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The above listed articles have been approved and are ready for print. If you are not on this list at all, it only means we have not gotten to your article yet or we have turned it down. Check with us if you want to know. Some people on this list may have other articles that are ready for print, but we just cannot list them all. This list reflects the next article that will be printed for each of these authors.

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

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Articles

End of the World by John Jewell (London, England)

The end of the world! Is it, or the possibility of it, a reality or not? Is there something in the message that one used to see in some of our bigger town centers? “Flee from the wrath to come” and sometimes accompanied by the words “The end of the world is nigh” All carried on boards slung over the shoulders! Or propped up on the pavement. However, one may be forgiven, as we look at the state of the world today, for thinking there is some validity in the statements. We do, after all, live in the nuclear age. Nuclear weapons do exist and have already been used in war. Science tends to avoid the question as to whether or not the planet itself could be destroyed. The mere fact of that avoidance could indicate that, given the situation, a chain reaction could be started by which the planet would be destroyed. More likely, however, is the ending of all life on earth!

Today it is certainly possible for that to happen as a result of several different factors. One is through war and the use of various methods of mass destruction. Another is through world-wide famine. We might think this to be unlikely but given the vast increase in the earth’s population it is very possible! Along with famine would come disease epidemics! The climate itself is changing – changing as a result of man’s own activities – his misuse of the planet’s resources and an unsustainable way of life. Unsustainable in that far more is being demanded of the planet than is possible with the colossal increase of the world’s population. Add to this the attitude of so many people that this is not the case and we have an impossible situation. The multiple wars taking place through Africa and the Middle East do nothing to help.

Trying to get the attention, at least of some of those who might be able to get the message across to those who have the power and the ability to get the world’s attention was Professor Stephen Emmott. He is the head of Microsoft’s Computational Science Laboratory in Cambridge. He gave a presentation regarding the planet at the Royal Court Theatre in London which was reported in the London Daily Telegraph. The newspaper made it clear that the professor is very concerned about where the planet is headed, thanks to the rocketing global population – from three billion in 1960 to seven billion last year – that is in just 50 years! And he made clear that it will take about the same time again to reach 10 billion. That’s ten thousand million! A disastrous rate of increase bordering on the exponential. But whatever mathematical formula you care to apply the world population increase has grim implications for the world, not in 30- or 40-years’ time however, but now!

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The Independent on Sunday for 5th August 2012 had an article with the title “Almost a billion go hungry worldwide. The article itself began by saying “An unparalleled number of severe food shortages has added 43 million to the number of people going hungry worldwide this year – it continued to say that almost a billion people are now hungry, this is one in seven of the world’s population. Oxfam’s chief executive is quoted as saying “Dwindling natural resources and the gathering pace of climate change mean that without urgent action, things will only get worse, and multiple major crises could quickly move from being an exception to being the norm.” Oxfam are familiar with the problem, the size of it and what lies ahead for this planet. Oxfam knows that the change that is taking place in the world’s climate is exacerbating the situation. No denial of climate change there!

We are reading more and more reports of famine, crops ruined by severe floods. The “I” newspaper for 4th August reported that in North Korea about 16 million people which is two thirds of the population are now short of food in the aftermath of deadly floods. Not only that, but tens of thousands are homeless. And it isn’t just North Korea! Reports of further devastation, but this time in the Philippines, were reported in the same newspaper for the 8th of August. “Relentless rains submerged half of the sprawling capital, Manila, yesterday, triggering a landslide that killed nine people, and sent emergency crews scrambling to rescue tens of thousands of residents ...” “Manila and other parts of the country were already saturated from last week’s Typhoon Saola, which raged for several days...” It was further reported that 30% of the citizens of Manila are still suffering waist-high floods.

In the meantime, many parts of the world are being afflicted by widespread fires and drought. Especially true are the conditions in the United States. A headline in the “I” pronounced “eye” Newspaper for 28th July **Reads “Worst drought in decades ‘rapidly intensifying.’ It continued to report 20% of America ... is now in the two worst stages of drought – up 7% since last week – and is worsening rapidly.** Five states, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska and Iowa are blanketed by a drought categorized as “severe” or “worse” – two further states Arkansas and Oklahoma are nearly as bad. The report continued to say that ...Illinois saw its percentage of land in extreme drought go from 8% to 71 % in one week. The report continued “conditions are not expected to get better, with little rain and more intense heat forecast for the rest of the summer. ... The implications are dreadful, already the US cattle inventory is only 97.8 million head of cattle, the smallest number since records began in 1973.

The Independent on Sunday for 5th August had the headline “Heatwave turns America’s waterways into rivers of death” ... with major waterways seeing navigation levels fast-falling.” Europe is not excluded from drought. The Daily Telegraph for 13th August reported wildfires raging across two of the Canary Islands A blaze on La Gomera has been burning for more than a week. About 2,500 residents were evacuated from 13 villages in the south of the island. Another island, Tenerife, has had to move over 2,200 people from their homes as a precautionary measure. Spain itself has suffered the driest winter in 70 years.

People ask the questions, what is going on with the weather, with the climate. Time and again the comments are made that this or that climatologically speaking is the worst ever, the worst since records began! Sometimes people irrationally blame the number of satellites we have put into space. Or the fumes which our many factories, power stations, jet aircraft, cars and trucks have poured out into the atmosphere. And certainly, these have played a part in polluting the air we breathe and thereby being a cause of ill-health. But this isn’t the real answer! The real answer, the answer that makes sense, is the one most people in every part of the world, and especially the English-speaking peoples, have ignored, or have rejected. Yet it is to be found in a book nearly everyone ignores or rejects as being the strange ramblings of a long-forgotten desert people! If people only would pay attention to it, they would find that that book, the word of God, the bible is clear, logical and makes complete sense. It provides the answers to the real questions of life and the world in which we live. It shows that life, but non-physical, spirit life and intelligence is there, in space. It shows there is a reason for life on earth.

The bible is the most up-to-date book ever published. Just try reading it as it is written and read it in context. Read it as a communication from someone living in outer space! Such a person would obviously know a lot more than us about space travel and survival in space! We study the stars and planets for signs of life. But we don’t really believe that there is intelligent life in space do we! But that intelligence actually came to our planet and lived amongst us and spelled everything out for us, which is what you would expect. We just won’t believe it! The one who became Jesus Christ came to our planet and lived the human life from being a baby and then a full-grown adult person. What is more he spelled out exactly what the world and its people would be like just before his return? Let’s look at some of his comments in response to his disciples who wanted to know how to recognize that time when it was about to happen. It would be an age of

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unprecedented events. In Matthew 24 he said the gospel would be preached in every nation. It has been and it still is! He warned of people, false prophets who would preach lies in the name of Christ, instead of the clear, biblical truth. That has happened and it still does! He spoke of many wars around the world. He warned of major problems with the climate, this is exactly what is happening today. He made it clear that he would return to Earth at a time when there would be conflict between the nations, when there would be famine, disease epidemics and earthquakes, And if he didn't return then everyone on Earth would die. It is now possible for all human life to be ended, to be destroyed.

Through the pen of the apostle, Paul, we are told in the first chapter of the book of Romans that the truth of the reality of God the Father, of Jesus Christ and the world of spirit can be understood by human beings. It was not cloaked in a way that would be difficult to understand. And in verse 20 of chapter 1 he says we have no excuse for not understanding what life is all about, what its purpose is, that it didn't all just happen. He says how there are people who complicate the truth and profess themselves to be wise people, individuals who like to show how clever they are. God says, however in verse 22 that “professing themselves to be wise they became fools.” And what is more, verse 25 He says that they changed the truth of God into a lie and worshipped and served the creature, more than the Creator, who is blessed forever.

You may not realize it, but the bible even referred to man in space thousands of years before it happened. In Deuteronomy chapter 1, verse 4 it reads “If any of yours be driven out, to the outmost parts of heaven, from thence will the Lord your God gather you and from there will He fetch you:” This is repeated in Nehemiah chapter 1 verse 9 – “... though there were some of you cast out to the uttermost part of heaven, I will gather them back from there and will bring them to the place that I have chosen to set my name. “Jesus Christ is going to return to this planet and take control of it before we totally wreck it!. Will you be there to greet him?”

The Gospel of the Devil
by Richard Frates (Easley, South Carolina)

The Gospel of the Devil: Preachers Shout “Do Not Judge” the State shouts “Do Not Discriminate.” One and the same message: Discriminate against God and all who believe God. Accuse them of Judging and Discriminating and Not - Honoring what God proclaimed is evil.

The State and Church: Believe Satan's gospel “Do Not Discriminate” and “Do Not Judge.” After receiving a message rebuking church leaders for honoring sexual perverts and politicians for imposing sexual perversion on the nation and calling on them to repent.

Pastor Bob from Olympia Washington said, “As a born-again believer I rebuke your judgmental spirit.” My reply to him: I do Not Judge - I believe God and his Judgments - and you believe the Devil and his Judgments. The Church preaching “Do not Judge” and everyone will be saved is a false gospel – it makes void the Gospel of Jesus Christ that begins with “Repent.”

The State “Discriminates” against God by making Laws Promoting what God said is evil so they can accuse those who believe God are “Discriminating.” The Church Judges those who believe God - with State - authority promoting sexual perversion - embracing the theology “Do Not Judge” to accuse those who believe God's “Judgements”? Thereby establishing unity with the STATE.

Good-News: For the wicked: Do Not “Repent” church leaders have closed their eyes and the State demands you are to be honored by Law!

If you are really converted - that is the spiritual concept of “born again” prior to the promised resurrection. That would mean - you like me believe God. Do you believe God or the State? Pastors, Preachers and Believers: If you are really Born Again – Who is your father? The one you believe!

Does God Heal Today?

by Bill Glover (Eugene, Oregon)

(Continued from Issue No. 6)

STILL ANOTHER CASE

Two weeks later (on Thanksgiving eve) Arthur Hockwald called me and stated, "I just arrived home from work and my entire family is very sick with the flu." I immediately drove out to Pick Rivera (where they lived) and anointed both Art and Virginia and their four children. While there I learned that they had a Thanksgiving dinner planned for the next day with out-of-town family in route who could not be contacted. I advised them to go to bed and not worry - - that "Everything is going to be alright!"

I learned later that they all got a good night's sleep and Virginia was completely well and prepared a good dinner for their family and guests. Later Art called me and said, "I cannot say that I fully understand what happened - - all I know is that when we went to bed, we were all very sick and the next morning we were all totally well!"

[SPECIAL NOTE: You will note that I have not hesitated to use real names of people referred to in this article. This is because there are numerous witnesses to these events. In fact, about four years back the oldest son of the Hockwald's emailed me reminding me of the time I came to their home and anointed them. He said, "You put oil on our heads, and we thought it was weird!" Using olive oil for an anointing for a sick person may *appear* weird but since the practice is GOD ORDAINED, IT WORKS!]

WEATHER CONTROL

At this point I will give examples that many will literally scoff at and ridicule. But do you remember the example in the scriptures where Christ rebuked the wind and the weather, and the sea became calm. Many times (too many to recount here) I have had the occasion to call out to God for such intervention in the weather. On some occasions present were non-believers who voiced the thought "You certainly had help from somewhere for this one!" My answer was "Yes I did!"

I will cite one outstanding event. Being a building contractor, I was constructing a 70-foot CLEAR SPAN horse arena with stables along the side. We had ordered the trusses to be delivered for us to set on a Thursday morning. But the truck broke down and they were late by 24 hours. The problem was that on that particular Friday morning a storm was rapidly blowing in from the Pacific Ocean through a valley. As we were positioning the boom truck for setting the trusses the storm hit with strong winds. My son-in-law (Guy Hagner) was working for me at the time. When the storm hit, he looked at me and asked, "What are we going to do?" My reply was "We are going to set trusses!" He looked into the teeth of the storm and shrugged his shoulders. I replied, "It is obvious we are going to be tested today!" And we were. However, each time we lifted each set of 70-foot-long trusses into the air the storm calmed, and we had no problem. But we were tested because each time the boom truck released one set of trusses and swung the boom to pick up the next set the rain just poured and the wind blew. I considered this a test to see if we would weaken in our faith.

As I said, this was a Friday. I never scheduled such large tasks on a Friday because of the Sabbath coming on at sunset. However, in this case I was caught in circumstances not of my making or planning. Thus, I felt free to call on God for His intervention in the weather. As a result, things went so well (even though we were tested several times during the day) we were totally finished with the trusses secured by 3:30 in the afternoon. We were able to get home before the Sabbath began even though we were about 100 miles from home. God said we should NOT forget all His benefits. These benefits are there to be claimed - - in BELIEVING FAITH!

I will share one more example. However, I want it very clear that I am NOT recommending that anyone make the choice that I made. Some fifteen years ago through a freak accident a load of steel slipped loose from my pickup rack and came crashing through the back glass. It first hit me in the right shoulder blade and shoved me into the steering wheel. This all happened in a millisecond. At this instant a supernatural miracle happened. The front end of this skid of metal lifted up

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by at least eight inches to allow it to go over the dash and through the windshield. The only "damage" I suffered was a puncture wound in my right shoulder blade, a cut behind my right ear and pressure on my face and chest leaving the black and blue imprint of the steering wheel. This accident should have literally pinched my head off. After the accident I evaluated the situation and saw at least seven ways I SHOULD NOT HAVE LIVED and not a single way that my life could have been spared. There was no question that my life was spared. [NOTE: My wife and I know we will die someday so we already have crypts for our burial]. About five days after this accident, I made a point to go out and stand in front of my crypt and pray to God. I knew that such would be about the time my wife would be having my dead body slid into that crypt. I felt the need to address my God and inquire as to why He had spared me.

What I just said is the background for what I am about to relate. The puncture spot on my right shoulder blade has not healed in the past fifteen years. I have considered this a perpetual reminder from God [MY PERSONAL "THORN IN THE FLESH"] that He spared my life for His purpose. About three years ago I awoke one morning to find that a large glob of proud flesh, about the size of a half dollar and about half an inch high, had suddenly grown out of this small sore. I had it checked out by a dermatologist. He cut it off to use as a biopsy. The test came back positive as cancerous. He wanted to rush me into an operation where that whole area would be operated on and anything, they thought was part of the cancer would be cut away. Then he said he would administer chemotherapy. He proceeded to advise me that they would wait and see if they got all the cancer and if not, they would go back and cut away some more of my body.

I thanked him for his evaluation and recommendations but advised him that I would choose not to go that route. He became indignant and even hostile. I smiled and left his office and have not been back.

About one year ago I awakened one morning and went to take my morning shower. When I removed my undershirt, I was amazed at the blood that had spewed from this small sore. [I am printing a photo I took of this tee shirt so you can see what I faced that morning].

Again, I got real serious with God, reminding Him that my life is totally in His hands and that it is worthless to me personally. I also told Him that I was determined to trust Him completely and that if He chose to take my life through this cancer that such was acceptable with me. It has now been well over a year since this bloody flare up and things have gone back to what they have been for the fifteen years. I am thankful for this little sore [see pictures] as every morning when I remove my tee shirt and look at this sore, I can say, "Thank you Father!" In all these fifteen years this sore has never caused me pain nor handicapped me in any work I do. Thus, how can I be anything but thankful. I know that God will spare my life so long as He has a purpose for me living in the flesh.



Bloody Tee Shirt



Normal Appearance

MY CAUTION TO ALL OF YOU: What I have just related are my personal choices and should NOT be taken as a recommendation **for any of you**. In my case God has shown me enough that **I have no other choice for myself**. I know that God heals and that my life is in His hands. That says it all in a nutshell for me and NOT necessarily for anyone else. Faith is an individual matter, and NO ONE should tell another person what to do in such cases.

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At this point I feel the need to explain a most important point. There are times and reasons why God DELAYS an answer. That reason is for US HUMANS - - not for God's benefit. We are in this flesh to learn the very nature and character of God. We learn and develop this nature and character by and through the human experiences we encounter. One of the biggest problems I have seen in others is a lack of patience. We too often want God to jump at our whip and answer immediately regardless of the lack of character or faith we are showing by our personal lives.

I had a unique experience when I was first ordained. This matronly member had a heart condition. She had been anointed many times by several ministers. She began to call on me for the anointing. Each time she would get “relief” but was NOT healed. About the third time this occurred I felt the need to explain to her that GOD DOES NOT FUNCTION THIS WAY.

When there is a delay in receiving our request, we should go to God in prayer and seek the reason He is delaying. I then advised her that if she kept calling on me for the anointing that I would ask God WHY and that He would reveal the reason to me. She strongly assured me this is what she wanted. After about three more anointings God revealed the reason. The next time she called for an anointing I advised her that God had revealed to me the reason. She initially exclaimed joy for this revelation but when I told her what it was, she became hurt and offended. What God revealed was that she was NOT exercising true faith in Him. A true minister at times has to reveal things that are momentarily disturbing to the person. She cried and said, “I’m a lot older than you and I’ve been in the church longer than you and you are telling me I am not exercising true believing faith!”

It took a little time but she calmed down and I asked her to diligently pray about it and see what God would show her. I pointed out that she was obediently following the command in James 5:14 and that made her feel she was “doing the right thing.” God inspired Paul to clearly explain a most important point. People in Corinth were "doing the right thing" by observing the Passover with the wine and unleavened bread. But God inspired Paul to state "Many among you are weak and sick and a number of you have fallen asleep (died)" because they HAD NOT PROPERLY DISCERNED THE LORD'S BODY (1 Corinthians 11:23-32). Keep in mind that these are GOD'S WORDS - - not mine! That doing "the right thing" (keeping the Passover with the right symbols at the right time) BUT WITHOUT DISCERNING THAT CHRIST'S BODY WAS BROKEN FOR OUR HEALING does not represent A true BELIEVING faith THAT God requires!

I also pointed out to this lady that she had oxygen bottles to get emergency oxygen if she needed it. [NOTE: I did not state nor imply that it would be wrong for her to use oxygen but that it should not be used as a substitute for faith.]

About three anointings later she would not allow me to anoint her until she had told me something. She proceeded to tell me that God had shown her that she had not been exercising true believing faith and that she had repented and asked His forgiveness. I anointed her and this time she was healed. To my knowledge she never had another attack. In fact, she had missed the last few Feasts (held in Squaw Valley, California - - a high elevation) because she was “afraid” she would have problems there. The feast was only weeks away and she attended in Squaw Valley and had a great time with no problems.

What am I conveying by this example? God was working with her and equipping her for His family. But she had a flaw that needed correcting. He did not want her to suffer these attacks but what He wanted most was her spiritual character development.

We actually have a Biblical example of this scenario. Job was a man devoted to God and His ways. But Job was self-righteous, vain, and dared find fault with and criticize God. Since God was working with Job in refining his character, it became necessary that God discipline him. God used Satan to do this disciplining. Satan inspired Job to begin thinking that God was not fair in allowing his afflictions. Job actually thought and believed that he would eventually FORCE God to admit God was wrong in allowing these trials (Job 13:18-19, Ch. 15:6 & 13, Ch. 19:6-10 and Ch. 35:16). If any have lingering problems, it is recommended that you carefully study chapters 33 through 40. You can learn a lot about how God works with us from these chapters.

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Even if the apostle Paul (a most outstanding servant of God) had lived during Job's time, GOD WOULD NOT HAVE HONORED Paul's prayer for healing for Job - - not until Job had acknowledged his sins and his bad attitudes and his resentment toward God. Once Job did acknowledge his wrongs and truly REPENTED God forgave him and restored his health and also restored his family and his wealth. We MUST realize that God is NOT playing games with us. He will give us every opportunity to get right with Him but if we refuse or neglect to do so then God has no choice but to resort to drastic measures. God will finish the work He has begun in us individually WHATEVER IT TAKES. Remember that God did not allow Jonah to default on the commission given to him.

I have known people who are very resentful toward God for allowing trials. As long as they have this resentment, they are not going to see what God wants them to see and understand and thus they will NOT receive the answer they seek. God has used me often to point this out to people who are struggling and guess what? Several have become angry with me rather than angry with themselves for making it necessary for God to discipline them. I have found it necessary to advise people that "GOD CAN AND WILL OUTLAST YOU!" God has ETERNITY and we humans have only a short human lifetime.

There was a time when it hurt me deeply as people scoffed or rejected the message God gave me to deliver. It no longer disturbs me, as I now know there will be such rejection on occasion. God gives me specific instructions on how to handle such challenges (2 Timothy 2:23-26). It is truly amazing how we humans often punish ourselves by our own resentments while trying to place the blame on others or find fault. I truly ache for such people but can do nothing to help them while they hang on to their resentments. I have known people I would dearly love to help but I cannot do so until they are ready and willing to receive that help.

PSALM 103 AGAIN

We need to revisit Psalm 103 again for some final thoughts. God has BOUND HIMSELF to forgive all our sins and to heal all our sicknesses. Let me repeat: If we cannot trust Him for the healing of our bodies then how can we be sure He will grant to us salvation? Have we forgotten the words of Jesus as recorded in Matthew 6:25-34? What do these words mean to us? Are we convinced that they are the words and the promises of God? Can we bring ourselves to stake our lives on these words? Just HOW REAL is God to us? Should we not compare ourselves with those saints of God mentioned in Hebrews 11? And, if we find ourselves lacking in faith, should we not ask God for it and then believe He will grant it to us? Remember, it is God who works in us BOTH TO WILL AND TO DO His will (Phil. 2:12-13).

In closing let me remind everyone reading this that I am not recommending that you do what I have done with my affliction (my "thorn in the flesh"). You each must decide what you are **capable** of doing. God may eventually allow me to die of this cancer. If so then WHAT IS MY LOSS since I am going to die someday anyway. I personally choose to die trusting God rather than die trying to extend this temporary life. But each person must cross this bridge if and when he is able. It is strictly a personal matter. I personally never criticize nor find fault with anyone who attempts to preserve his or her physical life. Such is not for me to judge. My job before God is to advise people that help is available **if and when** each person is able to reach out to and trust God for it. If God is working with someone (like He did with Job) then, as a minister, I cannot thwart what God is doing with that person by expecting God to intervene BEFORE it is God's time.

Holy Days 2021

Passover - March 28, 2021 (Observed at Sunset the Evening Before)

Unleavened Bread - March 28, 2021 to April 3, 2021

Pentecost - May 17, 2021

Trumpets - September 7, 2021

Atonement - September 16, 2021

Tabernacles - September 21 to 27, 2021

Last Great Day - September 28, 2021

A Blast from the Past

Passover

by Arlan Weight (Bismarck, North Dakota)

When should we keep it? Should it be observed at the beginning of the 14th of Abib (Nisan), or at the end? Should we observe eight days of unleavened bread or seven. Is the Passover called a Feast? Many people of the churches of God are confused over these questions. Why?

Let's face it. Most, if not all of the people in the 'church', have come to observe these days as a result of the preaching and teaching of **Herbert W. Armstrong** and the **Worldwide Church of God**. The way and manner is still kept the same as he taught it, by many of the corporate churches of God. Yet a number of people and groups are coming to see some things that don't seem to square with the Bible. Is it just their ideas or is there something we may have overlooked?

Herbert W. Armstrong always taught that we need to study God's word and prove to ourselves whether he was right or wrong on any given subject. If it needed correcting, he said the true church would do so. So, it is with this frame of mind this study of Passover is undertaken.

To begin this subject, the very first question to answer is should we observe the Passover and how often? To those of us who have been in the church for many years the answer is elementary and plain. Yes, we are commanded to keep it (Ex. 12:14) and once a year in its season (Num. 9:2). This is something most of us in the church take for granted, but it is only because we have kept them for so long. It is good to review these commands from time to time, though, because we need to stand on the facts of the Bible as we have proved them to ourselves and not just because the church says so. But we also need to look deeper and see if we are truly observing these things as Jesus kept them.

Traditional Observance

Traditionally, the church has taught that the Passover is to be observed at the beginning of the 14th of Abib (Nisan) because that is the night Jesus kept his last Passover with his disciples. This night was to be a most solemn occasion because it pictured the suffering and death of Jesus Christ to pay the death penalty for the sins of mankind.

Following the Passover on the night of the 15th the **church** taught and observed a festival occasion where people gather in predetermined locations to eat fine food and drink. This night was to be a gala event to celebrate the Israelites coming out of slavery in Egypt. It also was to picture spiritual Israel's deliverance in coming out of sin. This was to be that 'night to be observed of all the children of Israel in their generations'. (Ex. 12:42)

On the one night the church observes an event in a funeral type of atmosphere and the next as a festival type. Exodus 12 indicates the time of the actual passing-over (**Passover**) the Israelites houses and their deliverance (**'night to be observed'**) as happening the **same night**. Why does the church observe two nights with two separate events and meaning? How can this contradiction be resolved? Did Jesus change the day as well as the symbols of the Passover?

Jesus' Example and Instructions

Jesus' custom was to observe the Passover from childhood. He was an obedient son and obeyed his parents. Notice Luke 2:41. "Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the **feast** of Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem **after the Custom of the feast**."

Shortly after Jesus began his ministry, Jesus was still keeping the Passover as he had been taught as a boy. It says it **was** the 'Jews' Passover.' (John 2:13) In verse 23 it says, "now when he was in Jerusalem at the Passover, in **the feast day** many believed in his name..." Was Jesus keeping the feast day at a different time than all the rest of the Jews? No, it is quite obvious he was observing it right along with all the rest. If Jesus was keeping it at another time, surely the Scribes and Pharisees would have pointed it out, but no where did they take issue with him on this.

In fact Jesus taught the people to do the things the Scribes and Pharisees taught. Notice Matt. 23:2-3. "The Scribes and Pharisees **sit in Moses' seat**: **All** therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, **that observe and do**. . ." Surely that must have included the Passover with the timing and the various aspects as they had always done for so many centuries.

So, then we must conclude from this that Jesus did not come to do away with the commands of Moses or the Law. He came to fulfill. Notice Matt. 5:17 "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the **prophets**: I am not come to destroy, but to **fulfill**." Was Moses a prophet? Acts 3:22 says, "For Moses truly said unto the fathers, a prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, **like unto me**..." (Deut. 18:15) What did Jesus say of Moses? "And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself." (Luke 24:27)

So, if Moses is considered a prophet and Jesus came to fulfill what he said, we must come to see that for the first 32

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years of his life, he kept the Passover and the Days of unleavened bread at the very same time the rest of the Jews kept it, **the same as Moses commanded them back then**. Some have said the Jews were keeping it a day late. Now really? Does that sound logical when we look at all the evidence? Hardly. No... Jesus was not contrary to the Scribes and Pharisees on this point.

At his last Passover Jesus had to keep it at the beginning of the 14th of Nisan, because at the end He would have already been dead. The most important fact to remember is that Jesus is our Passover sacrificed for us. (1 Cor. 5:7) He was killed, just as all the lambs had been killed for centuries prior. . . at the **very same time**. Therefore, at this one time He had to deliver the symbolic bread and wine service to his disciples at the beginning... before he suffered. "And He said unto them, with desire, I have desired to eat this Passover with you **before I suffer**." (Luke 22:15)

Here Jesus is saying he desired to eat **this Passover meal** before he suffered. Again, this had to be done at the beginning of the 14th. All other times Jesus ate the Passover meal when all the other Jews did, at the beginning of the 15th. So, by eating this meal a day early, is Jesus changing the date we are to observe the Passover. I think not. For again he says **continue to observe the things the Scribes and Pharisees taught** because they sat in **Moses' seat**. (Matt. 23:2-3) Continue to observe the Passover as Jesus had kept it from boyhood... at the same time as the Scribes and Pharisees.

So, when did the Scribes and Pharisees observe the Passover that year when Jesus was killed? Notice all four gospel writers date his crucifixion on the **preparation day**, that is the day before the first Day of Unleavened Bread, the day before the Passover meal was traditionally kept by Jesus and all the Jews as taught by Moses. There can be no mistaking which day they ate the Passover meal.

- "And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and laid it in his own new tomb... Now the next day, that followed the **day of the preparation...**" (Matt. 27:59-62)
- "And now when the even was come, because **it was the preparation**, that is, the day before the Sabbath" - Mark 15:42 (This Sabbath was the First Day of Unleavened Bread.)
- "This man went unto Pilate and begged the body of Jesus. And he took it down, and wrapped it in linen, and laid it in a sepulcher that was hewn in stone, wherein never man before was laid. And that **day was the preparation**, and the Sabbath drew on." (Luke 23:52-54)
- "And **it was the preparation** of the Passover, and about the sixth hour (John 19:14) ... The Jews, therefore, because **it was the preparation**, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the Sabbath day, (for that Sabbath day **was** an high day,)" (John 19:31)

Again, Jesus could not partake of that meal that year at the same time as the rest of the Jews, because he would have been dead by then. It is not that he changed the date of the observance, which he didn't. This would not be consistent with the way God does things. Every other 'High' day is observed at the exact time of the original designation in Leviticus 23. Why, in the New Testament, would God choose to observe Passover a day early? If Jesus could have, he no doubt would have observed the Passover meal and introducing the symbols of the Unleavened bread and wine at the same time he always kept it before... the night portion of the 15th, which is the first day of Unleavened Bread.

The main pivotal thing to remember is that Jesus died at the exact same time as the lambs were killed on the '**preparation day**' because he became our '**Passover Lamb**'. So now that we understand Jesus was sacrificed exactly as the lambs were, exactly as the Jews understood it, and that Jesus, together with the Jews kept it, and the Passover meal the same time as the original in Exodus, we can rely on that account. We can read that account and see just how he '**fulfilled**' it.

The First Passover and Christ's Fulfillment

"And the Lord spake unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you. Speak unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for an house: ... Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year..." (Ex. 12:1-5) Jesus was a male and he was without spot or blemish. "For as much as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of **a lamb without blemish and without spot**." (1 Pet. 1:18-19)

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"And you shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the **evening**." (Ex. 12:6) Numbers 9:3 says "In the fourteenth day of this month, at **even** ye shall keep it..." The word 'evening' and the word 'even' are translated from the Hebrew word 'eth ereb' meaning between the two evening times. (Young's Concordance)

If Jesus crucifixion fulfilled this precisely at the same time the lambs were sacrificed, it had to be in the afternoon of the 14th. "And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice... when He cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the Spirit." (Mat. 27:46 & 50) This is exactly as the Hebrew word implies. It occurred on the 14th '**between the two evening times**' ...between the beginning of the 14th and the beginning of the 15th.

Editor's Note:

The last statement here is only partially correct. The phrase "between the two evening times" is actually the time period between noon and sunset each day, noon being the first evening or the point at which the sun starts to go down and sunset being the second evening or the point at which the sun is completely down and out of sight. This editor's note was added on 2-10-08 by Laura Lee.

"And they shall take of the blood and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, **wherein they shall eat it**" (Ex. 12:7) The blood was to be daubed on the two side posts of the entrance of a house to show the death angel that the occupants within that house were to be **separated** from the Egyptians. They had a special relationship with their deliverer, and they were to be spared. Hebrews 13:12 says it's by Jesus own blood that which separates the people. "Wherefore, Jesus also, that he might **sanctify** the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate." The word 'sanctify' is from the Greek word 'hagiazō' meaning to set apart. (Young's Concordance) The analogy is exactly the same. Just as the lambs' blood separated the Israelites and spared them from the death angel. So are we to be spared from destruction by the true 'Lambs Blood'.

"And they shall eat the flesh **in that night**" (the night of the 15th) 'roast with fire, and unleavened bread; and with bitter herbs they shall eat it. Eat not of it raw, nor sodden at all with water, but roast with fire; his head with his legs, and with the purtenance thereof. And ye shall let nothing of it remain until the morning; and that which remaineth of it until the morning ye shall burn with fire. And thus, shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the **Lord's Passover**" (Ex. 12:8-11)

Even as the Israelites were to eat the flesh of the roasted lamb Jesus said we are to eat of his flesh. He explained this to his followers in John 6:51-58. He said, "**I am the living bread** which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever: and the bread that I will give is **my flesh**, which I will give for the life of the world. The Jews therefore strove among themselves, saying, how can this man give us his flesh to eat: then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, except **ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him.** As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so, He that eateth me, even he shall live by me. **This is that bread which came down from heaven:** not as your fathers did eat manna and are dead: **he that eateth of this bread shall live forever.**"

The symbols of Christ's flesh and blood are that of the Unleavened Bread and wine he presented to his disciples at his last Passover with them. "And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and break it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, **Take, eat; this is my body.** And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, **Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood** of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins." (Matt. 26:26-28)

So just as the Israelites were to eat the roasted lamb, we are to partake of the symbols Christ gave us to represent his body and blood. What night are we to eat and drink of them? Moses instructed the Israelites to eat the lamb '**in that night**'. Jesus told the people to follow that instruction. (Mat. 23:2-3) We too then should ingest of the Lamb, **in that same night**, the night of the 15th, which is the First Day of Unleavened Bread.

The afternoon of the 14th is when the lambs were killed, but the 15th of Abib is the actual '**Pass Over**', the actual time when the death angel saw the blood and 'passed over' (Ex. 12:27) the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt. Exodus 12:29 says, "And it came to pass, that **at midnight** the Lord smote all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh" . . . This was the night of the 15th of Abib.

"In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at **even**, ye shall eat unleavened bread, until the one and twentieth day of the month at **even**. Seven days shall there be no leaven found in your houses:" (Ex. 12:18) The word 'even' here comes from the Hebrew word 'erev' which simply means 'evening or eventide'. It is not the Same word as Exodus 12:6. That word specifically means 'between the two evening times'. This word implies that the 1st day of

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Unleavened Bread begins at the end of the 14th and the beginning of the 15th of Abib. We must count inclusively in that the 15th is the 1st day and the 21st day is the last day. From the beginning of the 1st day (15th) to the end of the last day (21st) is seven days. (See Chart)

Passover at the time of Moses							
Preparation Day	7 Days of Unleavened Bread						Last Day of Unleavened Bread
	1st Day of Unleavened Bread						
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	Lambs Killed - Blood daubed on Lintel and Door Posts - 'between the two evening times' (Ex. 12:6-7, Ex. 12:22 & Num. 9:3)						
	Lambs Roasted & Eaten - Israelites Stay in Houses all Night - "it is the Lord's passover" (Ex. 12:8-11 & Ex. 12:22)						
	"In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at even , ye shall eat unleavened bread, until the one and twentieth day of the month at even . Seven days shall there be no leaven found in your houses:"(Ex. 12:18)						
	Midnight - Death Angel Passes Over the Israelites. Firstborn of Egypt are slain (Ex. 12:29)						
	Israelites Depart from Rameses 'on the morrow after the passover' (Ex 12:37 & Numbers 33:3)						

Passover at the Time of Christ							
Preparation Day	7 Days of Unleavened Bread						Last Day of Unleavened Bread
	1st Day of Unleavened Bread						
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	Jesus Observes Passover with his parents and rest of the Jews - the first 32 years of his life. (Luke 2:41-42 & John 2:13 & 23)						
	Scribes & Pharisees keep passover - they 'sit in Moses seat' Jesus commands us to observe what they say (Mat. 23:2-3)						
	Jesus keeps his last passover - delivers the bread & wine symbols - "I have desired to eat this passover before I suffer" (Luke 22:15)						
	Jesus dies on the afternoon of the 'preparation day' (Luke 23:52-54)						

To Be Continued in Issue No. 8