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Halloween & Other Non-  
Biblical Holidays**

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## Articles

### Christmas, Easter, Halloween & Other Non-Biblical Holidays

by B. L. Cocherell (Nevada) **Continued from Issue #10**

#### WHAT ABOUT THANKSGIVING DAY?

Although many people believe the national Thanksgiving holiday is unique to the United States of America, it is not. A small amount of research into ancient history reveals that many nations and religions have dedicated special days to show their gratitude to gods whom they believed benefitted them individually and nationally.

Historically, a thanksgiving feast was first celebrated in what would become the United States by the Pilgrims in 1621. During this festival, they gave their gratitude to the god they believed had delivered them from a harsh winter and blessed them with a bountiful harvest. Because of the religious beliefs and practices of the Pilgrims, it is doubtful they knew the Sovereign God whom Christ came to reveal or understood how the true God required his chosen people to serve and worship him.

Most people in the United States do not realize that they are allowed to enjoy such tremendous blessings only because of the promises made to the patriarch Abraham by the Creator God. The Creator God promised to bless Abraham's descendants, which would eventually be known as Israelites, of which the United States is prophetically Manasseh, the half-tribe of the patriarch Joseph. See Gen.48:1-22.

There are dozens of scriptures in the biblical record showing that the Sovereign Father's chosen people should be eternally thankful to him and continually express their gratitude to him for the blessings he has bestowed on them. These scriptures show that gratitude should be shown to the Father through praising, thanking, and honoring him with our lives.

The question you should ask yourself is not whether or not you should be thankful to the Sovereign God and express your gratitude to him, because it is obvious you should. But ask and answer the following two questions regarding the observance of Thanksgiving Day in order to be assured that, if you do decide to observe this national holiday, your observance does not violate God's law of worship.

- Is it permissible to observe a national day of giving gratitude to the true God?
- Is it prudent to observe a day of giving gratitude to the true God with unbelievers?

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Your answers to both of these questions have a direct impact on your relationship with your heavenly Father and your Savior.

### **Added Festivals**

There are several festivals which the Jewish people established in addition to the annual festivals and holy convocations which the Creator God commanded to be observed in perpetuity (Lev.23:1-44). The Feast of Purim was established to commemorate the miraculous deliverance of the Jews in the ancient Persian Empire from a plot to destroy them. The winter Feast of Dedication mentioned in John 10:22 was established in commemoration of the re-consecration of the Temple in Jerusalem. Some believe that, because Jesus was in Jerusalem during this festival, he was observing it, but John only records that he was there during the festival; he makes no mention of Jesus observing this festival.

Although no direct condemnation of the establishment and celebration of the additional festivals by the Jewish people can be found in the biblical record, the following instructions not to add to or take away from what the Creator commanded clearly show that these added festivals were not sanctioned by him and violated his instructions: *"Hear now, O Israel, the decrees and laws I am about to teach you. Follow them so that you may live and may go in and take possession of the land that the Lord, the God of your fathers, is giving you. Do not add to what I command you and do not subtract from it but keep the commands of the Lord your God that I give you"* (Deut.4:1-2 NIV).

*"The Lord your God will cut off before you the nations you are about to invade and dispossess. But when you have driven them out and settled in their land, and after they have been destroyed before you, be careful not to be ensnared by inquiring about their gods, saying, How do these nations serve their gods? We will do the same. You must not worship the Lord your God in their way, because in worshiping their gods, they do all kinds of detestable things the Lord hates. They even burn their sons and daughters in the fire as sacrifices to their gods. See that you do all I command you; do not add to it or take away from it"* (Deut.12:29-32 NIV).

Because the Israelites and Jews frequently perverted the commanded observances, the Creator God often described these festivals and their added festivals as being theirs, not his, as noted by the prophecies recorded by Amos and Malachi: *"And I will turn your feasts into mourning, and all your songs into lamentation; and I will bring up sackcloth upon all loins, and baldness upon every head; and I will make it as the mourning of an only son, and the end thereof as a bitter day"* (Amos 8:10 KJV).

*"Behold, I will corrupt your seed, and spread dung upon your faces, even the dung of your solemn feasts; and one shall take you away with it"* (Mal.2:3 KJV).

### **Commanded Festivals**

There are eight commanded festivals and sacred assemblies listed in Leviticus, chapter 23, which are to be observed by those who worship and serve the Sovereign God. Through these eight festivals, the Sovereign God reveals his plan, purpose, goal, and rewards for those who successfully obtain salvation and enter his family and kingdom. Each of these festivals have their own unique, separate, and distinct meaning within God's plan for the salvation of humanity: *"And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them, concerning the feasts of the Lord, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, even these are my feasts. . . ."*

*These are the feasts of the Lord, even holy convocations, which you shall proclaim in their seasons. . . . And Moses declared to the children of Israel the feasts of the Lord"* (Lev.23:1-2, 4, 44 KJV).

These eight festivals include the weekly Sabbath and are the only ones sanctioned by God to be regularly observed by his chosen people.

### **The Fall Harvest Festival**

One of the festivals which those who truly worship and serve the Sovereign God and Christ are commanded to observe is the fall harvest festival of Shelters/Ingathering, which pictures the harvest of people into the family and kingdom of God as spirit-beings. Conversely, the national observance of Thanksgiving Day is not sanctioned by God, has no scriptural foundation, and seems to be a counterfeit substitution of God's fall harvest festival.

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**False Religion**

According to the Bible, there are only two religions on earth—the Sovereign God's and Satan's. If you practice a religion, you are either worshiping the Sovereign God through his worship system or you are worshiping Satan or evil spirits through a worship system which is in opposition to the Sovereign God's worship system—that which is not of God is of Satan. See Rev.12:9.

Satan is deceiving the whole world into following his various religious systems and festivals in order to deceive people into thinking they are worshiping the true God. The existence of deceptive worship systems is a fact, and many people fall prey to these counterfeits, thinking they are worshiping the God of the Bible.

**The Issue and Problem**

The primary issue regarding participation in Thanksgiving festivities is not whether or not we should show our gratitude to the Sovereign God; the issue is whether or not we should participate in a national holiday with individuals who do not know the true God and are giving gratitude to a false god.

For most people, the Thanksgiving holiday is just a day off from work and has no religious meaning, but for some it is a day to celebrate with family and friends and offer a traditional prayer of thanksgiving to their god. Participation in this holiday which is a day specifically set aside for giving gratitude to a god for blessings received seems harmless on the surface. However, it must be remembered that this holiday is not sanctioned by the God of the Bible and is a part of this world's religious systems, which are in opposition to the Sovereign God.

Some might think their participation in a Thanksgiving holiday meal with false Christians, people of other religions, or non-religious individuals is acceptable to God the Father, but it is not. It is in fact a violation of his law of worship, as noted in many scriptures that warn the elect to avoid participation in false religions and to remain totally separate from them.

Those who pray to a false god violate the first and second commandments and violate God's instructions not to attempt to worship him in the same way as those of false religions worship their gods: *"You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make yourself any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: You shall not bow down yourself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And showing mercy to thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments"* (Ex.20:3-6 KJV Para.).

*"The Lord your God will cut off before you the nations you are about to invade and dispossess. But when you have driven them out and settled in their land, and after they have been destroyed before you, be careful not to be ensnared by inquiring about their gods, saying, How do these nations serve their gods? We will do the same. You must not worship the Lord your God in their way, because in worshiping their gods, they do all kinds of detestable things the Lord hates. They even burn their sons and daughters in the fire as sacrifices to their gods. See that you do all I command you; do not add to it or take away from it"* (Deut.12:29-32 NIV).

Paul wrote the following to the Corinthians warning them not to have a close association with false religions devised by evil spirits. Although his warning was in the context of eating things sacrificed to idols, this warning easily applies in principle to participation in Thanksgiving Day festivities: *"What say I then? That the idol is anything, or that which is offered in sacrifice to idols is anything? But I say that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that you should have fellowship with devils. You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of devils: you cannot be partakers of the Lords table, and of the table of devils"* (1 Cor.10: 19-21 KJV).

The English word *fellowship* in verse 20 is translated from the Greek word *koinonos*, which does not mean fellowship; it means to have a close association. A large part of the question being discussed in chapter 10 pertains to how close an association the Father's elect can have with false religions and their practices and still maintain a righteous attitude and a good relationship with their heavenly Father.

In Paul's second letter to the Corinthians, he explains that the elect must not interact with false religions or their belief systems in order to remain in harmony with their heavenly Father and be accepted by him: *"Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with*

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*darkness? What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever?*

*What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people. Therefore, come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you. I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty" (2 Cor.6:14-18 NIV).*

A person who is one of the elect cannot become entangled in any aspect of false religion and expect to maintain a harmonious relationship with their heavenly Father and Christ.

The Father's elect are warned in the Book of Revelation to come out of false religion so they will not be punished for violating God's law: *"And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies. And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that you receive not of her plagues" (Rev.18: 1-4 KJV).*

Because the elect are warned to avoid participation in other religions, the following are some questions a person who is serious about their salvation should ask and answer about participation in Thanksgiving Day festivities:

- Can I participate in Thanksgiving Day festivities with people who are not of the body of Christ without giving the impression that we both worship and serve the same god?
- Can I bow my head at a meal and say amen (i.e., so be it) to a prayer given by another person to their false god without giving the impression that their god is also my God?
- Does it really matter to God the Father if I worship him with false Christians or people of other religions?

Thanksgiving Day is not one of God's commanded festivals; it is of this world's religious system. The elect are commanded to practice the true God's worship system set forth in the biblical record which includes eight commanded observances—not religious festivals of human origin.

There is no restriction in the biblical record which would prevent an individual setting aside a special day to show gratitude to God for his blessings if it does not violate any of God's precepts, principles, or laws. What God expressly forbids is participation in this world's religions, religious practices, and the worship of false gods.

#### **SUMMARY**

Easter, Halloween, Christmas, and the national Thanksgiving holiday in the United States are the four major religious celebrations of professing Christianity today. And all four violate the instructions of God concerning false Gods and false religious practices that are repugnant to the Sovereign God and his son the Savior of mankind.

The scriptures clearly record that the only worship acceptable to God is worship that conforms to his instructions concerning how he wants to be worshiped. Moreover, God's law imposes the death penalty on all who improperly worship him.

#### **The Commanded Observances and Holy Convocations**

When the Creator God formed the Israelites into a nation, he commanded them to keep the following observances and holy convocations each year within the three main agricultural seasons:

##### **Spring:**

- The Passover—commanded observance
- The Days of Unleavened Bread—a seven-day festival
- The First Day of Unleavened Bread—a festival and commanded assembly
- The Lift Offering—an offering of the first grain of the barley harvest
- The Last Day of Unleavened Bread—a festival and commanded assembly

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**Early Summer:**

- The Feast of Weeks known as the Day of Pentecost—a festival and commanded assembly.

**Fall:**

- The Feast of Trumpets—a festival and commanded assembly
- The Day of Atonement—a festival and commanded assembly
- The Feast of Shelters/Ingathering—a seven-day festival
- The First Day of the Feast of Shelters/Ingathering—a festival and commanded assembly
- The Festival of the Eighth Day—a festival and commanded assembly

The observances and festivals noted above are not the feasts of Moses, Israel, or the Jews. These are observances and festivals, which God proclaimed to be his sacred assemblies:

**Three Festival Seasons**

*"Three times you shall keep a feast to me in the year. You shall keep the feast of unleavened bread: (you shall eat unleavened bread seven days, as I commanded you, in the time appointed of the month Abib; for in it you came out from Egypt: and none shall appear before me empty:) And the feast of harvest, the first-fruits of your labors, which you have sown in the field: and the feast of ingathering, which is in the end of the year, when you have gathered in your labors out of the field. Three times in the year all your males shall appear before the Lord God" (Ex.23:14-17 KJV).*

*"The Eternal spoke to Moses, saying, Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them, Concerning the feasts of the Eternal, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, even these are my feasts" (Lev.23:1-2 Para.).*

A holy convocation is a commanded sacred assembly, which is to be kept at a time commanded by God. God is the Creator of time and only he can make time holy! Humans have neither the authority nor the power to make a thing holy or to pronounce that something that God has made holy is no longer holy.

**The Early Church**

Historians who research the early Christian Church find that the apostles and the early Church practiced the observance of the Sabbaths, New Moons, and the annual festival days and observances until this church disappeared from recorded history. But why did they observe these days, especially when they were persecuted for doing so? Their observance of these days makes no logical sense unless these practices were required under their agreement with God.

Is there something of which the apostles and the early Church were not aware, which would eliminate the need for God's earthly children to keep these observances today?

What new truth have theologians of today found that would allow one to cast aside the teachings of Christ and the apostles in regard to these observances and substitute forbidden observances in their place?

There are no satisfactory answers to these two questions. An honest search of the Bible will reveal that God's commanded observances have not been canceled or suspended.

Because the observance of these days was required prior to and during the life of Christ, were observed by the early church, and will be required when the God Family rules the earth, they must not have been canceled or suspended. Therefore, it should be obvious that, in this age of the church, the children of God should also be observing these special days.

A question to answer is. Are there Christians today who practice the observances of the commanded observances and holy convocations as did the early church and if so, who are they and where are they?

**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**

## Whoever is in Control of Power is in Control of People (Copyright) by Richard Markland (London, Ohio) **Continued from Issue #10**

### PART 2

Isaiah 3:5- "And the people shall be oppressed, everyone by another (by those in power) ..."

In light of restrictions and measures put in place by officials nationwide, the American people are being controlled when told what they can and can't do. The general public is being impacted physically and emotionally. Not only are people being oppressed and suppressed, but depression and mental illness will become an emotional nationwide plague if people see their lives are being controlled by Big Brother.

### **This is a Time of Oppression, Suppression and Depression**

The following words are defined by a combination of Merriam Webster's Dictionary Eleventh Edition, and Random House Webster's Collegiate Dictionary.

#### **Oppressed:**

1. To Suppress
2. To crush or burden by the abuse of power or authority
3. To burden spiritually or mentally
4. To weigh heavily upon

#### **Oppression:**

1. The unjust or excessive exercise of power
2. A sense of being weighed down in body or mind.
3. To govern or manage with cruel or unjust impositions (acts of imposing upon) or restraints
4. The exercising of harsh authority or power over
5. To put down or suppress or suffocate.

#### **Oppressive:**

1. Unreasonably burdensome or severe
2. Tyrannical
3. Overwhelming or depressing to the spirit.
4. Causing discomfort

#### **Suppression:**

1. To put an end to the activities of an individual or group
2. To do away by or as if by authority
3. To abolish or stop
4. To inhibit
5. To vanquish
6. To subdue
7. To quell
8. To crush
9. To keep from the public the knowledge of the truth
10. To keep secret

#### **Depression:**

1. A state of feeling sad.
2. A state of inactivity
3. Difficulty in thinking
4. Difficulty with concentrating

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5. An increase or decrease in sleeping.
6. An increase or decrease in eating.
7. Feelings of dejection
8. Hopelessness
9. Sometimes suicidal

Every definition just read describes America today, and most alarming of all is the fact that each and every person is witnessing or experiencing any number of the emotional or physical problems listed.

## **A Short History of the Edomites**

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

Gen. 36:1 "The generations of Esau, who is Edom. V.2. Esau took his wives of the daughters of Canaan. Adah...the Hittite, Aholibamah...the Hivite. V.3. And Bashemath Ishmael's daughter."

In the above we see that Esau was called Edom. And throughout OT Scriptures, when it reads "Edom", it is speaking of only the descendants of his Canaanite wives. Continuing to be known of as Esau, as for his Ishmaelite wife. In this Study, I will be dealing with only Esau's Edomite wives. And as will be shown, said wives had children whose descendants are still alive and active today in regular daily news.

There came a time in the lives of Esau and Jacob, where Esau, because he was hungry, "sold his birthright" as the eldest, to Jacob for a dish of food. Showing how little regard he had for his father's wishes. However, even though Esau readily sold his birthright, he nonetheless felt that his father would still give it to him. And Isaac would have, if his wife Rebekah had not deliberately deceived her husband and gained Jacob the inheritance. As a result, we are told in Gen. 27:41. "And Esau hated Jacob, because of the blessing his father had blessed him. So, Esau sought to kill Jacob. But Jacob fled beforehand and escaped into Aram. Abraham's line of descent.

The hatred that Esau had for Jacob was never forgotten. Which this Study will bring out. For as we will read in Mal. 1:3, because of Esau's hatred for Jacob, we are told that the "LORD hated [loved much less] Esau." I will come back to this Scripture later. If I do not forget. Moving on.

In the opening Scripture, we see Esau's two Canaanite wives mentioned. Adah and Aholibamah. The latter will play the biggest role in what is to follow. And, as we continue, keep in mind that the Canaanites believed that Israel's future homeland belonged to them. Not to Jacob. An example of this.

Eze. 23:2 "Son of man. There were two women, the daughters of one mother. V.3. And they committed whoredoms in Egypt...V.4. Their names were Aholah, the oldest, and Aholibah her sister...Samaria is Aholah, and Jerusalem Aholibah." Most believe, based on the last verse, that they are picturing Samaria and Jerusalem. But if one would look into the definitions, then they would find that this usage was a "symbolic" one. Which will be shown.

As the story continues, these two sisters came into the land of Israel, even at the time that Jerusalem was still being surrounded by Babylon's armies. Few of Judea were left in the land outside of the city. This being so, that the sisters came into the lands of Israel then, how could they be confused as picturing Israel and Jerusalem? No, these two were coming into the land to "claim it for themselves". Which brings us to their mother. She was one of "Edom's" wives. Aholibamah. And her descendants were coming to take back the land that Esau believed was supposed to be his.

Another good example of these being Edomites is found in V.5. "Aholah [picturing the northern tribes] ...doted on her lovers. On the Assyrians her neighbors." Do any of you recall the nations of Israel ever "doting" on their enemies the Assyrians? I cannot recall such a thing. It goes on to say about Aholah that eventually the Assyrians "...Took her sons and daughters and slew her." Thus, leaving only Aholibah. The one that lusted after Jerusalem/Judea. Whom is said to have done worse than her sister. It also goes on to give "prophecies" concerning her future. Even some that relate to the near future this age.

Keeping in mind that, unlike Aholah, whose children were taken away by Assyria, Aholibah continued to live in the land. Though no records are specifically aimed at her for some time, as far as Scripture is concerned. However, as

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we will see, history does bring her to the fore. Which is where I will begin her historic posterity.

Let's move on to the mid 200's BC. While the returned Jews from Babylon were still living in their land, they were under the rulership of either of the two generals that Alexander the Great had made heads of the land. The one in Syria, and the other in Egypt. Daniel has some to say on these two rulers. Often fighting one another over control of Judea. However, in the mid 200's BC, things were to change.

It was at that time that an army came across the Euphrates, into the land. They were Parthians. Or, of the tribes of Israel, that had taken over the former lands of the Medo-Persians after Alexander had defeated them. They defeated the king of Syria and were on their way to Egypt. They met up with the Israelite Jews, and because they were "brothers", made one of their number "king of Judea".

The first thing this king did was to form an army and go to war with some Edomites (likely descended from Aholibah), known by this time as "Idumeans". The code to follow begins with the following. E. for Edom. And I. for the Idumeans. As I will list it, (E.I.) Upon the Jewish king defeating the Idumeans, all their males were forced to be circumcised, and all the peoples were forced to obey the law of Moses. They were invaded because they were living in Judah's land, on the east side of the Dead sea.

It wasn't all that long before the armies of Rome again came and made one of these Idumean's king. His name was Herod, and his title was "the Great". Now, the identity is (E.I.H.). As is well known, in the latter 1st century AD, the Israelite Jews rebelled against Rome, and were defeated in 70 AD. As a result of their defeat, all Israelites were "banned from the borders of Roman territories". Most obviously going to Babylon in Parthia. Where their fellow Judahites, and Benjamites lived.

However, because of their supporting Rome, the Herodians Jews were allowed to remain in Judea and Egypt. However, in the early 100's AD, Rome began making laws, not favoring the Herodians religion. Especially the law to put an end to the circumcising of babies. The Herodians revolted, and war resulted. In 132 AD the Herodians were defeated, and like the Israelite Jews, were banned from the Roman Empire borders. Obviously not being wanted in Parthia, or with the Israelites to the west, the Carthaginians at that time, they had to settle elsewhere. This being in the neutral area of the seven churches of Revelation. Here they were given the name "Ashkenazi's". Which was the name of one of Japheth's sons that had settled there for a few centuries after leaving Shinar. (E.I.H.A.)

It was only a couple of centuries, until weather changes, and the influx of gentile peoples, forced the tribes of Israel to migrate. Eventually reaching their present homelands. So also, the Ashkenazi Jews had to migrate. They going to the Steppes of Russia. Here they became a prosperous trade country and gained the name "Khazars". (E.I.H.A.K.)

Then came the time of the "hordes from the east". The Khazars had to pack up and migrate westerly. Into northeastern and central Europe. Eventually being labeled "Russian Jews". (E.I.H.A.K.R.) Here they lived, and essentially prospered until the latter half of the 1800's. It was at this time that the Chancellor of Germany, Otto von Bismarck, began to unite the 100 or so "states" of Germany. He used the "Jews" as one of his rallying cries. Pressure by the German peoples forced another migration of these Russian Jews. Some went, by invitation of the Czar to return to the Steppes. (See: Fiddler on the Roof). The majority of the Russian Jews migrated west. Some 6,000,000 coming to the US from the 1870's until WW1.

The rest of the story is well known. The many Jews that remained in Europe in the east, and west of Germany, and many that were back in Germany, were killed during the "holocaust". Of the survivors, a large number made their way to Judea. Having been given permission by the Allied powers.

In conclusion. As is known, these, now Israeli Jews (E.I.H.A.K.R.I.) faced many enemies living in the land. Until that is, the year of 1967, when the Arab powers and their allies, went to war against these Jews. The enemy was defeated in "6 days". And note very carefully. It was at this time that the Israeli Jews gained control of Jerusalem.

**Editor's Note: Just so you know, most people do not believe there is a tie between the Khazars of Russia and the Ashkenazi Jews. However, with that said, I do not know too much about this point, however, I know there are a few among us who have written books and studied this at length. So perhaps some of them could give us more details in this regard. I am not saying this article is wrong, I am just saying there may be more to this story or perhaps another side to it. Laura Lee**

## A Blast from the Past

### Testimony of Abuse within the Church of God by Tawanda Ray (Hamilton, Alabama)

I received your **111-page document** today and read it before the evening was out. I must say, I was not the least bit surprised. Their actions were status quo as **Herbert Armstrong** trained them well. What is ironic, however, is that there are quite a few "ministers" out there who adhere to the hierarchy mentality (and are now affiliated with the split-off groups) who rejected authority over them and left **WCG** way before **HWA** died. They "rebelled against their superiors but preach against it to those "under" them. And they do view themselves as "the church".

I remember **Joe Tkach Sr.** saying something that epitomizes their attitude. I think he was speaking of **Rod Meredith** when he stated, "the church holds no ill will toward him and neither should you"! Huh??

I can see by your letters that you have been through the mill in trying to live in peace as a married couple and fellowship with your church group. I am sorry for all the troubles you have been through but at least one good thing has come from it. You now see what a sorry, Godless and idolatrous system that is the cherished hierarchy. And now, you are there for others who have been rejected by the organizations and who need a place to fellowship.

You gave some examples of "ministerial" abuses. I'll add a few that I am personally acquainted with. My husband tithed to **WCG** for many years before he finally started attending. Before he became a member, he fell out of a tree and cracked his back. (He was a logger and was trying to tie off a tree to throw it so it wouldn't fall on a fence when cut.) We had some insurance which took care of the hospital bill but no money-no savings-for such an emergency. I had no job (the church frowned on women with small children working outside the home and I certainly didn't want to make "the church" frown!). So--I went to our "minister" for help. I thought maybe he'd help us with the 3rd tithe fund--at least for food and gas to get to church. At that time, I was still very much in "church" mentality and held deep awe and respect for the men who claimed to represent God.

This man turned me down and told me to go to the welfare for aid. Dutifully, I obeyed. They also turned me down. I didn't know what we'd do or how we'd make it. We didn't have family who was in any position to help us.

This so-called preacher never turned one finger to help us in any way or even to inquire as to our state. I take that back. He did pay for a back brace for my husband--and later, on one Sabbath, informed me that I was to tell my husband to pay it back. I never told him!

I was so hurt, that "the church" would not help us even to keep us from going hungry. This same man watched and "counseled" a family, our friends, who were going through a 3rd tithe year and was nearly in financial ruin. They struggled to pay 3 tithes (and generous offerings), while barely putting food on their table. If it had not been for the brethren who brought them food and money, I don't know what would have become of them. They could not even attend "church" every Sabbath, for lack of gas money. Yet, this man never offered aid or comfort. Some servant! This man also informed me that I should put my aged father in the nursing home. I had timidly approached him to counsel me concerning problems I was having with my Dad. He had had a stroke and we brought him into our home to live with us, in our small mobile home. So dutifully, I sought to place my Dad in a nursing home because God had spoken; I have regretted that action ever since. (He lived about a year afterwards.)

I also asked him if I could use our 3rd tithe to build my Dad a small one room "house" in our back yard so we could have some privacy and I still could care for him. He flatly said NO! (This was prior to our counseling session during which he informed me I needed to put him in the nursing home.)

Another time and another "minister", I sought help and encouragement due to one of my health exams disclosing a mass in my breast. I was sick at heart and terrified. Again, we had no money and no insurance (could the fact that **HWA's** "church" demanded every dime we could gather together, have something to do with our consistent poverty?).

Again, foolish naive person such as I was, I expected some encouragement, at least a prayer! After explaining our situation, I asked him his advice. Know what he said? "You're between a rock and a hard place". (Oh yeah, be warmed and filled, go in peace--and don't forget to send in your tithes).

He did not offer to go pray with me (later I asked for anointing), nor did he offer any aid or 3rd tithe assistance to go get checked out.

These men were well served by us! Yet, when we needed help, they turned a deaf ear. If we were in financial need it was because we were doing something wrong, for God was not blessing us and they couldn't relieve us because God was chastising us, and they sure didn't want to hinder God!

"Be warmed and filled, go in peace..." Perhaps they never read that section of scripture-huh!

Then there was the vulnerable trauma of my Dad dying. I called this same "minister" to inform him that my Dad had

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passed away. He was also a member of **WCG** and we assumed the "minister" would officiate the funeral. Know what his reaction was? It was, "inconvenient" because the Y.O.U. family weekend was to occur that weekend. So, while he and everyone else went off to enjoy their fun-filled weekend, I buried my Dad. If it had been someone of prominence in the congregation, it would have been different.

Are these cases isolated? Far from it.

How many abuses have been inflicted upon women due to the teachings of the male dominated hierarchy of **H.W.A.** I have sat through sermons over a 24 year period that were designed to squash all women and basically perpetuate male dominance over them, keeping them in pure bondage.

Their lifeline is control. Their system is satanic. There has been no good fruits in this system and I challenge anyone to prove to me there has been.

Look at the state of affairs within the churches. They all quote scripture touting unity and lack of confusion. Yet, it has been the so-called ministry that has created all this disunity and confusion. It is the leadership that lays claim that they are the ones that God is working through. Well, if that be the case, then we must admit that surely God Himself is disorganized, disunified and in confusion. And He can't really make up His mind to what is truth. (Give me a break!)

I feel sorry for the congregation of **United** who has treated you the way they have. Some hard lessons await them in their dealings with their "priesthood". Their actions reek of self-righteousness. I have had some dealings with that mentality as well.

I was attacked via letter by a person who felt I had really overstepped my bounds when I expressed excitement to her about something I and 3 other friends (independents) were going to do. Here's the scene. A friend, a spiritual sister, was in the hospital dying of cancer. We wanted to go see her, anoint her with oil and pray for her. This person wrote me several pages in a letter in an all-out accusing assault on my heart and intent. My sin? I expressed excitement over what we, as independents, were about to do and I made the comment that we all need to really learn to care for one another and do this more. I reckon I came across to her in such a way as to make her think I was expressing "look at me-I'm the example". She took great exception to my enthusiasm and informed me that it was misguided and even quoted scripture to back up her accusations.

The story of what we did even went so far out as to reach the ears of **Fred Coulter**. Oh boy did he lambaste us. His take on our actions? We were being presumptuous--trying to fulfill a role that belongs to a "minister". How dare we!

**He** even brought us up in one of his taped sermons and sent it out to all his listeners. We were labeled self-righteous, demanding females who were walking on very dangerous ground by usurping authority given only to "ministers". (gag!)

He had the whole story wrong and thought we were a "band of six women" who marched into the hospital and loudly demanded that God heal this sick woman. He didn't even have the facts right. We were actually 3 women and 1 man. The man was the son of the woman who lambasted me and one of the women was his wife. The other woman was the sick woman's best friend. (An ex-friend of the angry woman.)

I wrote **Fred** with this knowledge and challenged him to correct himself and apologize on tape and send it out.

We got one (tape) with his "apology" so I am giving him the benefit of the doubt and am assuming he sent it to everyone.

Talk about jumping to conclusions. Such a ruckus over an innocent act. Why? It was construed to be something of a rebellious, usurping of the "ministers" authority. It was construed as an act of self-righteousness. They viewed our going over there to anoint our friend with oil and pray for her as an act of sacrilege. It was ok to visit her and even pray for her. The "sin" was daring to place oil on her and lay our hands on her in conjunction with asking for healing.

Coming from a hierarchical/ministerial system in which only an elite few have proper credentials from God to perform certain duties, I can understand why they would view our act as sacrilegious.

In the 24 years that I was a part of **WCG/Global/United**, I have had very little positive interaction with the men who desire to be masters of our spirit lives.

Since leaving it all behind, I am sickened when I hear of tales like yours or when I read about the attitudes of superiority of these little minded men. I had to chuckle when I read **Paul Luecke's letter** to you, Laura, dated Nov. 17, 1999 (numbered 27 points), in which he made the bold statement "God places a very high emphasis on unity in His Church". (# point 26)

Undoubtedly, he does not understand what constitutes the spirit body of Christ and he does not view the hundreds of groups and independents other than **United** as being the "ekklesia".

If they view the leadership so highly, then they should have obeyed their superiors and stayed in **Worldwide!**

My hope is this. I hope this little group of dominators will one day look around and all their worshipful followers are gone. All their income is gone, and they actually have to get out and work for a living. He who does not work should not eat.

If we were to see a wolf in the sheep pen, would we not cry out? Some would not, but would say "hey, no wolf is

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perfect, throw him another lamb chop. After all, these sheep are not perfect either".

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**EDITOR'S NOTE:** She is referring to a document titled: "Why Were We Disfellowshipped By The United Church of God an International Association?"--by Darwin & Laura Lee--It is 111 pages long.

(This article has been updated and re-printed from "The Church of God Messenger" July/August 2001—Issue No. 4.)

## **Iron Sharpening Iron**

### **Migrations**

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

My article "A Short History of the Edomites" gives the history of the Edomite Jews. How they came to be. And it is meant to be a response to the short article on the "Khazar's" in an earlier mailing of your newsletter. (The Khazars Tribe 13 in Issue No. 3) The author makes some comments on whom the Khazar's "might be", as it relates to Israel. In my research, I have found the following. Using a great deal from others who have written on the migrations of the tribes of Israel.

1. Judah is today. "Scotland and Norway". The former arriving early during the 500's BC. Those fleeing from the Babylonian armies. The latter coming from the Parthian (Israelite led) empire in the former empire of Persia. after the 300's AD.
2. Benjamin today. "North Ireland and Sweden". Same migrations.
3. Simeon today. "Wales and Finland". The former coming into England in the 300's AD, along with the Ephraimites and 1/2 tribe of Manasseh. Which three tribes fled west from Israel before the invasion of Babylon and became the Carthaginian empire.
4. The Channel nations. The first arriving in their present lands in the 300's. There having been a part of the Carthage empire as well.
5. The later migrations are generally known. With the Ephramite's that went into captivity in Assyria not coming until c.1000 AD. Note that the early arrivals were "two" being worshippers, while the later were "three" God worshippers. The war of the Pilgrims with England was basically because of the Pilgrims being "bi'narians", while the English were "tri-narians". South Africa and Australia/New Zealand were also the "bi's". Being chased out because of persecution by the "tri's"
- 6) One more. The "east European's, including the "white Russians" are of Abraham through his marriage to Keturah.
- 7) Oh yes. The Aztecs were the "mixed multitude". Having first settled in Troy. (In today's Turkey) Then they migrated into southern Europe for a few centuries. From there they moved to Canada, in the area of Montreal. For a few more centuries. Next, they moved into the area east of the Mississippi from Wisconsin to Tennessee. Including the states to the east. The "lighter skinned, hair and eyed" Mandan Indian's were of the mixed multitude, having come from Tennessee, where they were invaded by today's "southern Indians" who were migrating west from Florida. The reason that the Spanish and Aztecs did not get along was because the Aztecs still observed the Sabbath. This is likely why there are so many "Mexicans" in southwest Texas and in California that are Sabbath observers today.