teachings of his disciples with "Neither pray I for these (His disciples) alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word" (NT). A few verses earlier Jesus prayed, "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth" (John 17:17).

Surely we can depend on God having provided the correct canon of NT scripture and we should not be concerned how He did this. To question whether we have the right canon of NT Scripture is like believing that God is the Author of Confusion, which Paul assures us is not the case (1 Corinthians 14:33).

I should remind the reader that false men have always found their way into the Church of God and who have misled many. Currently false men are rejecting Jesus' independent and self-existent deity and even that He existed prior to his Bethlehem birth. To gain insight into this read the article "Can you Answer the Apparent Conundrum of Isaiah 44:6, 'Beside me there is no God'?", which appeared on page 18 of Issue 148 of *The Journal* (Feb. 29, 2012). In particular Section 3, "Evidence of Jesus' original deity". Unconverted men have always entered the churches of God pretending to be teachers of light and usually they claim to be scholars of theology but let us remember that man's scholarship brought us the false teachings of the Trinity, Evolution and the Big Bang and much more besides.

Let us return to the canon of NT Scripture as we know it. The number seven and its multiples denote spiritual perfection. For example, God completed the week with the 7th-day Sabbath, Revelation 1-3 reveals there will be 7 NT church eras, and the Bible consists of 7 parts: the Law, Prophets, Psalms, the Gospels, Acts, the Epistles and Revelation.

There are 21 epistles in the NT and since 21 is a multiple of 7 this marks that we have a complete set of epistles. With Hebrews Paul

contributed 14 of these 21 epistles and since the number 14 is also a multiple of 7, we are assured that we have a complete set of Paul's epistles. The remaining 7 epistles are written by James, Peter, John and Jude. Revelation completes the canon of NT Scripture and to this nothing may be added and from this nothing may be taken (Rev 22:18-19).

Although Luke was not an apostle, he contributed his Gospel and Acts which he wrote for his Greek acquaintance Theophilus (Luke 1:1-4; Acts 1:1). Luke's writings provide valuable insights into Jesus' ministry and the history of the early church. Paul acknowledges Luke's steadfastness in Colossians 4:14 and in 2 Timothy 4:11 and we may therefore trust that Luke's contributions are part of the canon of the NT.

I could conclude this article here because what more do we need to trust that God provided us with the complete canon of NT Scripture? However, I should add a little more that may cause readers to see the futility of man's 'scholarly' questioning of the canon of Scripture and that we should rather trust that God the Father is in control.

We can not be converted to God's Truth and worship Him in spirit and truth (John 4:24) if we lack the correct canon of OT and NT Scripture. Surely God Himself arranged the provision of the correct canon of Scripture and not a Pope as some assert! Let us now consider the Apostle John's influence on the canon of NT Scripture.

It is widely accepted that John was the last surviving apostle. My article Q12, *The Two Witnesses Identified From the Bible*, explains that the Bible reveals that John will be one of the *Two Witnesses* and that therefore, like Enoch (Heb 11:5), John too has not seen death! The NT gives a surprisingly amount of information on John's role as one of the Two

Witnesses but it seems no one in the Church of God recognized this.

In the past a number of people have foolishly speculated that either they or two of their contemporaries would be the *Two Witnesses* but such claims have always failed.

Since Amos wrote, "Surely the LORD God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets" (Amos 3:7); shouldn't we expect to find in the Bible the identity of the Two Witnesses? The aforementioned Article Q12 shows we can.

That article shows that Enoch and John will be the end-time Two Witnesses. So God may well have used John to preserve the correct canon of NT Scripture. Remember that John had to send the Book of Revelation to the seven churches in Asia minor (Rev 1:11). With that John could easily have indicated the correct canon of NT Scripture.

No doubt it will be claimed that secular 'scholarship' shows that a Pope or his agent determined the canon of NT Scripture. But can we trust mainstream theologians or a Pope to get their scholarship right? Man's scholars, whether these be theologians or theoretical scientists, always get their theories wrong. Werner Heisenberg postulated in 1927 his *Uncertainty Principle* concerning the momentum and location of sub-atomic particles (e.g. electrons) but I believe God knows precisely where these are! The theorists also postulate that sub-atomic 'particles' are best represented, so help me, as 'probability waves'! Let the NT Elect have faith in God rather than in man's sloppy scholarship and especially when used in vain attempts to explain the mysteries of God.

The papers referred to above are freely available by writing to Henk Jens, P.O. Box 121, Belmore, NSW, 2192, Australia or at my Internet Homepage www.rightly-dividing.net.

King Solomon of Israel

Solomon was born about 1,000 BC a late-in-life son of King David and the woman Bathsheba. Solomon took over the throne of ancient Israel from his father around age 15. He reigned 40 years.

Solomon was rich from the very beginning having inherited all that his father had. But, and more importantly, Solomon acknowledged The Lord God of Heaven as the true deity. The Lord took note of Solomon's dedication and gave him a gift of wisdom. After receiving the gift, Solomon became one of the smartest men alive.

In the beginning Solomon had the good of the people in mind and did a lot of positive things for Israel. He built new cities. He established an extensive network of travel ways. Some continue in use today. Solomon formed a friendship with King Hiram of Tyre. Together they built a fleet of sailing ships and adventured to the

gold mines of Ophar. Solomon established a lucrative business partnership with the Queen of Sheba, thus furthering his own wealth and that of the general population of Israel. Some people think Solomon and the queen had an affair, producing one or more offspring together. The Bible is silent concerning such involvement. Probably Solomon is best known for his construction of a grand temple called 'House for God' and the many wise proverbs written during his younger years.

But after about 20 years as king Solomon's allegiance toward God began to slip, his love for money, power and his many wives, most of whom worshipped pagan idols, was directly affecting Solomon's relationship with God. Solomon finally turned his back completely upon The Lord during his later years, which was unpardonable sin. Solomon died a rela-

tively young man in his 50's and in complete rejection of The Lord God.

The adventures and lessons one can learn from Solomon's life have been compiled into the 75-page booklet: *King Solomon, the man who had everything*. The booklet is independently researched and published and available to anyone who has an interest in Solomon as documented by the Bible. It is an easy read and includes scriptural references should one desire to look more closely at any of the information. Some who already have received a copy have written back, saying, "I didn't know that!"

There is no religious group behind this booklet. There is no church to join. There is no follow-up request for a donation. Your name will not be lent, sold or distributed to anyone. To obtain a free copy of: *King Solomon, the man who had everything*, send your request to:

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The Bride of Christ vs. The Pride of Life

Happy Sabbath! • May 5, 2012

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Our Peace We Give to You

Dear Brethren in Christ,
Today is the end to the fourth week in our count to Pentecost, the Feast of Weeks and the Feast of Firstfruits (of the Wheat harvest). This 49-day count of the Barley harvest is one of the most important timelines in the plan of Salvation to those who are called of the Father at this time. I, as well as others, have written about it often since our eyes were opened to the knowledge and awesome truths that God/Elohim have granted us after leaving the confines of a corporate church for the yoke of our husband, Jesus the Christ.

This 7 Sabbath, 7 week, 49 day count is filled up with many lessons which are directed to those called during the Second Covenant times. We have been called by the Father unto His beloved Son to see if we in fact will be chosen by the Son to be His eternal bride, the wife in the family of God.

This is not an easy calling to walk in as many of the parables teach us. We will and undoubtedly have encountered many difficulties along the way. The parable of the sower is just one that comes to mind. Many obstacles to success are in the way. Christ details many of the pitfalls, struggles, and trials which beset us the church or called out ones during these 7 weeks of harvest through the writings of John. His messages to the 7 churches of Revelation chapters 2-3 are very sobering and yet inspiring as well. I have written in detail about this link in the article entitled "The 7 Churches, 7 Days of Unleavened Bread, and 7 Weeks Journey to Pentecost."

I find it personally helpful to read through Revelation 2-3 often. It is about us and our fellow brethren. It is a wakeup call to the faithful—that is, those who have been called and who are in the process of being chosen. Not chosen for salvation for that is a free gift but not as worldly Christianity understands it. Free from God with conditions on us. We will discuss this shortly.

In Christ's messages or warnings, whichever you deem appropriate in calling them, we find some very unflattering things being said, to say the least. We see many who were called practicing despicable behavior as defined by God.

We should use these scriptures as a mir-

ror to look into often, and in doing so we will recognize a lot of what is being described going on in what we refer to as the Churches of God. These scriptures should be used as a vehicle for our personal repentance. Christ lists many vile activities and conduct that His bride should not be involved in as well as some that she should be pursuing. If we heed His advice He tells us we will receive the Crown of Life.

These messages are a lesson in constantly overcoming and persevering. Look at just a few of the things we are to be doing this to, "the Nicolaitans," "the woman Jezebel who calls herself a prophetess," "false apostles," etc. As difficult a situation each of these may present, we

are finding out they are really not the most difficult tasks placed before us. The most difficult are the very personal overcomings such as "keeping our first love" or rejecting and overcoming "the Pride of Life."

We are to be holding fast to our Husband to be able to do all this overcoming and persevering. We are to live by every word which proceeds from the mouth of God. We must follow Him wherever He goes and no other.

It is a humble walk but not a weak walk. We are to be girded with His strength just as He was with His Father's. Christ is working with those called by the Father to see if we are compatible to Him. Those chosen by Him will be functioning in the responsibilities of the wife in the household of God the Father, being married to Jesus Christ the Lamb of God for eternity. That chosen bride is equated to a woman of great value.

Satan understands this and is working feverishly to try and prevent it. He is doing so with every lying wonder of deception he can muster. He is redefining the perception of the role of a woman in society as well as in the family and in Christianity. If he were to be successful in his

evil attempt, there would not be a virtuous woman to be found based on God's definition of such.

However, we do have the Word of God, and it clearly tells us Satan will fail but will cause tremendous havoc in his unholy pursuit.

The results of his evil undertakings can be seen all around us. Many "modern women" who profess to be "Christian" conduct themselves contrary to scripture. That is the direct result of the deceptive work of the prince of the power of the air injecting prideful attitudes into our minds.

The world around us promotes and packages the image of a woman as being beautiful to look upon and completely self-reliant. No humble toads allowed! Of

Judging from what some in the churches profess, I think they actually envision themselves qualifying for the function of the husband. Sorry, boys, that role is filled by our Head, Jesus the Christ. Many men do not consider the attributes of the bride to be connected to their conduct and thus qualifying. If they keep that up they will fall far short and be disqualified.

There are men in the churches who by their actions and attitudes actually discourage their wives from going on to attaining success. That is reckless endangerment, and it will be dealt with by their wives' spiritual Husband in the future.

Satan has been so good at redefining societal norms by his trickery, deceit, and lying wonders that he has completely repackaged the vision of a Christian woman. This new creation rejects the biblical role of a woman. She is now vested with undertaking functions assigned to a man in the body by Christ. The traditional role of a woman is rejected in modern societies today.

The act of marrying, being a homemaker, raising children, willingly yielding to one's own husband are considered to be unfulfilling, menial, and downright foolish by many. Of course many men in society have contributed to this greatly by their conduct.

Unfortunately many women today who are looking for a possible traditional husband are greatly discouraged. Many are forced to choose from an inferior cast or remain single. Those who do marry have a 1 in 2 chance of being a future statistic of divorce and a single mother while bozo goes off to find a newer version. Our society is in great danger of completely collapsing as to the family. Without a traditional father and mother role, children are in danger of being devoured by those who are perverted to Satan's way.

I grew up in a single mother home. My brother and sister and I were raised by my mom and my grandmother. My progenitor (certainly not qualified as a father) left when I was three. Mom had to attempt to fill the role of provider and mother at the same time. She did not want this but did her best with grandma's help. She paid a heavy price for doing so in many ways. What she gave to us was a work ethic,

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Satan is redefining the perception of the role of a woman in society as well as in the family and Christianity. If he is successful, there will not be a virtuous woman to be found.

The Bride of Christ vs. The Pride of Life

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

which was instilled into us by her example.

Unfortunately, today many women who find themselves in similar circumstances make the decision to let another man into their lives with a loose commitment if any, and then all suffer for it. At times it does work out if a firm commitment is sought and given from all parties, but that is becoming rarer by the day.

My reason for bringing this up is to state that a woman's role is different from that of a man in the family. Can a man do a woman's job and a woman do a man's job in such? Yes, the exceptional ones can, but only in a limited way.

Because someone can do something even in a limited way, does that mean they have a responsibility to do it? "Absolutely not" is the answer. Only under very extreme circumstances should that be considered, for it does not fulfill the pattern of God in creation or command.

There should be no pride or vanity in it. If we are to be pleasing to Christ we must want to fulfill our calling in the role and function we were called in. He sets the rules in the household. This does not mean that we are to forgo growing in grace and knowledge, for that too is a command and promise to us.

Satan knows his craft very well. He knows what God/Elohim are doing here on earth. He can even recite it from scripture, but for all his power he can't truly understand it, for the whole precept is alien to him because of his prideful, self-centered, deviant, twisted mind.

However, he has a part to play in it for he is being used as a tool which is assisting in bringing about the perfecting of the bride of Christ the second Eve. As such, we who are called at this time have a lot of holding fast and overcoming and persevering to do.

It is a constant struggle as we draw closer to the time of the final Pentecost as depicted in scripture and the seven week count. As that time draws closer, Satan will in all his vanity suddenly realize what the scriptures say about him, and the sky will fall and persecutions begin resulting in terrible grief to many.

We in the body need to come to grips with the depth of our calling. Unfortunately many are just focusing on or reciting salvation. They beat to death that salvation is a free gift and that we can't earn it. How mature, how brilliant! How shortsighted!!!

Yes, salvation is a free gift **only if it is given!** There is no guarantee it will be given to each and every one of us. There is a Lake of Fire referenced often as one of the outcomes. If we do not complete the basic tenants of what God demands of us as to keeping the household rules of the Father, then we will not be a part of His family in any role let alone the bride.

Salvation is OFFERED to all, but not to ALL at this time. Regardless of when it is offered, it will come with conditions. If we are willing to yield to God and the rules They live by, then it will be offered to us.

I would give gifts to my children when they were young and for that matter still do. Much of the time the gift came while spending time during the day with me driving around to different job sites. To enhance this we would stop at Wendy's for a frosty, which was really special for we did not do much of that. If my children had have been disobedient as to the rules of the household, they would not get the opportunity and certainly would not get the frosty. It was up to me if I gave this free gift to them. It was mine to give more so than theirs to get.

That is what is meant by a free gift of God. We have no right to it but rather opportunity to it through Jesus Christ. The "free to give" is entirely in God's hands. That is a Biblical fact. There is a Lake of

tioning in our roles as men and women in the body of Christ. We are to have a deep understanding of both, whether we are men or women, but are commanded to function only in the ones we are called in as to gender. That is very important to understand.

Once again there is to be no vanity in it, no surfacing of the Pride of Life in any shape or form. Just because we have an understanding and even an ability to do the other role, we are not to do so as per God's command. I would like to make it easy for us and fall back on the old, "God's ways are not our ways" cop-out, but I can't, for it does not apply here. It is easy for us to understand why we are confined to performing our gender roles in the church, the body of Christ, if we can let the vanity and deceit of Satan flee from our eyes.

With that said, the emphasis should be placed on all of us understanding the role of a woman. That is the function now being filled by the Plan of Salvation. The role of the Husband is filled. That is not an

The apostle Paul has written about the roles of men and women in the church often in his epistles. His teachings are ridiculed by "modern type" women, and for that matter "wimpy" men as well due to being blinded in ignorance of the Plan of Salvation and the will of God. The Pride of Life cuts them off from knowledge and thus understanding which when put into practice displays wisdom for all to see.

Romans 11:33: "Oh, the depth of the riches both of wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out."

Many moderns today attack the writings of Paul while all the while calling themselves Christians. If that is not confusion, I am lost on what is. The most prolific writer of the Second Covenant scriptures is rejected in part and thus in whole. That depth of confusion bodes for Satan's ability to deceive, to divide and conquer.

There is a very important reason why he attacks Paul in this manner outside of the obvious perverted lifestyles Satan is establishing as norms in the mind of mankind, of which all are anti-family and thus anti-God. Paul taught at great length about the law and how it is holy and good and spiritual. If you can cause folks to doubt his teachings on some points, you can cause doubt on the others. Again Satan knows his craft well, even though the other apostles taught the same things.

Let's jump over to the apostle Peter to see what he has to say about Paul and how his teachings were being used to divide way back then as well.

2 Peter 3:14-18: "Therefore beloved, looking forward to these things, being diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless, and account the longsuffering of our Lord, unto salvation, as well as our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him (by God) has written to you, as also in all his epistles, speaking in them these things (those things Peter was just addressing in his letter above) in which are some things hard to understand, (why?) which those untaught (of God) and unstable (taught by Satan) twist to their own destruction as also the rest of the scriptures."

Here we have Peter understanding, teaching, and endorsing Paul's writings in his epistles. Peter makes it abundantly clear that those who were untaught and unstable were the ones trying to discredit Paul and in fact all the scriptures as well with their twisting them unto their destructive path. There are many in this age who undertake the same unholy path, all the while proclaiming they are of God and true Christians. Many of them are deceived, but some are not.

Peter continues here in verse 17 with a very specific warning. "You therefore, beloved, since you know (these things) be-

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The scriptures are filled with examples and teachings of how we are to be functioning in our roles as men and women in the body of Christ.

Fire because God has allowed for only one Satan in the Plan of Salvation and he too will be eliminated after he has fulfilled his role in it, for he will never repent of his evil ways or yield to God. Likewise those who will not yield to and welcome the will of God in their lives will join Satan in his fate.

We are certainly called to salvation at this time but much, much, more, brethren. Our actions in this life, in this calling, will be used to qualify us for the function of the bride of Christ for eternity. It is a very important function and is not for all and it is not free as salvation is. We need to earn it by what we do in this calling of the Father unto His Son.

However, it is not for everyone. Remember the scriptures about it. Many are called and few chosen. That is only fitting for such an important role in the household of God. Only one could qualify to be the Christ, the Lamb of God. We should be encouraged that the role being filled now allows for more than one.

Our Savior qualified us for the free gift (which covers all mankind: past, present, and future), and that is why it can't be earned, but He is making sure we ourselves qualify for the function of the bride with His assistance just as He was assisted by the Father. This function is being offered only in this age. It will be closed in the near future as scripture tells us in Matthew 25:10, Revelation 15:8 and elsewhere.

The scriptures are filled with examples and teachings of how we are to be func-

tioning in our roles as men and women in the body of Christ. We are to have a deep understanding of both, whether we are men or women, but are commanded to function only in the ones we are called in as to gender. That is very important to understand.

Once again there is to be no vanity in it, no surfacing of the Pride of Life in any shape or form. Just because we have an understanding and even an ability to do the other role, we are not to do so as per God's command. I would like to make it easy for us and fall back on the old, "God's ways are not our ways" cop-out, but I can't, for it does not apply here. It is easy for us to understand why we are confined to performing our gender roles in the church, the body of Christ, if we can let the vanity and deceit of Satan flee from our eyes.

With that said, the emphasis should be placed on all of us understanding the role of a woman. That is the function now being filled by the Plan of Salvation. The role of the Husband is filled. That is not an

excuse for us men to abrogate a single one of our responsibilities. That can be difficult for some to comprehend. We are all qualifying to be the bride, short and sweet. Unfortunately the world around us does not share God's definition of the attributes and abilities of a bride for eternity.

We are going to spell some of that out today from scripture. We men do not live the role of a wife but need to deeply understand it and respect it as the focus at this time and not be self-enamored of being in charge as so many losers are. We will be required to function in the bride's role spiritually!

In our study today we are going to see what God requires of us as we are qualifying to be the bride of Christ. It is a humble function of service and love. Let's strike to the heart of the matter quickly so there is no doubt as to how a woman is to function in the body to be pleasing to God.

Titus 2:1-5: "But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine: that the older men be sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience (another tall order to fill); the older women likewise, that they be reverent (not reverend) in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their *own* husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed (an even taller order than for men)."

The Bride of Christ vs. The Pride of Life

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forehand, beware lest you fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked . . .”

Who are the wicked? Those who are untaught and unstable who twist Paul’s teachings to their own destruction and draw in many others, whether deceived or not.

Why Paul?

Satan focuses on Paul for two reasons, which are: his instructions on the law and instructions on the bride of Christ.

Paul slices and dices Satan’s immoral teachings on everything from homosexuality to false worship. Paul taught relentlessly about relationships between men and woman, husbands and wives, parents and children, and between mankind and God. He explicitly puts in writing the pattern and importance of our calling at this time. He knew the pattern of Salvation; he knew that the Father was calling a bride unto His Son after the method of Abraham for his son Isaac after his own kind, his kindred.

Paul knew God was building an eternal family, and he also knew that Satan had tried from creation to pervert and prevent it from happening by screwing up relationships. Remember, Eve allowed him to get between her and her husband Adam so that she turned aside from Adam’s teachings unto Satan’s deceptions.

Let’s hear Paul’s summation of this and a reason why he was so vehement in it.

2 Corinthians 11:2-3: “For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy, for I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you a chaste virgin to Christ. But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.”

Satan is doing everything he is allowed to do to pervert the roles between men and women, husbands and wives which have been ordained by God.

Just look at the world around us. His success is astounding. Married couples are divorcing in wholesale numbers and leaving a wake of destruction behind them with their children and their economics. Homosexuals and lesbians are gaining control of all the western world’s institutions.

We have got to stand in the gap between the world and the Church. We must never let his deluded thinking corrupt us.

Paul stood in the gap! He wrote about this deviant behavior and its outcome. He also wrote about how we are to function in the body of Christ as men and women. He defines our responsibilities in very easy to understand language to those who have the spirit of God and the mind of Christ.

Paul knew what his purpose was and he fearlessly pursued it. He did all he could to further the expansion of the family of God, even to forsaking having a physical family himself. He was completely dedicated to Christ and his commission of presenting

a chaste virgin to Him. Paul was a bridge to the Gentiles to cross over to God’s knowledge as they left Satan behind. Yes, he stood in the gap, and so should we!

It should come as no surprise that Satan’s deceptive powers are being used to discourage men and women from following Paul’s simple and humble instructions. Satan rejected the authority of God after he was created. We can and have read that often in Isaiah 14 and Ezekiel 28. Just think, he was the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty, until iniquity was found in him. His heart was lifted up because of his beauty and he corrupted his wisdom for the sake of his splendor. He became the author of the Pride of Life. It wasn’t good enough for him to be the anointed cherub who covered the throne of God. He wanted to be God; he wanted to take over God’s role; he thought he could do the job and do it better. His twisted delusions of grandeur allowed him to think he was entitled to be God and per-

It was Paul’s commission to resist and expose Satan’s mindset and prepare a chaste, humble, respectful bride to Christ. It was a daunting task and still is. It should be our main focus in the body of Christ today. Many of the churches of God pay lip service to it. Many, but not all, are playing “who’s in charge” and “follow me.” Our relationship with Christ, with one another, with our spouses, and our children is not a competition. (However, we can look at our personal overcoming as such as Paul often equated it to running a race).

To be of His body we need to be one with Him. The world does not comprehend our calling and walk in Christ, so why look to it? Satan owns it. We are not to function after it. Society is not humble, forgiving, caring, or any such thing. It is self-centered. We are to function in a manner opposite to it. At times it displays a false humility with an eye on what’s in it for me.

Let’s review how Christ set the right example and in doing so slapped Satan

it robbery to be equal with God (that means He was God), but emptied Himself of His privileges (Godly existence), taking the form of a servant, and coming in the likeness of man. And being found in the appearance as a man, He humbled Himself (to the Father) and became obedient to death, even the death of the cross.”

The Father and the Son expect the very same from each of us in the physical forms and roles we are called in, be we men or women. We are to have this mindset of Christ in all our relationships with the called of God, with our spouses, and certainly with our Husband Jesus the Christ, and be obedient to God regardless of who is whispering in our ears.

Brethren, this is what it is all about at this time. That is why Paul’s epistles were inspired to be used in number throughout the Second Covenant scriptures. He teaches us by example that we are to be submitting (willingly yielding) to one another in the fear of God. We are not to be trying to dominate one another but instead serving one another to the point of laying down our life. There is no satanic mindset in any of that, for it is completely alien to him.

We read often in the scriptures that a wife is to willingly yield to her *own* husband. In doing so a wife sets the example of the mindset of Christ to all, including her husband, so he can better understand his own relationship with Christ. That is humble power in its finest form. That is what Christ displayed in His relationship with the Father. Christ deferred all authority in matters to Him. Even the angels who rebelled saw this and trembled at His awesome power and faith and confidence in the Father.

We need to be of the same mind as Christ was. Just think! He divested Himself of all His eternal glory and yielded to the Father so that he could give His life for us! If we are of His body, we need to be doing the same thing. We are to be one with Him and thus the Father through Him. We need to trust Him in what He says to us just as He trusted the Father. In doing so we are giving up very little; He gave up everything!

There is no vanity in it. We are to conduct ourselves in the body as we are placed by Him. This has nothing to do with the decrees of men. He regarded our interests above His own. That’s God we are talking about. If He could do it in that great a magnitude, we should be able to do it in the little we have.

Romans 12:10, 16: “Be kindly devoted to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another.”

“Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion.”

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Satan is doing everything he is allowed to do to pervert the roles between men and women, husbands and wives which have been ordained by God.

form all the functions of God. His role as a covering cherub was below him. It was demeaning to his great abilities, belittling in fact in his perverted mind.

Satan has worked tirelessly to place this same mindset into mankind for millennia. At this point in the timeline of salvation he is taking extra measures to infect women. His emphasis is being directed at the family full measure now, for he already owns the governments of this world.

There is no humility in his mindset, no service other than self-service, no love other than self-love. This mindset is one of “I am better than you and thus deserve more than you.” Just think of the capability he possesses for deception. He was able to convince many of the angels to rebel with him prior to our creation.

His activities among the angels of God did not take place overnight. It took a long time to deceive them. We read in Ezekiel 28:16, “By the abundance of your trading (politicking) you became filled with violence within and you sinned . . .” As he was able to convince more and more angels to his way of thinking, he was filled with more and more wrathful thoughts of dominion until he was bursting with them and in his deluded thinking actually thought he could displace the Creators. He is relentless and his methods have remained the same. That is the outcome of all politicking. It is evil in nature, intent, and outcome, and should not be any part of our thinking or functioning in life.

and his way down. Christ’s example of willingly yielding to another was in my opinion the greatest event in the history of eternity, if such a thing can be said. It is very important to understand or at the very least recognize this mind which was in Christ. We are to follow Him wherever He goes. The words of Paul to the Philipians and thus to us now sum up and describe in absolute awesome beauty the mind we are to have in Christ our Savior, our Husband, our Creator. We are to display this mindset in the family of God the body of Christ.

Philippians 2:1-8: “Therefore if there is any consolation, if any comfort in love, if any fellowship of the spirit, if any affection and mercy, fulfill my joy by being likeminded, having the same love, of one accord, of one mind. Nothing being done through selfish ambition or conceit (Satan’s method and mindset) but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself (Satan hates and despises that way of thinking). Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.”

Now Paul is going to tell and teach us how our Creator did this, our loving Savior and Betrothed. Please drink this in in its magnitude and then recognize He did it for you.

Verses 5-8: “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus (What mind? The one we just read about), who being in the form of God, did not consider

The Bride of Christ vs. The Pride of Life

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With this basis of Knowledge and understanding before us, let's look to some of Paul's instructions which are ridiculed and rejected by the world and all who are untaught and unstable. They are not hard to understand for those who have the spirit of God residing in them and who have tasted the fullness of it.

James teaches us in 3:13-17: "Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct his works in the meekness (not weakness) of wisdom. But if you have (the teachings of Satan) bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, and demonic. For where envy and self-seeking exist confusion and every evil thing is there.

"But the wisdom that is from above is pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy."

Do we actually yield to our Father, Jesus, our spouses, or our brothers in Christ? It is all to be one in the same. However, we do not yield to any form of evil. Do we say we love God and yet hate our brother called of the Father? Scripture tells us it is impossible to do so for if we hate our brother we hate God.

Be aware, however, that not everyone who calls themselves a brother or of God is in fact our brother or of God so we should not be naïve to such things. As you can imagine and know, this is all contrary to the world. We must all be one, we in Christ and Christ in the Father. We are to let nothing come between us. We are to be of the same mindset in our relationship.

It is not by coincidence that when Paul was instructing the Corinthians that he was betrothing them to Christ that he brought up the example of Eve. She broke the trust she had with her husband Adam and allowed Satan to slither in between them. Divide and conquer! He appealed to her vanity, to her lusts of the flesh, but only after he failed with his first attempt at a direct assault.

Many who profess to be devout Christians do not want to hear these things, especially when they are penned by Paul. They actually believe Paul has it in for women and that he personally attempted to put them down. Of course there are others who attempt to use his writings to dominate women, and men for that matter, resulting in lots of confusion in untaught and unstable minds.

We should know that we are the second Eve just as Christ is the second Adam. Of course this is speaking spiritually not as flesh and blood. As such, Satan is doing everything he can to slither in between us, to distort our Husband's instructions and teachings to us just as he did with the first Adam and Eve.

He actually tried to lure Christ away from the Father when he tempted Him in the wilderness. Remember the old vain line about how he would give Him rulership over all the governments of the world if He would worship him? That one flopped, so now he is coming after Eve once again.

Unfortunately too many who are called fall to his deceptions in one form or another. He is a master of camouflage and subtlety. Unless we absolutely look only to our Husband, we can and probably will fall prey to Satan's devices. It is our responsibility to never allow anything or anyone to come between us and our own husband. That is why we can often read things like, "Wives, willingly yield to your *own* husbands, as to the Lord." This is a living example of a wife's understanding of how we are all required to function in marriage with our spiritual Husband.

Listen up, guys: If we don't understand this and cause our wives to stumble in it,

forbids such conduct and activities. We receive very specific instruction on that subject from the apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians chapter 14. This is a chapter which is attacked by many of the moderns who are filled with the Pride of Life and not godly wisdom for they do not have basic knowledge of the patterns being taught here by Paul.

Without knowledge there is no understanding, and without understanding there is no wisdom. Most of the moderns jump right down to verse 34 in their disdain for the apostle's teachings. Let's read it all in context. That context being addressed here is: What is appropriate conduct in services and what is not? It's not let's-beat-up-the-girls time.

1 Corinthians 14:26: "How is it then, Brethren? Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification (building up)."

I have read recently that there are congregations which call themselves a church of God that actually allow women to preach during services.

we will be accountable for our actions before Christ. It is imperative that we all learn the attributes of a wife who is desirable and sought out by the Eternal.

I have personally learned a lot about this from observing my wife in our relationship with each other and her relationship with our children and how she functions with others. She is personally involved in an intimate relationship with Christ. She relies on her spiritual Husband for her answers to her questions. She has her own time with Him each day before she has to put up with me.

I am able to write about these things but fall short in the doing more often than I should. A wise man once told me, "The more you know about yourself the more you know about others." We are all a work in progress. The reason I can write about it is because I just repeat the words and patterns of God, which is a very important aspect of a man's role in the body. It is actually a form of retraining as a result of the first Adam's willingness to sin when he knew better. Repetition is a very good reminder and teacher.

I have read recently that there are congregations which call themselves a church of God that actually allow women to preach during services. In doing so they are proclaiming they have greater understanding and wisdom than the apostles.

Such activities are not founded in Biblical knowledge. They strain gnats and swallow camels. The Word of God

This is a rebuke from Paul to the boys! This sure sounds like a typical gathering of the "boys" who are all trying to be the dominant "rooster." That is a common pattern with a room full of guys, with each one thinking his psalm, teaching, tongue, revelation, interpretation, and so on is more important, more relevant, than anyone else's when they have a touch of the disease of dominion over another and self-importance.

That is a true guy thing which can be overcome with the spirit of God working in us. Paul goes on in the rest of the chapter and sums up what is important in a church service and what the focus should be on. If we miss this we miss the whole lesson.

Have you ever wondered why Paul writes what he did in verse 36? To many it appears out of place. That is because they don't understand the lesson being taught here. "Or did the word of God come originally from you? (That's a shot at the boys who are trying to push their agenda full of self-importance and not what Christ has to say.) Or was it you only that it reached? (Nobody else knows anything but you about it.)"

Then Paul corrects everyone.

Verse 37: "If anyone thinks himself to be a prophet or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things which I write to you are the commandments of the Lord"

That is way too dogmatic for moderns to handle, so throw the whole thing out and

move on with something less demanding.

Paul's correction and positive instruction starts with speaking in tongues. He simply tells us all if there is no interpreter, "Keep silent!" Okay, so Paul here has just told the boys not to speak if no one else can interpret what you say. Imagine that. The importance is placed on the interpretation by another and not on the one talking in a tongue, which is another language. Teamwork! If it will not edify the body don't do it, keep silent!

Now we get to the heart of a lot of misunderstanding in many today, and quite frankly many may not have even heard what I am about to address, which is a shame to us all as a church.

Verse 29: "Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others judge."

So is everyone who speaks a prophet? That interpretation of the Greek is music to the ears of many a wannabe. At least the first part is, for they do not believe they should be questioned as to what they say.

Prophets here is #4396 and *Strong's* says of it, "From a compilation of #4253 (*Pro*; in front of, prior to) and #5346 (*Phemi*; to show or make known one's thoughts ie: speak or say); a foreteller, by analogy an inspired speaker, by extension a poet."

Vine's says of it "one who speaks forth or openly, a proclaimer of a divine message . . ." *Vine's* goes on with a lot more, as we have covered in the past. One very important aspect mentioned is: It is one in whom the spirit of God dwells.

So here we have two or three prophets or inspired speakers or, better put, "speaking from the inspired Word of God" and not from their own revelation, interpretation, etc., while the others are to be judging or discerning what is said based on the written word of God which is supposed to be being spoken.

Yes, everyone else is to be just like the Bereans. This isn't a time for show-and-tell or some new understanding to be revealed. It is a time for sound doctrine as we have received from our Husband the Christ.

Please remember the inspired word of God here uses the Greek *Prophetes* and not *Prophetis*, which is feminine. Once again we men are commanded to speak the words of our Head, our Savior, Husband, and not our own. This is serious business here.

It is a time of edification for the whole body, with the whole body involved in one of two ways. Everyone has their part as they are placed in the body. In this case it is determined by gender, as Paul is and will continue to instruct. There is no put-down to women. This is a rebuke to behavior which was not Christ like in men. This is not a time to be impressing each other with great oratory skills or

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

The Bride of Christ vs. The Pride of Life

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flashy clothing, or the telling of jokes.

Adam failed in his role as teacher/husband to Eve. He taught her what our Creator had instructed him, but when Eve had been deceived by another he never corrected the error. He left the instructions of God for his own. We are not to do that. There are other formats for bouncing ideas off of others and such things, but services are not the place or time. There are other men, women, and children listening. They want to hear the patterns of the inspired words of God or at least they should.

Speakers are to speak from the scriptures as the base of what they are talking about. That is God's wisdom and not the world's wisdom. True prophets repeat the words of God and not their own. Let's follow the example that our Savior/Husband set for us. Even though He had been the spokesman for all the scriptures, He still deferred to the Father in all things. That is the valor of the second Adam.

Do we understand why Paul asked the two questions earlier? "Or did the word of God come originally from you?" And don't forget: "Or was it you only that it reached?"

There is no room for "me, myself, and I" in any of this. It is about the entire body working together under the Head, the Husband, to edify itself. This is just one of the commands as to how to do that. This one is centered on a Sabbath service.

Men need to get this right. We need to speak the words that God gave us so very long ago and stick with them regardless of what confronts us. Adam knew Eve had done wrong. God's instructions were simple and true. We either believe them or we don't. We are all being tested here, men and women. Paul first told those speaking in tongues without an interpreter to not speak. As we will read, he also tells us that if one is speaking and another has something to say which will edify, the first one needs to stop speaking and yield to him.

He then goes on and tells women they can't speak, as in getting up in front of the congregation and delivering the word of God. Is this cause for three offenses from Paul? Hardly! If that is our focus, we are on the wrong wavelength.

The entire body is to judge what is said. We are all able to do so or should be able, but to do so in decency and in order. It is obvious the "speaking" here is talking about the responsibility to proclaim the Word of God from the inspired scriptures publicly or to all during the service. The whole focus is to encourage the body, not discourage it as Adam had done to Eve in the garden when he went with his own way when presented with a challenge by her. She believed Satan over her husband. A really bad decision!

Eve was required to make a correct decision based on what her husband had taught her. Wives are to judge in services as to the content of those who are speaking. If something they hear is in question, they should not go to that person and inquire but discuss it with their own husband in the privacy of their home. That is the example my wife and I follow. It is scriptural and helps anyone who does so to focus on the humility and safety to be found in the commands of our spiritual Betrothed and a very big lesson in oneness.

Verse 31: "For you can all prophesy (#4395 not #4396) one by one, that all may learn and all may be encouraged."

Many speakers in the churches of God follow the dismal example of the first Adam. It is all about them and how they can be creative and impress others. Sermon time is not a counseling session, it is not a belittling session, it is not a how-do-I-look session.

'Let your women keep silent in the churches, for they are not permitted to speak . . . as the law also says.' (There's that dirty word 'law' again.)

In verse 30 Paul instructs us on how to keep it a humble function and not have the focus on self. "But if something is revealed to another who sits by, let the first keep silent." This is the beauty of an interactive Bible study of converted brethren. The Pride of Life would never allow this to happen, but the Bride of Christ would, for she understands her role under the Head. Remember Ephesians 5:21: "Willingly yielding to one another in the fear of God."

Paul continues his instruction on this pattern in verse 32: "And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets." No chief speaker in some hierarchy or pecking order. People read all this but seldom comprehend it based on their actions. It is a tall order for most guys to willingly yield to another in this day and age. It is a society full of vanity and selfishness and self-importance. It is a wonderful thing to sit and listen to a man who understands his responsibility to speak about the words of God. It is so calming to be with others when this is actually happening.

This is a lesson Paul is delivering to the men in a congregation of the body. We are assigned this responsibility to see if we can follow in the footsteps of our Husband in setting the right example. This correction Paul has given here is for us men to take to heart. This is not qualifying us for a function as the man in the household of God for that function is spiritually

filled by Christ. It is a test for men and us alone due to the folly of Adam. Why would a woman want to fall under that judgment when she has enough of her own functions to deal with and complete?

We are instructed in verse 33: "For God is not of confusion (disorder) but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints."

There is a right way and a wrong way and it is all according to what God says and no other. If we repeat the words of God, then it is godly, but if we do not it is confusion. The author of confusion is Satan the devil, the covering cherub who was cast out of the presence of the Father. Look how important it is to speak continually about the patterns in the Word of God.

Romans 16:25-26: "Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began but now has been made manifest, and by

on God's words and not our own and thus complete in some small part what Adam failed to do in the garden.

So now we come to Paul's instruction specific to the women in a church service. Keep in mind they were included in the judging or discerning segment of the instruction above. Now Paul addresses the "speaking" function we have just covered.

1 Corinthians 14:34: "Let your women keep silent in the churches, for they are not permitted to speak; but to be submissive, as the law also says." (There's that dirty word "law" again.)

This scripture is loaded with instruction, but not one iota of it is a put-down. Paul references it to the law, not his opinion. Christianity has an answer for him. They do away with the law! It appears that is what some in the churches of God would like to see happen. How disgusting is that? Remember if we break or dump one part we dump it all.

Don't forget in all of this we are all qualifying to be the bride, to carry out the functions of a woman as in a wife in the family of God spiritually. Paul is very cognizant of that. He is simply instructing us all that it is not a woman's responsibility to give a sermon, Bible study, or any such thing in a public gathering of the body. (This is not talking about singing, Sabbath school studies, female gender specific events, etc.) It is our Husband who does the speaking. We in turn are to be hearing His words, and the male gender has been given that task to perform it. He in no way states a woman who has the spirit of God is incapable of speaking the words of God in harmony with the patterns throughout the Bible.

In fact, I know women who are extremely well versed in doing so, but they would never dream of getting up in front of a congregation to do it, for they agree with the scriptures. They understand the role they have been given and don't want to muddy it up in confusion by taking on a man's role. A man (after Adam) has defined functions and a woman (after Eve) has defined functions. We need to get them right physically to display the spiritual understanding we have in Christ.

This is not a contest between men and women. It is about humbly obeying God. Men and women have many other very specific functions as saints in the body of Christ. What if guys felt they should have the responsibility of bearing children? What a deluded mess that would cause. It goes against nature, but that doesn't stop many today in society from thinking they can do so through a surrogate and pretend they are the wife in a homosexual relationship. Men and women are assigned roles specific to gender. If you don't like that you will not be allowed to enter into

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

The Bride of Christ vs. The Pride of Life

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE
the family of God the Father.

There are some responsibilities we share together as husband and wife. Some men reject them, as do some women. We need to stay focused on the simplicity in Christ and not on the Pride of Life.

Look how Paul continues with this instruction here.

Verse 35: “And if they want to learn something, let them ask their *own* husbands at home for it is shameful for a woman to speak (as in verse 29: ‘Let two or three prophets speak’) in the churches.” (We discussed this earlier as to how a husband and wife who are one in the spirit and the flesh function on this point of instruction by Paul.)

Remember, this goes back to Eve and her willingness to listen to another and then go back and convince her husband Adam of a different way. Women should not take this personally. It is not a put-down or anything of the sort. It is about setting the humble spiritual example of what the second Eve should be doing according to our Husband’s desire and not listening to others, ending in questions of doubt in our relationship. It is an outward example of how we the second Eve are to be functioning in our qualifying to be the bride.

The world does not see it that way, for the Lying Wonder is hard at work. If a woman can’t find the humility to obey this basic of commands, how will she deal with the really hard commanded functions she has before her? They are many!

Please keep in focus it is not about ability, but humility and submission to the will of God. Through a woman’s example in doing this, many can be won over, for it is not a common thing. When I see a woman display this pattern I am personally humbled and yet proud for her and thank God for this sister in the faith and the example for me that she has reinforced by her actions.

Peter tells us that we in the house of God are under judgment right now in 1 Peter 4:17. Judgment there is #2917 *Krima*. *Strong’s* says of it, “from #2919, a decision (the function or the effect, for or against crime).”

Vine’s says of it, “denotes the result of the action signified by the verb *Krino*, to judge, a sentence pronounced, a verdict, a condemnation, the decision resulting from an investigation . . . the process of judgment leading to a decision . . .”

Yes, we are being judged right now in our calling as to our function in the household of God. It is based on how we obey the laws of God as applied to us and the functions we are in. It isn’t dependent on what someone else is doing, just us alone.

This is not talking about salvation here, for that will be offered to all who have ever lived eventually. It is about much

more. It is not to be taken lightly. Each and every one of us has been called for this purpose of learning the function of the bride in the household of God. It is a vitally import function, as nature teaches us. It is an awesome opportunity and not some meaningless put-down. We are going to cover that which is required of us as the bride but only in part and to some very clear specifics and then tell me it is not filled to the brim with responsibility and accountability and no time for foolishness.

Let’s hear a little instruction from Peter on this subject of a wife in the body of Christ as exemplified by physical roles.

1 Peter 3:1-7: “Likewise wives submit (willingly yield) to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they without a word (no need for speaking) may be won by the conduct of their wives (actions speak louder than words), when they observe your chaste conduct with fear (respect).”

Each of us, male and female, has specific responsibilities to fulfill. If we are true to them in the Lord, we will be co-heirs in the promise of eternal life.

Now, that is power. It is incredible that a woman can win others over without speaking a word. I have personally witnessed that. Many of you probably have as well over the years. The chaste (pure) conduct of a wife can win over nonbelievers.

Why?

Because it was very uncommon then and more so now.

Verse 3: “Do not let your beauty be that outward arranging of the hair, of wearing gold, or of putting on apparel; but the hidden person of the heart; with an imperishable gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God.”

No preaching, teaching, or sermonizing needed to catch the eye of God. No flashy apparel or any such thing.

Verses 5-6: “For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands (not listening to the whispers of another) as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughter you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror.”

Many moderns can’t finish Peter’s teachings here once they get to the “calling him lord” bit. Peter is not advocating that we do that, at least not as to how the world understands lord. Sarah was not in terror of Abraham. She loved and respected him and certainly understood her role in the household.

Peter sums up this instruction here in

verse 7: “Likewise husbands, dwell with understanding (just like your wife), giving honor to the wife as the weaker vessel (treat her gently just as Christ does us) and as heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.”

Each of us, male and female, husbands and wives, has specific responsibilities to fulfill. If we are true to them in the Lord, we will be co-heirs together in the promises of eternal life and much more.

In Romans chapter 8 Paul tells us we are children of God, and in verse 17 says: “And if children, then heirs, heirs of God (the Father) and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with, that we may be glorified together.”

That’s all of us, men and women. We are all involved in a very detailed and long qualifying process. It is not an easy task to comprehend the complexities of it in this age we live in with so many ungodly examples of improper conduct being flaunted at us from every direction.

Only with the mind of Christ in us can we succeed.

Let’s now deal with the very specific commanded path for a woman called of God to conduct herself in the body.

1 Timothy 2:8-15: “Therefore I desire that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting (that’s a tall order); in like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel (certainly not talking about burlap) with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing (the status symbol look of his day) but, which is proper for women professing godliness (the mindset of Christ) with good works.

“Let a woman learn in silence with all submission (Just think if Eve had have followed that example with Adam.)

“And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence. For Adam was formed first then Eve, and Adam was not deceived but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.”

The second Adam did not sin, and certainly is not going to throw His bride under the bus. The second Eve will look only to her husband, and she will not allow another to come between them. Let’s read on for now we have the great belittling coming as perceived by the moderns.

“Nevertheless she will be saved in childbearing if they continue in faith,

love, and holiness, with self-control.”

I fail to see anything demeaning in that. I have experienced the example of my wife doing just that for over 30 years of marriage. In my opinion it is the most important role in our household. The family could do without me more than they could do without Linda in many respects. That is not a statement in false humility or boasting on my part. If we all functioned under the criteria of the résumé of a bride of great value as detailed in Proverbs 31, we would have a much healthier church. When I think of a wife I think of a woman who wants to bear children, who is committed to nourishing them and teaching them in what is right. She is the focus of the family in so many respects. She is involved in every aspect of the household on a daily basis. Somehow this has become a demeaning thing.

God commanded Adam and Eve to become fruitful and multiply. Do any of us for one moment think that command will not apply to the second Adam and Eve? Let’s just take a moment and jump to the end of the story of the bride of Christ after the marriage to the Lamb of God. Actually we can call it the beginning of sorts, for it is descriptive of the bride carrying out one of her basic responsibilities in the family of God.

Revelation 22:17: “And the spirit and the Bride say come! And the one hearing let him affirm come! And let him who thirsts come. And whoever desires let him take the water of life freely.”

Does this hit home, brethren! The Bride will be dispensing the “Water of Life” to all who will be the children in the household of God. Yes, she will fulfill the responsibilities as the mother for she will be the second Eve. She will be running a lot of the household functions under the Father and her husband Jesus the Christ. We are talking about the children of that union here. There is a very exact and specific set of functions we must all be doing in our calling to qualify for this. Once again, this is not just about salvation but much more.

The apostle Paul covers the responsibilities of a wife in the household as well as in the church. She plays a major supporting role in both. I frankly believe that many have never bothered to look at it from this perspective. Her responsibilities are almost endless in scope.

The example set in the scriptures of what the Father and the Son are looking for in the bride is very clear and concise. There is no guessing involved. Her role is absolutely a supporting role just as her Husband’s is at this time with the Father. He yielded Himself to the Being we now know as the Father. He divested Himself of all His eternal existence and privileges to take second position to the Father even

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

The Bride of Christ vs. The Pride of Life

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

though He was equal in all with Him. That is the mindset they are looking for and not one which says I am better than you.

Satan failed miserably in his role when it came to yielding to another. His gifts allowed his image of himself to swell to great heights. The bride of Christ will not allow this to happen. She will work within the laws of the household and deem others more worthy of many things more than herself even though she in many cases has more ability than they. She is humble and has no part in the Pride of Life disease.

Let's read what Paul, the supposed trasher of woman, has to say to Timothy. Keep in mind this is the same man who said the following: "When I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you now."

He is acknowledging the preeminence they have had in Timothy's life as to the way of God. No mention of Papa bear here, is there? These two women worked hard to turn out a good product in Timothy. That was undoubtedly not an easy task. I know what it is to be raised by a grandmother and mom. I and my brother and sister experienced that very thing. Neither mom nor grandma were in the faith, but their work ethic was embedded into us and much more.

1 Timothy 5:14: "Therefore I desire that the younger (widows) marry, bear children, manage the house, give no opportunity to the adversary to speak reproachfully"

Here Paul defines the two major responsibilities of a wife. He has mentioned childbearing earlier. Remember he said she is saved through it. To the moderns that is a real opportunity to label him as a sexist. Ignorance can be used to offset some blame in those doing so, but a line must be drawn with it as to their being deceived. There should be absolutely no confusion when it comes to the second responsibility he mentions here, "manage the house." The deceived Paul bashers would once again jump on the bandwagon and use this to claim Paul was a typical "old boy" who regarded women as a beast of burden. To them, managing the house equates to carrying two kids around while cooking and cleaning for his highness. Nothing could be further from the truth!

Manage here is #3616 *oikodespoteo*. *Strong's* says of it, "from #3617 to be the head of ie rule the family; guide a house."

Vine's says of it, "from *oikos*, a house and *despotes*, a master, signifies to rule the household so the RV in 1 Timothy 5:14 (KJV guide a house)."

Under *guide* it says "In 1 Tim 5:14, the RV rightly translates the verb *oikodespoteo* by, rule the household (KJV guide the

house) the meaning being that the management and direction of household affairs."

Yes, brethren, this is not a misprint in the scriptures. It is a living fact which will be carried on for eternity in the household of God the Father. The Bible will teach us shortly the depth and breadth of this awesome opportunity we who are called at this time have before us. What Paul has just shocked the moderns with is something to behold. We are all in training for it, whether male or female. Our biggest test regardless of gender is if the Pride of Life will suck us down to the level of Satan's pitiful self-importance or not. Scriptures will tell us this is a full-time function, with no time for idle chatter or wastefulness. It is about absolute devotion to husband and family in every activity she undertakes.

In 1 Timothy 3, Paul gives very detailed instructions to the church on the qualifications of overseers and deacons

A woman's role in the body of Christ is many positive things, but to me it is above all a thing of incredible beauty.

(all males here, with wives mentioned in a supporting role). All of Paul's instructions to Timothy and thus to us are inspired by God. As such they are a mystery to this world which is under Satan's influence and completely wired into the prince of the power of the air. For the most part they can't comprehend how one of the Elohim could become a servant any more than Peter could understand why Christ was washing his feet on the Passover before He was murdered. Paul tells Timothy in verses 14-16 why he was giving him the very specific instructions he was presenting.

1 Timothy 3:14-16: "These things I write to you, though I hope to come to you shortly; but if I am delayed, I write so you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth. And without controversy great is the mystery (hidden truth) of godliness: God (yes, that is *Theos* #2316) was manifested in the flesh (just as Philippians 2:6-8 clearly explained earlier), justified in the spirit, seen by angels, preached among the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up in glory."

Christ became the living example of humility. He emptied Himself of His glory and took the form of a man unto death. He was totally reliant on the Father to restore that glory to Him. He put our interests above His! He put everything on the line for us to teach us the right exam-

ple, to display the right mindset. He became the Son of the Father. He deferred all authority to the Father. He willingly yielded to Him, and He expects, demands in fact, nothing less of us in our relationship with Him. Carrying out our commanded responsibilities in this short physical life and in the duration of our calling will determine whether we will qualify to be His bride, His wife, for eternity and thus carry out the incredible responsibilities of child bearing and managing the household of God.

Satan can't even begin to understand the degree of humility it will take to accomplish this. Please don't be beguiled to think humility equals weakness. The world has a warped sense of what humility is. Humility is total strength and control of oneself. It is the suppression of the pulls of the flesh and thus the ability to serve others regardless of their "status." We who are called by the Father and have His spirit can comprehend these things.

We don't always complete them in everything we do for we are a work in progress. Christ is washing us clean daily if we are yielding to Him in all things. That is a very difficult road to walk by ourselves, in fact impossible. If we are yoked with Him He will carry the brunt of the burden.

A woman's role in the body of Christ is many positive things, but to me it is above all a thing of incredible beauty. I think you will agree with me when we go through God's résumé for the bride detail by detail. Unfortunately, when I look around today and see women and men bewildered and offended by what Paul has to say about a woman's role in the body, I hurt for us all. Every one of us has been and will be continually tested on our faithfulness to our calling. In fact, it will become relentless in the near future, in my mind. Cooking and cleaning with a couple of kids in tow is not our future and should not be looked upon as the daily function of any woman in the body of Christ. If you think that is all there is to the function of a wife, then you have sold yourself short of the glory which awaits us all.

We must do our part regardless of our gender. We must assist each other in our functions of being a husband and a wife in the body of Christ. It is not a contest between genders or spouses. If we do not function as one in a marriage, it will be near impossible to finish the quest we are on as to qualifying to be the bride.

Proverbs 31:10-31 is a finely detailed

résumé of what Christ is seeking in His bride for eternity to come. It is a tall order when focusing only on the physical. Be mindful we can't finish what we don't start and if we do not recognize what we are being called to at this time it will not happen during this calling. If we do recognize what God is doing at this time in our lives then we have the assurance of our Saviors assistance in completing it. We start, we remain faithful, He finishes!

Verse 10: "Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth is far above rubies."

The Hebrew word translated virtuous here in the NKJ is *Hayil* #2428. It is a fascinating application of the word here in the context of a wife. Do not lose sight of the fact it is presented in a question with an underpinning of doubt. The author of this NKJ translation I am reading has a footnote in the center column which states, "Literally a woman of valor, in the sense of all forms of excellence."

That's a mouthful!

The *Vine's* says of *Hayil*, "strength; power; wealth; property; capable; valiant; army; troops; influential; upper-class people (courtiers)."

Vine's goes on with a lengthy explanation of it in its various applications. In brief, it gives five distinct uses of the word.

First it signifies a faculty or power as in the ability to effect or produce something. This tells us we need to have a creative spirit which is accompanied by a desire to work.

Secondly it means wealth, property, with the nuance of the word focusing on one's ability based on wealth and goods. That simply means: Can the individual function with wealth and goods in a godly way or will it be coveted and abused in its use? There is a lot at risk in the household of the Father on that point, for we are to inherit all things and be a co-heir with our Husband in such.

Thirdly it is used in the sense of able, the ability to do a job well. Can we be trusted to follow directions from our Husband and no other? If we look to someone else to tell us what our Husband is saying, we are following the path of the first Eve.

Fourth, it at times means army in the sense of a combination of a lot of individuals. Under such an idea the word can represent the members of an army dispersed to perform certain functions. Does that not set the bells a-ringing? The bride of Christ is the body of Christ.

Ephesians 4:16 jumps to mind as do many other scriptures: "From whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working, by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love."

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

The Bride of Christ vs. The Pride of Life

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Also Revelation 19:14: "And the armies in heaven clothed in fine linen, white and clean followed Him on white horses."

And Revelation 17:14: "These will make war with the Lamb and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords, and King of kings and those with Him, called, chosen, and faithful."

And Zechariah 14:5: ". . . Thus the LORD my God will come, and all the saints with Him."

And Jude 14-15: "Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also saying the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him."

The application of this nuance to the bride of Christ is a just and proper application. The wife of Christ will be composed of many individuals who function in unison for the betterment of the family and interests of God. She is the army of Christ (Revelation 19:14).

Fifth, it states *hayil* represents the upper class. The bride will be ruling with Christ; they will be kings and priests. Many scriptures can be inserted here in this usage of the word in relationship to the bride of Christ.

The word *hayil* is an encompassing word, being descriptive of many attributes to be desired by a husband in a wife. We also read here that her worth is far above rubies. This in some respects, humanly speaking, may come across as an understatement when we are finished reviewing her résumé. It will become very clear that by and of ourselves we could never achieve this goal. Our Husband enhances the basic natural abilities we have to be able to build up His body as He places us in it.

Keep in mind we are talking about the collective body of Christ here. Do not be overwhelmed if when reading all the attributes the wife possesses you become discouraged. It is a collective thing. But as individuals we must do our very best to develop each of them into our labor in the Lord and the family of God. We need to strive for excellence.

Now we read about the first qualifying statement of which many are to follow: "The heart of her Husband safely trusts her; so He will have no lack of gain."

Two really important things right from the start. Let me ask you ladies reading this: Does your husband trust you with everything? If not, you need to examine why. Is it because of you or him?

This is not a question to generate strife. If you have a good work ethic and a char-

acter to match it and he does not trust you with everything, then he has a problem. On the other hand if you have a habit of being wasteful with time and possessions then you have a problem. To have a trust-filled relationship with Christ we all need to be focused on doing our part. If we can't perform that in the physical realm we will not be doing so in the spiritual.

Now, if you are saddled with a deficient husband you can work to win him over with your diligent example of a woman of valor. If he is really deficient, of which there are many in the world, you are still obligated to set the right example. Do not let such a situation taint your relationship with Christ and do not let any doubt creep in.

When I was in Kenya several years back I was told prior to my visit that it would be very helpful to focus my speaking on the validity of the law and holy days under the second covenant scriptures. That focus of speaking was short-

My heart surrendered to the women in Kenya who came to hear us. Saddled with a waste for a husband, they were living examples of Proverbs 31.

lived. I still addressed it but from a much different perspective than what was expected.

We were able to meet with many congregations and gatherings of people over our two and a half weeks of traveling all over the western part of the country. It did not take very long for Rick and me to realize there were a lot of real wastes of the male gender in the gatherings. I am referring to the type who think their wives are a beast of burden, and that they are to be waited on hand and foot. We did also meet some very converted men as well.

Personally my focus switched to speaking primarily to the women who came to hear what we had to say. Some of these women would walk 20 miles or more to attend. Keep in mind they still had to meet their daily responsibilities and workloads, such as getting up long before sunrise to prepare the day's food, walking miles in many cases to get the days' supply of water from a river, fixing fences, shelters, mending clothes, tending to livestock, and, oh, yes, taking care of the children, etc.

My heart surrendered to them in the example they set even when saddled with a waste for a husband. They carried out their duties and responsibilities continuously. They were and are living examples of what we are going to read here in Proverbs 31.

From day two of speaking on, we focused on the bride of Christ and her

calling at this time. Many sisters in the faith were encouraged. They had never been presented with the extent of their calling prior to our visit. We in turn learned a lot about them, ourselves, and the importance of our calling at this time.

So here in verse 11 we are told the heart of her husband safely trusts her. Trust is the basis of a sound marriage. It is the same for an eternal marriage as well if not more so. We can be assured that if the heart of Jesus Christ does not safely trust us we will not function as the bride in the Fathers household for eternity.

The second part of the statement in verse 11 is: "so he will have no lack of gain."

The moderns would jump on this and vehemently bellow out their disgust at her being exploited for his gain. Is that what the scriptures are teaching?

The Interlinear translates it as follows, "The heart of her husband trusts in her, so that he has no lack of gain."

If we are truly one with our husband physically or spiritually, then his gain is our gain. We are one body as the scriptures put it so often.

My wife uses the family resources for the gain of the entire family. Very seldom will she ever use them just for herself, and for that matter neither do I. That is something we have practiced from the beginning of our marriage. I know others who function similarly. The family is our focus, and thus I as the husband gain from every endeavor, be it in dollars and cents, or honor, or recognition due to the efforts of my wife.

Linda has access and control over everything *we* own. She does not need "my permission" to utilize any of it, for I trust her because of what she has done consistently over the years. That is exactly what our Husband Jesus is talking about.

I have known men in the church organizations who will not let their wives handle any financial affairs in the household. They have to ask to have money for groceries, etc. We are not talking about women who have acted in any way that would demand such treatment. Yet these "men of the faith" push their wives into a box and decide when to let them out. What a disgrace to the body! Where is the trust?

We are going to be co-heirs with Christ as Romans 8:16-17 so clearly tells us. "The spirit itself bears witness with our

spirit that we are children of God (the Father) and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint (co) heirs with Christ if indeed we suffer with, that we may also be glorified together."

Actually, co-heirs there means "participants in common." We are about to read what that means here in the balance of Proverbs 31. We will be entrusted with all that is our Husbands. We will work with Him in everything! This wife of valor here has access to all the family resources and uses them to build up the family and to affect any who come into her sphere of influence. That's a little more than cooking and cleaning.

Keep in mind what Paul said was a responsibility of the wife, *oikodespoteo* or "rule the household," meaning "management and direction of household affairs." Oh, yes, we will have a lot to manage and direct in the future if we qualify in doing so now in this test run of things.

Verse 12: "She does him good and not evil all the days of her life."

Brethren, that goes way beyond intimate. She loves and respects her husband beyond anything else in life. She is always looking out for him and his family's well-being. I hope those of us who have been called by the Father have been blessed to have a relationship with a spouse who is deeply converted and not conquered. I have learned so much of what is expected of me as one betrothed to Christ from my wife that it would take a lot of paper to put my thoughts into print.

That does not mean we have a perfect relationship by any means. We will only have that on a spiritual level with Christ, with Him doing most of the efforts to cover our shortfalls. What I am saying is my wife Linda clarifies in the flesh many of the things I am to be learning in the spirit.

Verses 13-15: "She seeks wool and flax, and willingly works with her hands. (Does not have to be told or prodded to do menial or any other tasks.) She is like the merchant ships; she brings her food from afar. She also rises while it is yet night, and provides food for her household and a portion for her maidservants."

This is not only the epitome of a devoted wife but also of a devoted woman in service to all within the household regardless of status. This is a humble mindset just like that of Christ. She is not threatened by "peer pressure" or any such thing as to her activities. She couldn't care less about what the Joneses think.

Verse 16: "She considers a field and buys it; from her profits she plants a vineyard."

How many of you women have the freedom to do such things in your household? How many have the experience to be able to do such things? If given the

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

The Bride of Christ vs. The Pride of Life

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

opportunity, could you do it? Would you be intimidated by the prospect?

You have been called to inherit the kingdom with Christ! We all need to learn how to use our family resources to produce more. That's every resource and at all levels of value. Ten dollars goes a lot farther at a garage sale or Goodwill store than at a department store, doesn't it? Many women in the faith function in that mode and carry it to much higher levels, but there are some who would not be caught dead at a garage sale or Goodwill store.

Vanity is a destroying force. If we can't be trusted in a little, how will we be trusted in a lot? We need to be industrious and thrifty in our present responsibilities to be able to move onto our future ones.

Verse 17-19: "She girds herself with strength, and strengthens her arms. She perceives that her merchandise is good, and her lamp does not go out by night (Matthew 25:1-10)."

This is a woman of many talents who knows her capabilities and is not afraid to use them to benefit others. She does not waste time trying to redefine her responsibilities as a wife and mother. She is very secure in her position in life and it is a sweet aroma to God.

"She stretches out her hands to the distaff, and her hand holds the spindle. She extends her hand to the poor, yes she reaches out her hands to the needy. She is not afraid of snow for her household, for all her household is clothed with scarlet. She makes tapestry for herself; her clothing is fine linen and purple."

This woman does not do anything haphazardly. She has purpose in all she puts her hand to with the focus on the well-being of others.

Verses 23-25: "Her husband is known in the gates (she brings honor to him) when he sits among the elders of the land.

She makes linen garments and sells them, and supplies sashes for the merchants. (What she has and makes is of great value to others.)

Strength and honor are her clothing; she shall rejoice in time to come." (She is not seeking applause in what she does.)

So will we, brethren, if we learn to be of the same mindset as Christ. We will then be able to carry out our duties in the household of God now, which we are being judged on, as to how we are performing. If we keep our hand to the plow we will be able to rejoice in the times to come.

Verse 26: "She opens her mouth with wisdom (wisdom is the outward expression for all to see of our gained knowledge and understanding) and her tongue is the law of kindness" (not complaining about an 'inferior' perception of being just a wife who is restricted from responsibili-

ties assigned to her husband. She does not want to be the man of the house but does want to function to her fullest in her given responsibilities.)"

Verses 27-29: "She watches over the ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also and he praises her; MANY DAUGHTERS HAVE DONE WELL, BUT YOU EXCEL THEM ALL."

This is no put-down to any but rather recognition to the few who will actually qualify to be the bride of Christ. Her husband and her children know her great value to the family welfare and well-being. She goes beyond the norm to serve her family and all who enter into her sphere of influence. There is no Pride of Life in her!

Verses 30-31: "Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands and let her own works praise her in the gates."

The Proverbs 31 woman has many talents and does not waste time trying to redefine her responsibilities as a wife and mother.

Revelation 19:7-8: "Let us be glad and REJOICE and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready. And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints."

The instructions found in Galatians 6:2-5 jump out in summing up so much of what we have read and reviewed today.

"Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. For each one shall bear his own load."

I ponder at times how many women will make up the number of the bride. Will it be more than men? I do believe a woman has the advantage in many ways. Time will tell. Regardless of that, we will all have to completely understand the responsibilities of a wife and be able and willing to carry them out faithfully under the direction of our Husband and our Father.

Brethren, the Pride of Life affects or, better said, infects us all from time to time. It can creep in when we are emotional about something or just plain ignorant of something. The scriptures are very, very clear about the roles and functions of men and women in the body of Christ.

We don't go outside of the scriptures to

have them defined. We are to listen to the words and instructions from our Husband Jesus the Christ, the Lamb of God, our Savior. We are not to let another come between us. Satan the devil, the prince of the power of the air, is broadcasting his vain and deceitful thoughts 24/7.

The functions of a woman are front and center to the well-being of the body of Christ. We all need to be functioning in them spiritually under our Husband, whether as men or women called of God the Father. Those of us who are men really need to come to grips with that. The role we are functioning in physically as the husband is already filled spiritually in the household of God.

That is a wakeup call, guys! Many men today abrogate their responsibilities, leaving a void which needs to be filled. We are the providers by divine command and example. That is upside down in today's world of divorces and fatherless children running around. But that is a subject for

She was with them throughout the day. My time with them for the most part was after work, weekends, and vacations.

I was out earning a living for the family. Linda was running the affairs and day-to-day management of the household, as well as directly teaching the kids all the fundamentals. She was more influential in developing their norms of behavior than I.

The reasons are obvious. So who was more influential when they were young? Mom! No vanity in saying that! That in no way was a threat to me but on the contrary because of Linda's diligent teaching our children have brought me gain in many ways.

A mother has the greatest influence in the lives of young children. That is a very special and vastly important responsibility. The bride of Christ will undertake that same function in the Family of God. As men and women, husbands and wives, we need to follow the instructions our spiritually betrothed is giving us in the Word of God. We are not to foolishly think we are smarter than He is. He and the Father have a reason and purpose for everything They do and say. Their thoughts are far above our thoughts.

Brethren, we have choices to make throughout our calling. We can either believe God or not. To be lukewarm is not a good option, as we can read in Revelation chapter 3. We are to function in the roles as we are placed in the body. It is difficult enough to complete our own without desiring to take on another's. That is relevant to gender and function.

No, women are not allowed to speak as the Bible defines it in services, which was easily explained earlier in context as to meaning. That is a role defined as a man's. There is no slight or put-down in any of it. It is what God desires and commands. It is not up to us to challenge Him on it. That is what the author of the Pride of Life has done and will continue to do during this calling in the Plan of Salvation challenging God through those of us who fall to his deceit.

Please never forget we are all going to have to be able to function in the responsibilities of the bride in the household of the Father. Let's be who we were intended to be and trust in the Lord!

Ephesians 1:15-18: "Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints."

Our peace we give to you.

—Brian Convery

Celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles on the **Gulf Coast** with the South Texas Church of God

The South Texas Church of God is calling all sojourners and pilgrims to keep the **Feast of Tabernacles** at the **Drifters Resort** (www.driftersresort.com), Rockport, Texas, on the coast of the **Gulf of Mexico, October 1-8, 2012**. This will be a small intimate site with a family reunion atmosphere. Drifters Resort offers **pristine clean cabins** and RV sites bathed by soothing Gulf breezes and nestled among ancient, windswept oaks. You will be able to **walk to services and hear motivating messages, share meals** made by the loving hands of brethren, take a **sunset harbor cruise** that includes watching the full harvest moon rise over the ocean, share a **professional dinner show** offered by the **Halbrook family** with open mic for those interested in participating, share evening campfires with pleasant sounds of the brethren's voices singing in harmony and unity. **Rockport** has so much to offer you for a great Feast, such as some of the **best coast fishing**, enjoying the clean **"Blue Wave" beach**, watching the many **varieties of birds**, plus art **galleries, shopping** and **outstanding restaurants**.



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The Church of God is not prepared for The Return of Jesus Christ

Read it here:

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PO Box 30332
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GOD, HIS WORD AND US

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was towards God, and God was the Word." This is how JOHN 1:1 reads in Greek, word by word. In many English translations, the last part of this text is in reverse order: "And the Word was God." Furthermore, the word *towards* (Greek, *pros*) has been mistranslated as *with*, which is an entirely different Greek word (*syn*) with a different meaning. In this mishandling of Scripture, the true meaning of JOHN 1:1 has been confused, obscured, and greatly misunderstood.

Let us examine the facts:

The Greek word *pros* = towards, which this article focuses on, generally points to a direction, movement, as well as location, such as close, close by, near, nearby, about, around, in proximity, etc.

The word *pros* never implies one "being face to face with God" or "traveling towards God," for God and His Word are eternally united "for You, Father, are in me, and I in you," (JOHN 17:21).

When we read that the

Word was "towards" God, we refer to God's Word being heard in the direction (*pros*) where God was located or found (and God is everywhere). We, being made in the image of God, after His likeness—His offspring (ACTS 17:29)—our word or sound of words is heard (in the natural) nearby or close by, in the direction where we are located or find ourselves geographically at the time when we speak to others.

First, our thoughts are processed in our minds, the center of our intellect, and then they are heard around us, in our direction, being understood by those who hear us. It is clear that no other person speaks through us, other than our self. It is the same with God.

God is a Spiritual Entity, or Being, and as such He is able to speak and communicate, otherwise He would not have been a complete Entity. He would have been mute, and an incomplete Entity.

Our God is not only a complete Entity, but He also has created us as complete and unique entities. We all com-

municate through speech, which in turn reveals to others the character and thoughts of our own being, which is critical to our survival in the world that we live in.

Where does all this point us to?

"Hear Oh Israel, Yahweh Elohenu [singular] is One Yahweh [One Being]"—DEUT. 6:4. God and His Word *are not Twins*—Two Separate Entities—nor can they ever be. We do not have a Twin God. We only have One Yahweh Elohenu, the Father of all, who is over all, and through all, and in all of us as true believers via His Holy Spirit (EPH. 4:6).

Remember, "Man should not live by bread alone, but by every Word that proceeds out of the mouth of God (MATT. 4:4). Every Word that proceeds out of the mouth of God, is God's Word—NO ONE ELSE'S. God created the world by His Word, and then He qualified His Word in the name of Jesus Christ to rule everything He has created by His Word. This is the crux of the subject.

—John Kal

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Building Bridges Not Walls



*Dedicated to the Reconciliation of
The Sabbath Keeping Churches of God*

Jesus of Nazareth warned his followers that those who would soon come after him should be very careful about how they built the Church of God.

He warned that the coming of false prophets would cause the church to be built upon a foundation of sand, unless certain principles were followed.

Did Jesus of Nazareth warn his followers to be cautious about building their house, the house of God, upon sand?

When we look at the modern church of the 20th and 21st century, do we see a house built upon sand, or one built upon the rock?

Do we see a house that stands and grows strong, or do we see a house of God that splits and falls?

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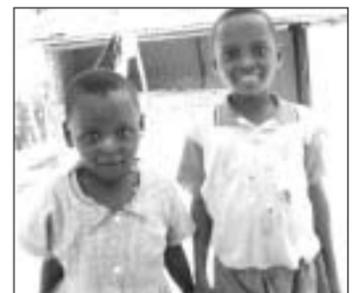
A Voice in the Wilderness

Feast of Tabernacles 2012

We are in the process of establishing a Feast site near Homa Bay, Kenya, near the shores of Lake Victoria. There are about 20 scattered Church of God groups that hope to attend this year's Feast of Tabernacles. This will accommodate 800 brethren who are scattered around Kenya and Tanzania.

We are hoping to raise some assistance that will allow our impoverished brethren to congregate together during the Feast. Your assistance will provide not only transportation but food and accommodations.

What a fantastic opportunity our Creator has given us, to be able to assist our brethren who have lived their lives impoverished.



Here are some of the children who hope to attend this year's Feast.

Please send help to

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Call us at 609-713-5631 anytime night or day.

What is the role of women in the church? Was the apostle Paul really anti-women?

Did some of Paul's writings in his epistles represent only his personal view and are not necessarily what God would have us do?

"The Role of Women in the Church"

On one extreme, we have those who say that women are not to utter a single word in a Sabbath worship service. On the other extreme, we have those who say there are no restrictions whatsoever on women. They may pastor and preach.

The Church of God needs to avoid extremes and find balance in all things. The Church of God International would like to offer you a sermon that was recently given in the Tyler, Texas, congregation by Wes White. It is called **"The Role of Women in the Church."** It is free.

Please request a copy of this sermon by writing to:

Church of God International
3900 Timms
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Who were early Samaritan Christians? (circumcised?)

Grace is an English word—what is the real meaning of the Hebrew and Greek to defend truth?

Galatians 4:10—Holy Days, yes! But what is the correct translation of "observe" to defend the truth?

Why did Jesus have to lay hands on blind man twice?

A hint of The Holy Days in the Ten Commandments!

When Christ died, the graves of saints were opened! (Mt 27:52). Why? Found in God's Holy Day Plan!

Why is the first day of Tabernacles a Holy Day and bullock offering numbers descend daily? (Nu 29).

What happened to Goliath's sword and spear?

I Sam 21:9—Compelling evidence in *Encyclopaedia Britannica*.

What is the meaning of the parable of leaven in three measures of meal? (Mt 13:33; Lu 13:21).

An Individual Being—Is God everywhere?

What is a soul? Is it exactly the same as a body?

Did Jesus put himself in Mary or was his body really begotten of the Father?

What made Jesus the same as the Word?

Why is Jesus called the "Only-begotten"? How are Christians begotten?

When did you come into being? At birth? Conception?

Why was there a Priest (Melchizedek) in the past?

Why is there controversy over the 14th or 15th Passover? A solution in the "Ransom."

The little known 4th biblical Greek word for love.

What did Pilate write in Latin? Jesus, Yeshua or Iesus?

The "laying on of hands" on Paul—done twice!

Four kinds of flesh: What is Paul's point? (1 Cor 15:39).

Lazarus and the Rich Man—better understanding!

As for My people, children are their oppressors and women rule over them (Isa 3:12)

— OR —

When men fail in their Godly leadership role, the void will be filled by others

The writer, Don Henderson, alias Don the Heretic, has little formal education. He never graduated from high school but has been given many titles from ministers of the Churches of God during the last 53 years. To name a few: Don the Troublemaker, the Disfellowshipped, the Marked the Preacher of Heresy, the Servant of Satan, etc., etc. He continues his wayward ways.

There are many examples of times when men have failed and God had women, inspired by Him, stand up and lead. In Judges 4, Barak has been told by God to go to battle against Sisera, commander of Jabin's army, and God will deliver them into Barak's hand. Barak failed to respond. Deborah, the prophetess, was judging Israel at that time; and the people came to her for judgment. (Her husband's situation is unclear.) She, knowing that Barak was not doing his duty, called for Barak and said to him, "Has not the LORD God of Israel commanded, 'Go and deploy ten thousand troops . . . and against you I will deploy Sisera . . . and I will deliver him into your hand?'" Barak, unlike Deborah, not close to God at all, says, "If you will go with me, I will go; if you will not go with me, I will not go."

Deborah, guided by God, states, "I will surely go with you; nevertheless there will be no glory for you . . . for the LORD will sell Sisera into the hand of a woman." Eventually, Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite, drove a tent peg into Sisera's temple, completing the job.

Abigail, wife of Nabal, in order to save her household from David, stepped up to do what her husband failed to do. King Josiah, and all Judah, had forsaken God, and the only person that they could go to to inquire of the LORD was Huldah the prophetess. Jezebel's husband did nothing to gain respect and got none, which was very costly to them and others. King Saul separated himself from being in contact with and being led by God, and he eventually went to the medium at En-dor for help. Didn't Solomon forfeit his leadership role to his many wives and concubines? Their religion took over the country.

In contrast, look at Boaz, Ruth and Naomi. They had respect from God and man for the way they lived, each living their Godly role. It's easy to see Ruth being the Proverbs 31 wife.

I began attending the Radio Church of God in 1960. The minister of the con-

gregation was a chronic alcoholic, with all his baggage. The theme was eat, drink and drink and be merry for we are the chosen ones. The first week I attended, a family left the church because he ordained one of his sycophants instead of another individual in the family that left. Politics was reigning in the Church then; and to this day, it has yet to stop.

We, in the Churches of God, like to believe that we have a deep understanding of who and what God is and what He expects of us, when in fact the best of us is barely above zero in our understanding of the spirit world. When we debate issues, like what God is, we tend to make the debate our god. We often sound like Job's so-called friends: Thinking they are wise, they became fools. We like to believe that we are Philadelphians, but more closely fit the description of the Laodiceans. Not until everything is taken from us will most of us begin to change our perspective. If

God accomplishes anything through us, it will be more in spite of us than because of us. Since 1960, the population of the world has increased over a billion people. Today, how much closer are we in preaching the Gospel to the world? What does that tell you?

If the ministers went out and got a real job, and pictured Jesus Christ sitting in the front row each time they gave a sermon, I'm sure we would see a dramatic change in topics, goals and direction of the congregations. The oft-relied-on excuse the ministry uses for their failures is: We're sorry we failed and have hurt or offended you, but our hearts are right, so get over it. It's the oft-quoted non-apology apology.

It seems clear that the churches will continue to fracture. For sure, the ministry is not coming together. I see no Deborahs or Huldahs, but thankfully we have women like Velvet Delorey with a Godly perspective. It was a relief to see her article in the May 2012 issue, "The Visible Female Presence."

—Don the Heretic Henderson, Edmonds, WA



We need to go wherever the truth and God's Word lead us

Continued from page 3

extension the whole membership.

Since we all have the Holy Spirit, we can all learn from each other. We can have spirited discussions. We can see where we might be wrong in our interpretation of things and where we might have to adjust our thinking.

Iron sharpens iron, and we need to go where the truth and God's Word lead us, for "Thy Word is truth."

MAXWELL MCFEAT

In his letter Maxwell McFeat states: "I stopped reading [Mrs. Engelbart's article] when I reached the stated example, the translation of *diakonos* as 'servant' when applied to Phoebe, while all other scriptures that use the same word are said to have translated it as 'minister.' Not true."

Perhaps Mr. McFeat should have read the rest of the article and not jumped to conclusions after reading only a small portion, and he should not have misquoted what I said.

I did not say "all other scriptures" with regard to *diakonos*. I specifically stated the use of *diakonos* "in these verses"—i.e., Romans 16:1, with regard to Phoebe.

Then the subheading in my article says "How Paul Used the Word *Diakonos*."

Next I gave 11 examples of *diakonos* translated as "minister" with regard to male ministers in the epistles of Paul.

Whatever the men did, Phoebe did

Also, Mr. McFeat's contention does not disprove the fact that the *masculine* word *diakonos* was used for Paul and the other *male ministers* he mentions, and he uses the *masculine diakonos* for Phoebe.

He could have written the feminine form, *diakonissa*, but he did not. Phoebe did not chop wood, draw water and do housework just as the males designated as *diakonos* did—e.g., Paul and Timothy—Phoebe did.

If Paul preached, so did Phoebe. If Phoebe was only a servant, so was Paul. Then there would be no reason to prohibit women from being servants in the same way the men are.

Say what you will, the Bible clearly designates Paul and these men as ministers, which means they were in positions of authority in the New Testament church.

Unclear scriptures

Mr. McFeat's claim that 1 Corinthians 14:34 and 1 Timothy 2:14 are "abundantly clear" in supposedly forbidding a woman to teach and preach in a church setting is not correct either. These scriptures are quite unclear.

As a matter of fact, 1 Corinthians 14:34 says the opposite of 1 Corinthians 11, just three chapters before, where Paul says women were praying and prophesying and he does not forbid them.

Men and women were prophesying, and they were prophesying in church as 1 Corinthians 14:31 shows: "For you can all prophesy one by one, that all may learn and all may be encouraged."

"All" includes all, men and women. "That all may learn" shows that prophesying is speaking and teaching.

Perhaps we should follow the example of the Bereans (Acts 17:11).

VELVET DELOREY

Regarding Ms. Delorey's article, I think she misunderstood the focus of my interview with Dixon Cartwright. My focus was not that women don't serve but that they are not allowed to serve in the ministerial areas like the men.

I want to thank her for her comments on the need for women to have "a visible presence." I believe it is extremely important for godly men and women to have a dialogue on this subject.

However, due to lack of space I will address only some of her points.

Female presence in the UCG

Contrary to Ms. Delorey's assumption, we have a wonderful female presence in the United Church of God, and women (and men) provide many outstanding services without which no church could operate.

However, as laudable, necessary and appreciated as all women's services are, working in the kitchen and bathrooms cannot be construed as a being a "visible presence."

(Regarding the scriptural edict to keep silent, please read my comment to Mr. McFeat, above.)

Perhaps Ms. Delorey missed the information in the interview that mentions I was a minister's wife for 32 years and am well personally acquainted with the hard work the females of the church do, having been involved with planning and executing much of it.

Praying, speaking, ushering

My interview does not denigrate the service women provide the church—or the service the men provide in setting up chairs, preparing the hall for services, etc. When I say "visible female presence," most will understand that I mean visible in the same way men are visible: giving prayers, speaking, ushering.

It is ironic that Ms. Delorey mentions the thousands of meals successfully planned, organized and executed by tireless deaconesses, especially since in the example mentioned in Acts 6:2-3 it is men who were appointed to serve tables.

No church in Deborah's time

Ms. Delorey's statement that Deborah stepped in only after her husband was too weak to judge the church himself is an interesting take on Deborah.

First, there was no church. She was judging and presiding over the nation of Israel. So her husband was too weak to be the judge and Deborah had to take over?

This proves only that not all men

Because of her righteous reign, God blessed Israel with 40 years of peace.

So I would respectfully ask: Which is it? Does God forbid women to lead men? Did He make a mistake when He chose Deborah to lead His physical nation and preside as religious and military leader? Or does God make exceptions to His own rules?

Ms. Delorey is mistaken when she states that I said the term *diakonos* is gender-neutral. The term *diakonos* is definitely masculine, but it was applied to Phoebe, a woman. It's like the term *chairman*, which is properly applied to both males and females, yet you could say it is a masculine term.

Polygamy prevention

At first glance it might seem that the requirement for a "*diakonos* to be husband of one wife" would prevent a woman from being a *diakonos*. However, there are two points against this reasoning.

First, the Greek in 1 Timothy 3:1 says "if *anyone* desires the office of a bishop"—not any "man," as many translations have it. *Anyone* includes women. If Paul wanted to limit it to men, he would have said "any man." (See 1 Timothy 3:1.)

Second, that Phoebe was listed as a *diakonos* of the church of Cenchræ shows that women could be *diakonos*.

The requirement for the *diakonos* to be "husband of one wife" was to prevent polygamists, who were allowed in the Jewish religion, from being leaders in the Christian church.

Women were not allowed to have more than one husband. So the statement about the "husband of one wife" is the case of majority application, as when Jesus said that "any man who

Women preached in Acts 2

The statement that no woman preached in Acts 2 is also inaccurate.

Of note is that in Acts 2:1-6 the Holy Spirit came upon both men and women equally:

"These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance"—including the women.

"... Everyone heard *them* speak in his own language—including the women."

Peter explained why they all (including women) were speaking in other tongues that all heard in their own languages:

"But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: And on My *mensevants* and on My *maidsevants* I will pour out My Spirit in those days; and they shall prophesy" (verses 16-17).

Peter told his audience that the men and women they heard speaking in tongues and *prophesying* were a fulfillment of Joel's prophecy that *men and women* would prophesy in the New Testament era.

So, since Peter recognized this was a fulfilled prophecy, that men and women would be speaking and prophesying in church, should our modern-day Churches of God be shutting women's mouths?

To sing Scripture is to preach

If yes, isn't it a little hypocritical to let a woman stand behind the lectern where a male minister preaches Scripture and let her sing special music

little respect toward another Christian by referring to her as "that woman" three times in his short piece.

Mr. Mumme made some biblically inaccurate statements, to put it mildly. I will not address all of them for the sake of space, only what I believe are the more-outrageous ones.

Priscilla taught Apollos

■ Mr. Mumme said that "not one" woman is "qualified to teach."

But Aquila and Priscilla took Apollos aside and "explained to him the way of God more accurately." Priscilla, a woman, taught a man who was a minister "mighty in the Scriptures" (Acts 18:24).

■ Mr. Mumme said that "what unrighteous women did in the Old and New Testaments and what they should have done were two different things."

Does Mr. Mumme mean unrighteous women like Deborah, who through her judgeship freed Israel to have peace for 40 years? Or Esther, who saved the Jews from annihilation. Or the prophetess Huldah, who instructed the king of Israel and high priest? (See 2 Kings 22:15-17.)

Women should not divorce

■ "In a right society, no woman would be able to divorce," Mr. Mumme writes.

That is not what Jesus says: "But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife for any reason except sexual immorality causes her to commit adultery" (Matthew 5:32). And He said the woman could divorce her husband for the same reason.

■ Mr. Mumme said that "women should ask their husbands at home," rather than speak to their husbands in church.

This presents a big problem if (1) a woman doesn't have a husband or (2) her husband is unconverted.

Femininity begets compromise

■ Mr. Mumme wrote: "Feminine expressions do not lead the right way. They cause the reader to compromise the Ten Commandments."

In Proverbs 8:4, wisdom is personified as a woman, definitely a feminine expression. She was there at the beginning helping God with the creation and she was giving instructions to men.

■ "When boys live with their mothers, without their fathers, they tend toward homosexuality," wrote Mr. Mumme.

Paul would disagree with that statement. In 2 Timothy 1:4 he commends Timothy's mother and grandmother for instilling faith in him. No tendencies toward homosexuality in Timothy are mentioned.

A challenge to disprove

■ Mr. Mumme wrote: "Jesus Christ never chose a woman to teach men. I challenge anyone to disprove that statement."

In Matthew 28:9 the resurrected Jesus told Mary and the other women: "Do not be afraid. Go and tell My brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me."

Why didn't Jesus send Peter or John to tell the rest of the disciples of His resurrection and where to meet Him?

■ "Men should not hearken to the voices of their wives," according to Mr. Mumme.

That's not what God told Abraham in Genesis 21:12: "Whatever Sarah has said to you, listen to her voice." The word *listen* is the same word as *obey*.

Women's words defile

■ "Words of women, written or oral, defile the reader," stated Mr. Mumme.

Do they include the words of Mary, Jesus' mother? Luke 1:47-56 is Mary's response to the archangel Gabriel's announcement of her conception of Jesus, the Son of God.

These are 10 verses of Holy Scripture, both written and oral, by Jesus' mother, a woman.

Gabriel didn't think it was defiling. Deborah and Hannah also spoke or sang words that became Scripture.

I don't know which Bible Mr. Mumme reads, but in my opinion he came up with some strange conclusions. But I wish him God's blessings in his continuing search for the truth.

Since Peter recognized that men and women would be speaking and prophesying in church, should our modern-day Churches of God be shutting women's mouths?

have better leadership abilities than all women. If that were not so, and God chose a woman only because a man was weak—even though it is supposedly His express will that women not have authority over men—why did He not give her husband the ability to judge Israel?

Or why did He not choose a Levite or a priest, both of whom were available at that time because the Levitical priesthood had already been established during the events reported in the book of Exodus?

As a worst-case scenario, if there were truly no able men available, why did God not raise stones, as Jesus said He could.

But then God could have had Deborah's general, Barak, judge Israel. Ah, but some would say Barak was too weak also. He insisted Deborah go with him or he would refuse to fight. This supposedly shows there were only weak men in Israel at that time.

But if you go to the heroes of the faith chapter, Hebrews 11, who is mentioned as a hero of faith? Yes, Barak!

I don't see any weak men (or women, for that matter) listed with the heroes of faith. These are all people of courage. Barak is compared to Gideon, Samson and David, all brave warriors. (See Hebrews 11:32.)

Deborah's authority

Ms. Delorey says deaconesses and ministers' wives "wielded the same kind of behind-the-scenes as power brokers that Deborah exercised."

I don't think there is any comparison. Remember, Deborah was judge and prophet of Israel, just as was Samuel, the only other judge who was also a prophet.

Deborah held the three highest positions of authority any person could hold in a country, and she was commander in chief over Barak, directing him when to come and when to go. This is hardly wielding power behind the scenes.

Was God mistaken?

Was God happy with Deborah's use of power? You would have to say yes.

lusts has already committed adultery in his heart."

Does that leave the women out? Does the fact that Jesus does not specifically include women here mean that women are free to lust?

On a side note, if you apply a strict interpretation to this requirement to mean that men had to be married in order to be ministers, that would have prevented Paul from being a minister because he was single, as he himself said in 1 Corinthians 7:8.

Was Junia an apostle?

Regarding Ms. Delorey's assertion that "Junia and Phoebe were not apostles, nor were they ministers. Nowhere in the text, either in translation or the original, does it say this":

I would like to see evidence of her assertion, and I do find evidence to the contrary. By the way, Phoebe was not an apostle but a minister, a *diakonos*. As I mentioned in my Phoebe article, William Tyndale, who translated the first English Bible in 1526, translated Romans 16:1 this way:

"I commend unto you Phoebe, our sister (which is a *minister* of the congregation of Cenchræ)."

With Junia, however, there seems to be disagreement among Bible scholars over whether she was an apostle or just well known by the apostles.

Several ancient sources say she was an apostle. I will mention only one: John Chrysostom, a church father who lived A.D. 347-407, much closer to the time of the apostolic church. I venture to say he understood the biblical Greek language better than any of today's scholars.

He commented on Romans 16:7: "Greet Andronicus and Junia . . . are outstanding among the apostles: To be an apostle is something great! But to be outstanding among the apostles—just think what a wonderful song of praise that is! They were outstanding on the basis of their works and virtuous actions. Indeed, how great the wisdom of this *woman* must have been that she was even deemed worthy of the title of apostle."

The Journal lists Feast sites for 2012

- U.S. SITES**
- Alabama—Gulf Shores/Orange Beach:** Independent group, John Warren, (903) 636-4470, warrentex@aol.com; Dot Ussery, (903) 636-4364, usserydj@aol.com.
- Arizona—Flagstaff:** Church of God Big Sandy, (800) 946-5545, P.O. Box 690, Big Sandy, Texas 75755, www.churchofgodbigsandy.com. **Payson:** CBCG, cbcg.org, Leon Ritchie, (480) 947-4121 or (480) 970-3609. **Phoenix:** UCG, (513) 576-9796, www.ucg.org/feast, satellite site. **Tucson:** UCG, (513) 576-9796, www.ucg.org/feast, satellite site.
- Arkansas—Harrison:** CGI, www.cgi.org, (903) 939-2929. **Searcy:** Points of Truth Ministries, Larry R. Lasiter, (479) 498-4524, lasiter@pointsoftruth.com.
- California—Escondido:** UCG, (513) 576-9796 www.ucg.org/feast. **Hollister/Gilroy:** CBCG, cbcg.org. **Kings Beach:** ICG, P.O. Box 1117, Tyler, Texas 75703, (903) 561-7070. **Palm Springs:** CBCG, cbcg.org. **Santa Rosa:** CGWA, www.cogwa.org, (888) 9-COGWA-9. **Squaw Valley:** Guardian Ministries, P.O. Box 50734, Pasadena, CA 91115, davidanton@earthlink.net.
- Colorado—Steamboat Springs:** UCG, (513) 576-9796, www.ucg.org/feast. **Vail:** LCG, www.cogl.org.
- Florida—Daytona Beach:** CGMI, www.thecogmi.org, (504) 367-2005. **Destin:** Church of God Big Sandy, P.O. Box 690, Big Sandy, Texas 75755, www.churchofgodbigsandy.com, (800) 946-5545; RCG, www.rcg.org. **Fort Walton Beach:** CEM, P.O. Box 560, Whitehouse, TX 75791, (903) 839-9300, www.bortown.net. CGMI, www.thecogmi.org, (504) 367-2005; **Orlando:** CBCG, cbcg.org, Nolan and Faye Joseph, nolanrjoseph@gmail.com, (352) 665-1911. **Panama City:** UCG, (513) 576-9796, www.ucg.org/feast; ICG, P.O. Box 1117, Tyler, Texas 75703, (903) 561-7070. **Panama City Beach:** CGI, (903) 939-2929, www.cgi.org and Christian Family Fellowship, www.christianfamilyfellowship.org. **Sandestin:** Church of God Cincinnati, Common Ground Christian Ministries, and LifeSource Ministries, Jim O'Brien, (513) 755-0040, jimobri@gmail.com. **St. Augustine:** CGWA, www.cogwa.org, (888) 9-COGWA-9. **St. Petersburg:** CGI, (903) 939-2929, www.cgi.org. **Tampa:** UCG, (513) 576-9796, www.ucg.org/feast.
- Georgia—Jekyll Island:** UCG, (513) 576-9796, www.ucg.org/feast.
- Hawaii—Kauai:** LCG, www.cogl.org. **Kona:** CBCG, cbcg.org, Roger Kendall, (802) 879-9327. **Mau:** UCG, (513) 576-9796, www.ucg.org/feast.
- Idaho—McCall:** Celebration Church of God, Wes Higgins, (866) 549-2537, www.celebrationchurchofgod.org.
- Indiana—Auburn:** CGMI, www.thecogmi.org, (504) 367-2005. **Montgomery:** ICG, P.O. Box 1117, Tyler, Texas 75703, www.intercontinentalcog.org, (903) 561-7070. **Shippshewana:** CBCG, cbcg.org.
- Iowa—Moravia:** Church of God Fellowship, Jeff Ledy, feast2012@icg.org, www.feast2012.org.
- Kentucky—Kentucky Dam Village State Park:** CGI, (903) 939-2929, www.cgi.org.
- Maine—Wells Beach:** CBCG, cbcg.org, rick.roberg@gmail.com, (603) 833-0087.
- Maryland—Baltimore:** Destiny of Hope Ministries/CGI, (443) 801-4697, bevramwood@yahoo.com.
- Michigan—Eaton Rapids:** Assembly of Yahweh, (517) 663-1268, assemblyofyahweh.com. (Note dates: Oct. 2-9, 2012.)
- Missouri—Branson:** International Congregation of Yahweh, info@icyahweh.org, (870) 892-5419. (Note dates: Sept. 30-Oct. 7, 2012.); UCG, (513) 576-9796, www.ucg.org/feast; CGMI, www.thecogmi.org, (504) 367-2005; CGWA, www.cogwa.org, (888) 9-COGWA-9; RCG, www.rcg.org, (903) 939-2929. **Branson West:** Church of God, in Truth, www.postponements.com/2010_feast_information.htm, (417) 338-0033, cogit@tflash.net. **Kimberling:** ICG, P.O. Box 1117, Tyler, Texas 75703, (903) 561-7070; **Kimberling:** CBCG, cbcg.org, Wendell Yeary, (618) 252-3176. **Lake of the Ozarks:** Season of Our Joy, P.O. Box 1633, Hawkins, Texas 75765, (903) 769-2750, www.season-of-our-joy.com or www.sooj.org; LCG, www.cogl.org.
- Montana—Bigfork:** UCG, (513) 576-9796, www.ucg.org, satellite site. **Bozeman:** CBCG, John and Heidi Vogele, (406) 266-9988, jhvogele@gmail.com, www.fot-cbcg-bozeman.com.
- New York—Lake George:** UCG, (513) 576-9796, www.ucg.org/feast (restricted). **Lake Placid:** RCG, www.rcg.org.
- North Carolina—Burlington:** Prez Welch, (336) 573-3467, cogsa@triad.rr.com, Church of God-SA. **Ohio—Cincinnati:** UCG, (513) 576-9796, www.ucg.org/feast, satellite site.
- Oklahoma—Tulsa:** CBCG, cbcg.org, Lawrence Burchfield, (918) 733-4175.
- Oregon—Bend-Redmond:** UCG, (513) 576-9796, www.ucg.org/feast.
- Pennsylvania—Tannersville:** LCG, www.cogl.org.
- South Carolina—Myrtle Beach:** ICG, P.O. Box 1117, Tyler, Texas 75703, www.intercontinentalcog.org, (903) 561-7070; CGI, (903) 939-2929, www.cgi.org. CGMI, (504) 367-2005, webservant@cogmi.org. **North Myrtle Beach:** Church of God Big Sandy, (800) 946-5545, P.O. Box 690, Big Sandy, Texas 75755, www.churchofgodbigsandy.com.
- Tennessee—Chattanooga:** LCG, www.cogl.org. **Gatlinburg:** UCG, (513) 576-9796, www.ucg.org/feast. **Pigeon Forge:** CGWA, www.cogwa.org, (888) 9-COGWA-9. **Sevierville:** Church of God Worldwide Ministries, (865) 774-4600, cogwvm.org, info@cogwvm.org. **Sevierville:** CBCG, cbcg.org, Tom and Rhonda Fannin, thefannins@yahoo.com, (937) 288-2266.
- Texas—Big Sandy:** Church of God Big Sandy, (800) 946-5545, P.O. Box 690, Big Sandy, Texas 75755, www.churchofgodbigsandy.com; UCG, (513) 576-9796, www.ucg.org/feast, satellite site. **Boerne:** LCG, www.cogl.org. **Galveston:** ICG, P.O. Box 1117, Tyler, Texas 75703, www.intercontinentalcog.org, (903) 561-7070. **Houston:** CBCG, cbcg.org, Frank Penny, (936) 228-0376. **Kerville:** CGWA, www.cogwa.org, (888) 9-COGWA-9. **New Braunfels:** UCG, (513) 576-9796, www.ucg.org/feast. **Rockport:** South Texas Church of God, Terry Post, P.O. Box 1089, La Vernia, Texas 78121, (830) 947-3564, terrypost@aireplastics.com. **San Antonio:** Church of God San Antonio, Julian Cruz, 219 Whitefield, Ave., San Antonio, Texas 78223, (210) 333-7229, jrcruz132@satsr.com, churchofgodsa.com.
- Utah—Park City:** CGWA, www.cogwa.org, (888) 9-COGWA-9.
- Virginia—Ferrum:** Heath Haven Homestead Ministries, Rick and Linda Lou Heath, 442 Whippoorwill Ridge Lane, Ferrum, VA 24088, (540) 365-0027. **Virginia Beach:** LCG, www.cogl.org. **Williamsburg:** CGMI, www.thecogmi.org, (504) 367-2005.
- Washington—Seattle:** Virtual Church, sponsored by the Association for Christian Development. For those unable to attend a Feast site tune in to www.godward.org or call 1-916-233-0562.
- Wisconsin—Sheboygan:** CGWA, www.cogwa.org, (888) 9-COGWA-9. **Wisconsin Dells:** UCG, (513) 576-9796, www.ucg.org/feast; LCG, www.cogl.org.
- NON-US. SITES**
- Argentina—Mendoza:** CGWA, www.cogwa.org, (888) 9-COGWA-9.
- Australia—Ballina, New South Wales:** CGI, www.cgi.org, (903) 939-2929. **Coffs Harbour, New South Wales:** CGWA, www.cogwa.org, (888) 9-COGWA-9. **Merimbula, New South Wales:** UCG, (513) 576-9796, www.ucg.org/feast. **Nelson Bay, New South Wales:** ICG, P.O. Box 1117, Tyler, Texas 75703, www.intercontinentalcog.org, (903) 561-7070 or info@icg.org.au. David Moffitt (GTA Tape Library). **Port Macquarie, New South Wales:** RCG, www.rcg.org. **Sunshine Coast, Queensland:** UCG, (513) 576-9796, www.ucg.org/feast. **Victor Harbor, South Australia:** LCG, www.cogl.org. **Ulverstone, Tasmania:** UCG, (513) 576-9796, www.ucg.org/feast. **Mandura, Western Australia:** LCG, www.cogl.org. **Rockingham, Western Australia:** UCG, (513) 576-9796, www.ucg.org/feast.
- Barbados—Christ Church:** LCG, www.cogl.org.
- Bolivia—Cochabamba:** CGWA, www.cogwa.org, (888) 9-COGWA-9. **Coroico:** UCG, (513) 576-9796, www.ucg.org/feast.
- Brazil—Boa Vista:** UCG, (513) 576-9796, www.ucg.org/feast. **Moloca de Moscou:** CGWA, www.cogwa.org, (888) 9-COGWA-9.
- Costa Rica—Punta Leona:** LCG, www.cogl.org.
- Estonia—Saaremaa:** UCG, (513) 576-9796, www.ucg.org/feast.
- France—Meze:** UCG, (513) 576-9796, www.ucg.org/feast. **Orbey:** CGWA, www.cogwa.org, (888) 9-COGWA-9. **Toulon:** LCG, www.cogl.org.
- Germany—Schluchsee:** UCG, (513) 576-9796, www.ucg.org/feast.
- Ghana—Kumasa:** CGWA, www.cogwa.org, (888) 9-COGWA-9.
- Guatemala—Antigua:** LCG, www.cogl.org; CGWA, www.cogwa.org, (888) 9-COGWA-9. **Panajachel:** UCG, (513) 576-9796, www.ucg.org/feast.
- Guyana—Arawakan:** LCG, www.cogl.org. **Georgetown:** LCG, www.cogl.org.
- Haiti—Port-au-Prince:** LCG, www.cogl.org.
- India—Alleppey:** RCG, www.rcg.org. **Bay of Bengal (Chirala):** UCG, (513) 576-9796, www.ucg.org/feast. **Hyderabad:** CGWA, www.cogwa.org, (888) 9-COGWA-9. **Impahl:** LCG, www.cogl.org.
- Indonesia—Batu:** LCG, www.cogl.org.
- Israel—Jerusalem**
- Italy—Tuscany:** UCG, (513) 576-9796, www.ucg.org/feast.
- Mauritius—Flic-en-Flac:** CGWA, www.cogwa.org, (888) 9-COGWA-9.
- Mexico—Puerto Vallarta:** UCG, (513) 576-9796, www.ucg.org/feast. **San Miguel de Allende:** CGWA, www.cogwa.org, (888) 9-COGWA-9. **Veracruz:** RCG, www.rcg.org.
- Myanmar—Kalaymyo, Salangyl:** LCG, www.cogl.org.
- New Zealand—Bay of Islands:** LCG, www.cogl.org. **Kerikeri:** UCG, (513) 576-9796, www.ucg.org/feast. **Taupo:** RCG, www.rcg.org. **Taupo:** CGWA, www.cogwa.org, (888) 9-COGWA-9.
- Nigeria—Abuja:** www.rcg.org.
- Papua New Guinea—Wewak:** LCG, www.cogl.org. **Huachulo:** LCG, www.cogl.org.
- Philippines—Baguio City:** UCG, (513) 576-9796, www.ucg.org/feast. **Tagaytay:** CGI, www.cgi.org, (903) 939-2929; RCG, www.rcg.org; The Church of God at Imus, Cavite, Philippines, Dave Garalde, (046)4716745.
- Puerto Rico—Guaynilla:** RCG, www.rcg.org.
- Rwanda—Muhazi:** CGWA, www.cogwa.org, (888) 9-COGWA-9.
- Saint Lucia—Vieux Fort:** UCG, (513) 576-9796, www.ucg.org/feast.
- South Africa—Glenana:** LCG, www.cogl.org. **Hermanus:** CGWA, www.cogwa.org, (888) 9-COGWA-9. **Pennington:** RCG, www.rcg.org. **Uvongo:** CGWA, www.cogwa.org, (888) 9-COGWA-9; UCG, (513) 576-9796, www.ucg.org/feast.
- Spain—Pineda de Mar:** RCG, www.rcg.org.
- Sri Lanka—Mahawakaduwa, Kalutara:** UCG, (513) 576-9796, www.ucg.org/feast. **Negombo:** CGWA, www.cogwa.org, (888) 9-COGWA-9.
- Thailand—Chiang Mai:** Legacy Institute, (626) 357-2588, mail@legacyinstitute.org. **Mae Sot:** LCG, www.cogl.org.
- Togo—Kpalime:** CGWA, www.cogwa.org, (888) 9-COGWA-9.
- Trinidad and Tobago—Crown Point:** LCG, www.cogl.org; UCG, (513) 576-9796, www.ucg.org/feast. **Trinidad:** CGMI, www.thecogmi.org.
- United Kingdom—Buxton, England:** LCG, www.cogl.org. **Kendal, Cumbria, England:** ICG, intercontinentalcog.org. **Cotswolds, England:** John Jewell, BCM What Next, London, WC1N 3XX, whatnext@pobox.com. **Shorefield Country Park:** CGWA, www.cogwa.org, (888) 9-COGWA-9. **Stirling, Scotland:** UCG, (513) 576-9796, www.ucg.org/feast. **Llangollen, North Wales:** Newtown, Powys, North Wales: The Congregation of Yahweh in UK, www.congyah.co.uk. **Wales—Lladudno:** UCG, (513) 576-9796, www.ucg.org/feast.
- Vanuatu—Orap:** LCG, www.cogl.org.
- Zimbabwe—Tuli Camp, Bulawayo:** CGWA, www.cogwa.org, (888) 9-COGWA-9. **Gweru:** www.rcg.org. **Victoria Falls:** UCG, (513) 576-9796, www.ucg.org/feast.

These are the Feast of Tabernacles sites for 2012. *THE JOURNAL* was aware of at press time. Information for the listing comes from www.feastgoer.org, the webmaster for *THE JOURNAL*'s Web site (thejournal.org), other Web sites and information sent directly to *THE JOURNAL* by Feast organizers and other *JOURNAL* readers. Unless otherwise stated, each listing represents an observance beginning Sunday evening, Sept. 30, 2012, and continuing through Monday, Oct. 8, 2012 (referred to as the Last Great Day, Great Last Day or Eighth Day in the various Churches of God). This listing abbreviates Church of God International (CGI), Tyler, Texas; Intercontinental Church of God (ICG), Tyler; Living Church of God (LCG), Charlotte, N.C.; United Church of God an International Association (UCG), Milford, Ohio; Church of God Ministries International (CGMI); Church of God a Worldwide Association (CGWA); Christian Biblical Church of God (CBCG); and Restored Church of God (RCG). Note that some phone numbers refer to a church's headquarters in the United States rather than a local Feast contact. Attendance policies: Most of the Feast sites listed here have an open attendance policy; that is, visitors are welcome. However, it is *THE JOURNAL*'s understanding that some Church of God organizations allow Feastgoers to attend with them only by special permission. Therefore, if you wish to attend one of those churches' Feast sites, *THE JOURNAL* recommends you first contact the sponsoring church or its representative.

Add no meaning where no meaning is intended

Continued from page 3
 “apostles and elders.” While neither men nor women are mentioned, I want to emphasize here that women are not.

Only men spoke in Acts 15

Does this in itself mean women are not intended for ordination? No, but when the New Testament speaks of elders as an ordained group only men are referred to. Only men spoke at the assembly in Acts 15.

Where can we go to see if women are singled out as being part of the ordained membership?

The new, true Church of God was established by Jesus Christ. He ordained apostles to carry out the preaching of the gospel message, through which the true church would be established.

Not even Mary Magdalene

We know Jesus chose 12 people to begin preaching to all of Israel. All 12 were men. Not even His close friend Mary Magdalene was chosen for such a role.

Paul was ordained to go to the gentiles. He and Barnabas were chosen to go out to preach the gospel message. They were chosen from among six names mentioned, all men.

No women were chosen to begin preaching to the gentiles. In fact, these six men are the only ones mentioned as being “prophets and teachers” in Antioch.

Jesus Himself places emphasis on the role of women in the church. But He never refers to any

of them as called or chosen to be ordained elders, preachers or apostles.

Paul too, who was taught by Christ, puts great emphasis on the roles of women in the church, and he likewise does not proclaim at any time that they should be ordained to the role of elder, preacher or apostle.

Avoid words that aren't there

If it is not specifically mentioned in the Bible, we ought to be careful not to read meaning where no meaning is given.

The ordained priesthood of

Women were not prevented from teaching, but they were limited to the local church, an in-home congregation.

Aaron in the Old Testament was a male-only priesthood. No women were ordained to any priestly office.

Still, the wives and children of the priests ate of the sacrifices with them.

The women were not excluded from that priesthood; they simply were not ordained Aaronic priests.

Jesus, after His resurrection, became High Priest, replacing Aaron. Again, there is no evidence that Jesus ordained any women to be priests along with Himself.

I mean by this that none was chosen to do the work that the ordained priests were given to do

in the new system, which is to preach the gospel to all people.

But women in the new priesthood could and should participate in the ministry of that priesthood every bit as much as they did in OT times.

There simply are no scriptures that explicitly point to any woman serving in the ordained preaching-elder priesthood. Elders in age? Yes. Prophetesses? Yes. Priests? Yes.

Priesthood includes women

Oops. Did I just say “priests”? Yes, I did. For when the NT says of

the true church that it is a royal priesthood, this includes all members of the church: women just as much as men.

But being a priest does not necessarily mean being ordained to preach.

All males of the Levitical priesthood were priests. But most members of the Levitical priesthood, including women, were servants of the work of preaching. The ordained preaching was to be done by the high priesthood of Aaron.

The women who followed, or served, Paul in his ministry were servants of the gospel. Nowhere is it ever said of them that they were

ordained preachers of the gospel. They were closely involved in the ministry, but as servants.

Teachers taught the preachers

What responsibility of service did the non-Aaronic priests of the OT have?

To put it simply, they were the *teachers*. Aaron and his sons were the ordained *preachers*.

Aaron and his sons preached to the other Levite priests so they could teach the messages to the people.

To put the above into perspective, the great work of preaching the gospel message to the world was given by the High Priest Jesus Christ to men only.

Women could teach in in-home congregations

This does not prevent women from teaching that same message. But such teaching was, according to what I have read, limited to the local church, which in the days of the early true church was in an in-home type of congregation.

That which was taught by men preachers of the gospel message could be passed on to the home churches by either men or women.

I feel that 1 Corinthians 14:34, “Let your women keep silence in the churches,” refers to when in-home churches met together to hear ordained preaching elders (men) who needed to address the greater church.

This is what Paul was doing when he said his farewells to the churches of Ephesus.

St. Elias dean seeks WCG/AC materials

Continued from page 1
 credit can be given to these studies and that students of a new generation will evaluate and examine these lectures in a broader academic setting.”

Dr. Roberts’ department at St. Elias is looking for “an individual who is familiar with the academic growth of Ambassador College” who can retrieve the lectures and other materials from Internet sites, including YouTube.

Possible sources

Examples of what Mr. Roberts would like to see as part of the compilation include Richard Paige’s lectures on archaeology and the Old Testament; Russell Duke’s Minor Prophets lecture series; information about the early church fathers from Lester Grabbe, Charles Dorothy and Herman Hoeh; writings of James Tabor and Ernest Martin; Mark Kaplan’s dissertation comparing Herbert Armstrong’s theology with historic Christian thought; K.J. Stavrinides’ articles on early Greek culture; general and archaeological studies by Robert Kuhn, Don Ward and Michael Germano; a lecture by Art Mocarow titled “How to Make Life Work When It Doesn’t”; research about the Gospels and therapeutic counseling by David Antion; studies on semantics by Noel Rude; Jenai Rasmussen on university curriculum; and Craig White on international relations.

Class notes sought

“Currently 22 systematic-theology articles that are in my database could be included as research tools as well,” Dr. Roberts said. “Also, any alumni who has class notes, study guides or syllabi is encouraged to participate. It is my prayer that many of you will deem this endeavor to be worthy of your prayers and support.”

For more information write Tom Roberts, Ph.D., at sacralingship@yahoo.com, or phone him at (208) 549-1561.

Whaid Rose talks of perspective, truth, glory

Continued from page 1

Savior, but, very importantly, there is objective truth and it is found in God's Word."

Mr. Rose rhetorically asked: How can we objectively know the Bible is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness?

He answered his own question: "One of the greatest proofs of the truths of the Bible is its prophetic writings and their fulfillment. There's never been one spadeful of dirt turned by the archaeologist's spade that has ever disproved the Bible. Science doesn't disprove the Bible. The Bible verifies science."

God and glory

In a second message after a short break in the Sabbath service, Mr. Rose talked about glory and its significance in loving and honoring God.

"If there's anything that I could say from the Church of God movement, WCG, CGI, Church of God Seventh Day, it's that the success and the effectiveness of what we do as God's people in God's church are to be measured by one standard, and that is the glory of God in God's church."

Beyond a cliché

Glory in the Bible, he said, can mean heaven, splendor, honor, power, the "richness and beauty of God's being."

It can mean praise. It can mean boasting. It can be a place "where we're going rather than to heaven."

But the glory of God "goes way beyond music, beyond a cliché, way beyond the future. It's not just the future promise. It is a present reality."

Warm fuzzies

God's "greatest desire," Mr. Rose said, "is the progressive revelation



CG7 PRESIDENT—Whaid Rose, president of the General Conference of the Church of God Seventh Day, Denver, Colo., speaks on the Sabbath of June 16, 2012, to members of and visitors to the Church of God Big Sandy. See the article beginning on page 1 of this issue of *THE JOURNAL* and a related photo on the same page. [Photo by Dixon Cartwright]

of His way in the earth, and He has no way to do that but through His people."

Today's church "has become man-centered, focused on everything but the Almighty God. Today's church is focused on the almighty man instead of the Almighty God."

Attending church, listening to ser-

The people of God must be "reflectors of God's glory." If they would be reflectors of God's glory, they would need to understand that Jesus is the light in the sense of 2 Corinthians 4:6, the "light in the darkness."

Three glory words

Mr. Rose began summarizing his message by noting "three glory words":

■ **Exaltation.** "Exaltation is a glory word because it calls us to give Him praise and honor and glory."

■ **Transformation.** Mr. Rose referred to the famous transfiguration account in the Bible (Mark 9) as well as the transformation of the apostle Paul on the road to Damascus.

■ **Satisfaction.** "I borrow this thought from Dr. John Piper, known for some classic lines," Mr. Rose said, "and one of them goes like this:

"God's desire to be glorified and man's desire to be satisfied are not at odds.

"Here's how they come together. God is most glorified in me when I'm most satisfied in Him, and I am most satisfied in God when God is most glorified in me. It works."

Mr. Rose concluded: "Is glory changing you? . . . Is the glory of God changing you from one level of glory to the next?"

Contact information

Write Mr. Rose in care of the General Conference of the Church of God Seventh Day at P.O. Box 33677, Denver, Colo. 80233, U.S.A.

Request a free subscription to the church's *Bible Advocate* magazine, which began publishing 149 years ago, by writing bap.orders@cog7.org.

Write the Church of God Big Sandy at P.O. Box 690, Big Sandy, Texas 75755, U.S.A., or email churchofgodbigandy.com.

The glory of God goes way beyond music, way beyond the future. It's not just the future promise. It is a present reality.

mons and hearing and making music can inspire the "warm fuzzies," he said. But church should be "all about the glory of God, not about the warm fuzzies."

Write the Church of God Big Sandy at P.O. Box 690, Big Sandy, Texas 75755, U.S.A., or email churchofgodbigandy.com.

UCG meets for its 18th general conference

Continued from page 1

Cleveland, Tenn., and Mr. Eddington, of Melbourne, Australia, chose not to run for reelection. Mr. Ashley and Mr. Rhodes were re-elected.

The council currently consists of Carmelo Anastasi, Bergamo, Italy (one of three "international" council members); Gary Antion, Batavia, Ohio; Scott Ashley, Arvada, Colo.; Bob Berendt, Edmonton, Alta.,

Canada (international); Bill Bradford, Brisbane, Australia (international); John Elliott, Apache Junction, Ariz.;

Mario Seiglie, Garden Grove, Calif.; Donald Ward, Big Sandy, Texas; and Robin Webber, Romoland, Calif. Mr.

Rhodes is chairman of the council. Dennis Luker of Cincinnati is church president.

(Sources for this report include articles by Mitchell Moss and Dennis Luker in the May issue of

United News [ucg.org/news] and information supplied by elder Ellis Stewart of Big Sandy, Texas.)

The redefining of 'church' was one of several approved provisions during the UCG's 18th general conference of elders.

Darris McNeely, Cincinnati, Ohio; Mark Mickelson, Spokane, Wash.; Melvin Rhodes, Lansing, Mich.;

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Austin visitors

GET-TOGETHER IN TEXAS—Owen Murphy of South Slovan, B.C., Canada (center), visits with Bob Woodburn of Houston, Texas, on June 2, 2012, during the One God Conference sponsored by Ken Westby's Association for Christian Development in Austin, Texas. At left is Mr. Murphy's wife, Kim. *THE JOURNAL* plans to include a report on the meetings, the 11th One God Conference in 11 years, in a future issue. [Photo by Dixon Cartwright]

Notes and quotes

Women's conferences in May and June

THE JOURNAL had intended to publish reports of two women's conferences organized and attended by Church of God members.

The first was sponsored by the Church of God Big Sandy (Texas) May 19, 2012. The second was sponsored by the Tulsa (Okla.) Church of God June 8-10.

THE JOURNAL still intends, in a soon-coming issue, to run reports on both conferences.

Passover booklet

John Thompson is revising his booklet *Jesus Christ: Our Passover and Savior* and has posted a new work titled *The Plain Truth About the Passover and the Church of God*.

See Mr. Thompson's blog—about the proper time and observance of the Passover—at thewildernessstest.wordpress.com/the-passover. Write him at jdt.wtest@hotmail.com.

Pathways in marriage

PRITCHETT, Texas—Authors and Church of God members Paul and Sandy Syltie have a new book out, *Pathways to Joy in Marriage*.

It's 128 pages in a large format, with eight chapters and two colorful photo sections.

"For 45 years my wife and I have witnessed the fruits of striving after God's perfect plan for married couples as outlined in His Word," Mr. Syltie wrote. "Look through the pages of the photo albums especially and see snatches of the good times we had—and still do have—while growing up together."

The Sylties are parents of five grown children they raised in Germany, Wisconsin and Texas.

The book is available at Amazon.com and other sellers online for about \$35.

Pentecost on Sivan 7

BELMORE, Australia—Henk Jens, whose writings appear frequently in *THE JOURNAL*, has concluded that the date of Pentecost each year should not be determined by counting 50 days from the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

Rather, it falls every year on Sivan 7 on the Jewish calendar.

To follow Mr. Jens' reasoning on the matter, see his paper "P4" at his Web site, www.rightly-dividing.net.

Bricket Wood reunion in 2014

Former students of Ambassador College, Bricket Wood, England, are organizing a reunion for all Bricket Wood classes for May 2014.

Annette (Weatherley) Forkun announced that the location will be the former campus at Bricket Wood.

The reunion committee, besides Mrs. Forkun, includes Richard Forkun, Colin Lauchlan, Deirdre (McCarthy) Sykes, Geoff Sykes, Gillian "Jill" (Pilkington) Gully, Jill (Smith) Berg, Linda (Moll) Smith, Merrie (McCann) Elliott and Patricia "Tricia" (Kingsmore) Hayward.

For more information write Mrs. Forkun at forkun@powergate.ca.

Unusual Feast site

STONEVILLE, N.C.—The Church of God Seminar Administration will celebrate its first Feast of Tabernacles at Burlington, N.C., along Interstate 40.

"All are welcome, including polygamists," announced Prez Welch, church administrator. "Men and women are to be seated separately."

For more information call Mr. Welch at (336) 573-3467, or write him at P.O. Box 588, Stoneville, N.C. 27048, U.S.A., or cogsa@triad.rr.com.

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